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FOUR OUT OF FIVE CANADIANS BELIEVE CANADA SHOULD BE INVOLVED IN THE NAFTA NEGOTIATIONS

A public opinion survey conducted on behalf of the federal government shows that a large majority of Canadians (79 per cent) says that Canada must be involved in three-way trade negotiations with the U.S. and Mexico in order to protect Canadian interests. International trade and related economic and adjustment issues were the focus of the Angus Reid Group study conducted in March.

On international trade agreements, 51 per cent favour Canada signing a new General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade and 57 per cent support the idea of freer Canada-United States trade. However, only 37 per cent support the actual Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement (FTA). On the other hand, 58 per cent of those opposed to the FTA said they would be more likely to back the FTA if they heard "Canada's exports to the U.S. have increased as a result of tariff elimination under the Free Trade Agreement." (Under the FTA, annual exports to the U.S. are up by over \$5 billion since 1988 and reached an all-time monthly high of \$12.8 billion in March 1992.)

While 79 per cent believe Canada must be at the table to protect Canadian interests in the three-way North American Free Trade Agreement negotiations, the survey found that only 29 per cent favour a trade agreement with the U.S. and Mexico.

Canadians believe the federal government should play a leadership role on the adjustment issue. When asked who had the greatest responsibility for helping Canadians adapt to global economic change, 39 per cent cited the federal government, 25 per cent named business, 13 per cent chose the provincial governments and 6 per cent said unions. (In fact, Employment and Immigration Canada will spend \$3.55 billion this year to help individual Canadian communities and employers respond to an increasingly competitive