
While moderate FTA opponents were more opposed to the tri-lateral negotiations, they recognized and conceded the importance of Canada participating in any negotiations between the United States and Mexico. In Winnipeg, FTA opponents were able to foresee some advantages, particularly as they related to a trade bloc ("It could create a bloc and get all of North America together, therefore, I could be supportive;" "I could be supportive, if it is explained to me as an effective program"). Similarly, moderate FTA opponents in Vancouver, while raising several concerns, were prepared to acknowledge potential advantages including higher paid, high skilled jobs in Canada. In addition, Vancouver FTA opponents pointed out that there may be longer-term benefits, although the short-term would be painful.

The issue raised most often and the issue that divided moderate FTA opponents and supporters most dramatically was the issue of wages. Moderate FTA opponents were strongly of the view that cheap Mexican labour would threaten Canadian manufacturing jobs and would reduce Canada's standard of living. They believed that Canada could not compete against significantly lower wages paid to Mexican workers and that companies would locate to Mexico to take advantage of a cheaper labour market. Moderate opponents to the FTA in all three cities expressed strong concerns about the effect an agreement would have on Canadian wages. In Ottawa, the group was also concerned about a potential exploitation of Mexican workers by companies that would locate to Mexico to take advantage of a cheap labour force. In Winnipeg, FTA opponents reported a fear of job loss and wage reduction in Canada, citing the FTA as responsible for several plant closures since its implementation. FTA opponents in Vancouver also raised the issue of wages, reporting that a tri-lateral agreement would have a negative effect on Canadian wages.

In stark contrast, moderate FTA supporters were strongly of the view that tri-lateral trade would force a reduction in Canadian labour wages, a reduction they viewed as a good thing to ensure Canadian competitiveness. Residents of Ottawa were most

