

Table 2 shows that support among British Columbians for the free trade agreement is slightly higher in the October survey (57%) as compared to in the August survey (52%), yet the October results are consistent with the finding in June that 63% of British Columbians thought Canada's entering into a free trade agreement with the United States would be a good idea. Given the sample sizes for British Columbia in each of the surveys, the results reflect perhaps some slight shifts in opinion within the province, but essentially reflect consistently higher than average levels of support for a Canada-U.S. free trade deal among British Columbians.

The other apparent change in support levels in October is among Quebec residents, among whom 59% support the agreement, as compared to 64% in August who thought entering into a free trade deal with the Americans would be a good idea. Again, however, the shifts are marginal in nature, with the results in October confirming previous findings showing consistently higher than average levels of support for free trade among Quebecers.

## 2. Reasons for support/opposition

Previous research shows that various aspects of perceived economic benefits were among the main reasons cited by Canadians for thinking that entering into a free trade agreement with the United States would be a good idea, along with a belief that the deal would generally be of benefit to both countries. Main reasons mentioned by those opposing free trade were: more negative economic consequences; issues relating to Canadian identity; and that it was felt to likely be only good for the U.S.

Canadians were asked in October to indicate the reasons why they support or oppose the free trade agreement. Results appear in Table 3.