- Passing the free trade legislation before January 1, 1989 is considered important by about one-half of Canadians (37%). A fairly strong minority feel that this is not an important deadline to meet.

Anticipated Effects of Free Trade

- Canadians in general do not feel that the FTA will mean that they will become like Americans. A small majority believe that the deal is nothing more than an economic agreement between the two countries.

- Approximately six-in-ten Canadians feel that the FTA will be good for the national economy, for their own provincial economy, as well as for their own economic well-being.

- A majority of Canadians believe that lower prices for consumer goods, the maintenance of current social programs, and Canadian businesses taking advantage of the opportunities that free trade with the United States has to offer are likely outcomes of free trade.

- On a less positive note, 39% of Canadians agree that the Canadian economy "will become so closely tied to the U.S. that we will gradually lose our ability to make our own economic decisions."

Economic and Independence Issues

- As seen in previous research, the Canadian public is more likely to say that the jobs created by free trade are more important than restricting U.S. influence on Canada's economy. A strong minority (38%), however, still hold the opinion that jobs created by the Agreement are not as important as restricting American influence.