

4. Benefits and limitations of Canadian-Asian trade

Survey participants were asked whether they agreed or disagreed with a number of statements about how Canadian trade should be conducted with Asian countries. The results from the respondent sample are shown in Table 4.

Table 4: Benefits and limitations of Canadian-Asian trade as seen by business and non-business respondents

Statement	Agree or agree somewhat			
	Business		Non-business	
	f	%	f	%
Canada should trade with all countries, regardless of the social and political conditions in those countries	23	58	10	25**
The more democratic the political institutions of a country, the more likely the poorest will share the benefits from trade	30	73	26	65
Canada should not trade with countries whose records on human rights have been censured by the United Nations	22	55	23	58
In the long run, trade strengthens both the economies and the levels of human rights in Asian countries	39	95	21	54**
Prior to establishing trade relations, Canada should first request that the country of one's trading partner endorse and abide by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights	15	38	28	72*
Canada should not support economic sanctions against countries who repress the rights of their citizens	11	28	8	21

* $p < .001$

** $p < .01$

The strongest differences between the views of business and non-business respondents were revealed in their responses to the questions concerning the use of trade as a mechanism for dealing with problems of human rights violations, inadequate distribution of the economic benefits, and undemocratic institutions. Business respondents were less supportive of this strategy than non-business respondents.

Again, the difference in responses may be due to a difference in the goals and objectives of non-business organizations and business, with non-business organizations focussing their work on eradicating injustices within Asian countries.