

*A Majority Believe the Government has to be a Part of the NAFTA to Protect Canadian Interests*

While the overall level of support for the Agreement is slightly less than majority, close to two thirds (64%) agreed the Canadian government has to be part of the NAFTA to protect our interests. Similarly, 60 percent sided with the argument that Canada should sign the NAFTA to increase exports while developing freer trade with other countries, compared to 32 percent who believed that Canada will tie itself to the U.S. and Mexico and isolate itself from countries outside North America.

*Majority Believes Government Programs will not be Affected*

On the other hand, 54 percent agreed that our economy will become so closely tied to American and Mexican economies that we will soon lose our ability to make our economic decisions. One concern that is related to our ability to make individual economic decisions is the impact of the NAFTA on social programs. However, a majority (53%) agreed to the statement that under the NAFTA, we will be able to maintain our current government programs such as unemployment insurance and medicare.

*A Majority Believe the NAFTA is Part of an Overall Plan to Improve Trade*

A majority (51%) agreed that the Canadian government gave away too much to the Americans and Mexicans in the actual agreement. In addition, one third (31%) believed that the government knows how to deal with changes resulting from the NAFTA. However, six in ten (59%) agreed that the NAFTA is part of an overall plan by the government to improve Canada's trade situation with countries around the world.

*Canada Perceived to be the Loser in Most of the Recent Trade Disputes with the U.S.*

Over three quarters of respondents (78%) agreed that Canada should confront the United States more strongly on trade disputes, even if it causes Canadian exporters difficulty, an increase of seven percent since March 1992. Three quarters (74%) felt that Canada has lost more disputes than it has won since the bi-lateral Agreement was reached, virtually unchanged since March 1992 (75%).