

THE NORTH AMERICAN FREE TRADE AGREEMENT

# Canadian Majority Wants to Renegotiate the Terms of NAFTA

*Only seven per cent of respondents think Canada has benefited the most from the agreement.*

[VANCOUVER – Jul. 21, 2008] – Only one-in-fourteen Canadians believe their country has been the main beneficiary of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), and a majority of respondents are calling for the renegotiation of the commerce pact, an Angus Reid Strategies poll has found.

In the online survey of a representative national sample, 46 per cent of respondents claim NAFTA has been better for the United States, while 30 per cent believe Mexico has been the primary beneficiary. Only seven per cent of respondents think the accord has been better for Canada, and 17 per cent are undecided.

Women (55%) and residents of Western Canada (BC 55%, Alta. 58% and MB/SK 54%) clearly think the U.S. is doing better under NAFTA. Quebecers (37%) and Ontarians (34%) are more likely to regard Mexico as the main beneficiary than respondents in other regions.

When political leanings are assessed, Conservative Party supporters are more prone to think that Canada is benefiting the most from NAFTA (14%), while New Democratic Party (NDP) voters definitely regard the U.S. as the winner (56%).

The survey shows a shift in perceptions, with the proportion of respondents who see the U.S. as the main beneficiary of NAFTA dropping by five points

## KEY FINDINGS

- **46% think the U.S. has benefited more from NAFTA than the other North American countries; Mexico at 30%, Canada at 7%**
- **52% want to renegotiate NAFTA, 18% happy with status quo, 11% want Canada to leave NAFTA**
- **50% think NAFTA has not benefited Canadian workers at all**
- **More than half see at least moderate benefits for Canadian employers, Canadian manufacturers and the Canadian economy in general**

Full topline results are at the end of this release.

*From July 16 to July 17, 2008 Angus Reid Strategies conducted an online survey among a randomly selected, representative sample of 1,009 adult Canadians. The margin of error for the total sample is +/- 3.1 %, 19 times out of 20. The results have been statistically weighted according to the most current education, age, gender and region Census data to ensure a sample representative of the entire adult population of Canada. Discrepancies in or between totals are due to rounding..*

since March (from 51% to 46%) and those who regard Mexico as the winner increasing by eight points (from 22% to 30%).

More than half of Canadians (52%) believe Canada should do whatever is necessary to renegotiate the terms of NAFTA, including a majority of respondents in Atlantic Canada, British Columbia, Alberta, and Quebec. Less than one-in-five (18%) think Canada should continue to be a member of NAFTA under the current terms, while 11 per cent want Canada to do whatever is necessary to leave NAFTA.

Tory supporters are more likely to support Canada's continuation in NAFTA (29%), while calls for a renegotiation are strongest among Liberal Party voters (56%). At least 14 per cent of Bloc Québécois and NDP voters want Canada out of the commerce pact.

The views of Canadians on this question have also hardened since March, with the proportion of respondents urging for a renegotiation jumping by seven points (from 45% to 52%) and those advocating for the status quo falling by six points (from 24% to 18%).

When asked about the effect of NAFTA on specific sectors, 50 per cent of respondents believe the accord has not benefited Canadian workers at all. More than half of respondents think Canadian employers (55%), Canadian manufacturers (53%) and the Canadian economy in general (56%) have either "greatly" or "moderately" benefited from NAFTA. Two-in-five (41%) see at least some advantages for Canadian tourists.

Related release:

03.10.08

**Angus Reid Poll: Canadians Feel U.S. Has Benefited the Most from NAFTA; Two-in-five Would Renegotiate**

<http://www.angusreidstrategies.com/index.cfm?fuseaction=news&newsid=180>

### The North American Free Trade Agreement

As you may know, Canada, the United States and Mexico have been partners in the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) since 1994. Overall, which one of the three countries do you think has benefited the most from the agreement?

	Total	BC	AB	MB/SK	ONT	PQ	ATL	Male	Female
Canada	7%	7%	6%	6%	6%	9%	8%	11%	3%
United States	46%	55%	58%	54%	45%	41%	40%	37%	55%
Mexico	30%	16%	21%	13%	34%	37%	28%	38%	22%
Not sure	17%	22%	14%	26%	15%	14%	24%	14%	20%

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	Total	Will vote for or intends to vote for in next federal ballot					
		Con	Lib	NDP	BQ	Grn	Other
Canada	7%	14%	6%	2%	2%	4%	10%
United States	46%	37%	47%	56%	45%	45%	40%
Mexico	30%	35%	25%	27%	45%	27%	40%
Not sure	17%	14%	23%	15%	8%	24%	10%

### The North American Free Trade Agreement

TREND - As you may know, Canada, the United States and Mexico have been partners in the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) since 1994. Overall, which one of the three countries do you think has benefited the most from the agreement?

	July 2008	March 2008
Canada	7%	8%
United States	46%	51%
Mexico	30%	22%
Not sure	17%	18%

### The North American Free Trade Agreement

Which of these statements comes closest to your own point of view?

	Total	BC	AB	MB/SK	ONT	PQ	ATL	Male	Female
Canada should continue to be a member of NAFTA under the current terms	18%	13%	23%	14%	20%	19%	14%	27%	10%
Canada should do whatever is necessary to renegotiate the terms of NAFTA	52%	55%	54%	43%	49%	51%	68%	53%	50%
Canada should do whatever is necessary to leave NAFTA	11%	9%	9%	15%	10%	13%	7%	11%	10%
Not sure	19%	23%	14%	28%	21%	18%	11%	9%	29%

### The North American Free Trade Agreement

Which of these statements comes closest to your own point of view?

	Total	Will vote for or intends to vote for in next federal ballot					
		Con	Lib	NDP	BQ	Grn	Other
Canada should continue to be a member of NAFTA under the current terms	18%	29%	14%	15%	15%	12%	18%
Canada should do whatever is necessary to renegotiate the terms of NAFTA	52%	52%	56%	52%	52%	49%	52%
Canada should do whatever is necessary to leave NAFTA	11%	7%	9%	15%	14%	16%	11%
Not sure	19%	12%	21%	17%	19%	23%	19%

<b>The North American Free Trade Agreement</b>		
TREND - Which of these statements comes closest to your own point of view?		
	<b>July 2008</b>	<b>March 2008</b>
<b>Canada should continue to be a member of NAFTA under the current terms</b>	<b>18%</b>	<b>24%</b>
<b>Canada should do whatever is necessary to renegotiate the terms of NAFTA</b>	<b>52%</b>	<b>45%</b>
<b>Canada should do whatever is necessary to leave NAFTA</b>	<b>11%</b>	<b>8%</b>
<b>Not sure</b>	<b>19%</b>	<b>22%</b>

### The North American Free Trade Agreement

How much do you think each of the following has benefited from NAFTA?

	<b>Greatly benefited</b>	<b>Moderately benefited</b>	<b>Not benefited at all</b>	<b>Not sure</b>
<b>Canadian employers</b>	<b>12%</b>	<b>43%</b>	<b>27%</b>	<b>18%</b>
<b>Canadian manufacturers</b>	<b>11%</b>	<b>42%</b>	<b>32%</b>	<b>16%</b>
<b>Canadian tourists</b>	<b>6%</b>	<b>35%</b>	<b>36%</b>	<b>23%</b>
<b>Canadian workers</b>	<b>4%</b>	<b>29%</b>	<b>50%</b>	<b>17%</b>
<b>The Canadian economy in general</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>46%</b>	<b>28%</b>	<b>16%</b>



*Angus Reid Strategies is a full-service polling and market research firm which is a leader in the use of the Internet and rich media technology to collect high-quality, in-depth insights for a wide array of clients. Dr. Angus Reid and the Angus Reid Strategies team are pioneers in online research methodologies, and have been conducting online surveys since 1995.*

*Angus Reid Strategies, along with its sister company, Vision Critical, is now the largest Canadian-owned market research enterprise. In addition to its four offices in Canada—located in Vancouver, Calgary, Toronto, and Montreal—the firm also has offices San Francisco, New York and London, England. Its team of specialists provides solutions across every type and sector of research, and currently serves over 200 international clients.*

*Angus Reid Strategies polls are conducted using the Angus Reid Forum online panel ([www.angusreidforum.com](http://www.angusreidforum.com)), which is recruited via an industry-leading process that incorporates a randomized, widespread invitation approach and a triple opt-in screening procedure. The panel is maintained through state-of-the-art sampling techniques and frequent verifications of personal identity, contact information, and demographic characteristics. This premier online survey platform presents respondents with highly visual, interactive, and engaging surveys, ensuring that panel members provide thoughtful and reliable responses.*

*Over the last year, Angus Reid has covered five elections in Canada—more than any other pollster in the country—and the results have accurately predicted the outcome of each of these democratic processes. <http://www.angusreidstrategies.com/index.cfm?fuseaction=news&newsid=194>*

*More information on the way Angus Reid Strategies conducts public opinion research can be found at <http://www.angusreidstrategies.com/uploads/pages/pdfs/ARS.ARF.WP.pdf>*

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**For more information, please contact  
our spokesperson listed in the footnote.**

**Copies of this poll are available on our website:  
[www.angusreidstrategies.com](http://www.angusreidstrategies.com)**