Canadians Attitudes Toward NAFTA and Progressive Trade Issues

November 15, 2017
Methodology

- Online survey of 2,000 Canadians, 18+
- October 5-16, 2017
- Data weighted by gender, age, and region

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Sample size (weighted)</th>
<th>Sample size (unweighted)</th>
<th>Population (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Atlantic Canada</td>
<td>140</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quebec</td>
<td>480</td>
<td>450</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ontario</td>
<td>760</td>
<td>700</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prairies</td>
<td>360</td>
<td>350</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>British Columbia</td>
<td>260</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>2,000</td>
<td>2,000</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
A slim majority thinks Canada as a whole is on the right track

Is Canada on the right or wrong track?

Thinking about the way things are going these days in Canada, would you say that the country as a whole is on the right track, or the wrong track?
Federal party support is unchanged from the October 2015 election

Federal vote intention: October 2017 (decided/leaning)

Oct-17
Liberal Party: 38%
Conservative Party: 30%
NDP: 20%
Green Party: 7%
Bloc Québécois: 5%
(Undecided: 20%)

Election 2015
Liberal Party: 39%
Conservative Party: 32%
NDP: 20%
Green Party: 3%
Bloc Québécois: 5%
(Undecided: 20%)

If a Canadian federal election were held today, which party’s candidate would you vote for?
Vast majority of Canadians are at least somewhat supportive of trade agreements in general

General feelings about trade agreements

- **Strongly support**: 31%
- **Somewhat support**: 59%
- **Somewhat oppose**: 8%
- **Strongly oppose**: 2%

As you may know, Canada currently has or is negotiating trade agreements with other countries. In general, how do you feel about trade agreements between Canada and other countries? Are they something you...?
Canadians see the rich and large multinationals benefitting a lot from trade agreements. They see less benefit to workers and small business.

### Impact of trade agreements on specific groups

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group</th>
<th>Benefitted a lot</th>
<th>Benefitted somewhat</th>
<th>Made no difference</th>
<th>Hurt somewhat</th>
<th>Hurt a lot</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The rich</td>
<td>48%</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Large multinational corporations</td>
<td>46%</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Consumers</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>41%</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Working class people</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Small businesses</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Over the last 30 years or so, there have been many new trade agreements signed by countries around the world. To what extent do you think these trade agreements have benefitted or hurt each of the following?
Three-quarters of Canadians are at least somewhat aware of NAFTA, while less than half are aware of other major trade agreements.

### Awareness of specific trade agreements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Agreement</th>
<th>Very aware</th>
<th>Somewhat aware</th>
<th>Not very aware</th>
<th>Not at all aware</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA)</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>47%</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP)</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canada Europe Comprehensive Economic and Trade...</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>42%</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canada-China Free Trade Agreement</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>37%</td>
<td>42%</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Canada has signed or is currently exploring several new or revised trade deals. How aware are you of each of the following?
Four in ten are following the NAFTA negotiations, while a majority of six in ten are not following it closely or at all.

**Following NAFTA negotiations**

- Very closely: 6%
- Somewhat closely: 32%
- Not very closely: 42%
- Not following this at all: 20%

*Canada is currently negotiating possible changes to NAFTA with the United States and Mexico. How closely have you been following these developments? Are you following this...?*
Canadians think U.S., major Canadian corps, Mexico have benefitted from NAFTA. Views are more mixed on how NAFTA has impacted consumers, small businesses and workers.

### Impact of NAFTA on specific groups

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<thead>
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<th>Group</th>
<th>Benefitted a lot</th>
<th>Benefitted somewhat</th>
<th>Made no difference</th>
<th>Hurt somewhat</th>
<th>Hurt a lot</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The United States</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>43%</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Major Canadian corporations</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>44%</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mexico</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>46%</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canadian consumers</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>47%</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canadian small businesses</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>37%</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The average Canadian worker</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>You personally</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>57%</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

To what extent do you think the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) has benefitted or hurt each of the following?
Over half of Canadians are at least somewhat confident the government will defend the country’s interests in the new NAFTA negotiations.

Confidence that federal government will defend Canada’s interests in current NAFTA negotiations – by awareness of negotiations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Very closely (n=128)</th>
<th>Somewhat closely (n=662)</th>
<th>Not closely/at all (n=1,210)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>44%</td>
<td>32%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Very closely</strong></td>
<td>43%</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Somewhat closely</strong></td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>27%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Not closely/at all</strong></td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>42%</td>
<td>37%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

How much confidence do you have that the current Canadian government will defend the interest of Canadians in the negotiations over NAFTA? Are you...?
The vast majority of Canadians feel the government needs to push to improve NAFTA, and also be prepared to walk away from a bad deal.

View on government approach to NAFTA renegotiation

- 17%: The Canadian government needs to save NAFTA at all cost, even if it means making major concessions to the U.S.
- 82%: The Canadian government needs to push for improvements to NAFTA, and be prepared to walk away from the table, rather than sign a bad deal.

Here are two views about the NAFTA negotiations. Where would you position yourself?
Nine in ten Canadians support government’s push for NAFTA changes to better serve society’s interests, including higher labour and environmental standards.

Support for GOC pushing for changes in NAFTA negotiations

- **Strongly support**: 40%
- **Somewhat support**: 48%
- **Somewhat oppose**: 9%
- **Strongly oppose**: 3%

The Canadian government has announced it will push for changes to NAFTA so that the agreement will better serve the interests of society as a whole. These include stronger and enforceable labour and environmental standards and measures to ensure human rights, gender equality and indigenous rights are advanced. How do you feel about the Government of Canada pushing for these changes in the NAFTA negotiations?
Over three quarters of Canadians think it is unlikely the Trump administration will agree to the kinds of NAFTA changes Canada wants.

**Likelihood of Trump administration agreeing to Canada’s proposed NAFTA changes**

- Very likely: 3%
- Somewhat likely: 19%
- Not very likely: 46%
- Not at all likely: 32%

*How likely do you think it is that the current American administration under President Donald Trump would agree to the kinds of changes to NAFTA that Canada is asking for?*
Seven in ten would be more supportive of NAFTA if it includes enforceable labour/environmental standards and provisions to enhance human rights.

### Impact of support of NAFTA of improved environmental standards and enhanced rights

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Response</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>28%</td>
<td>Much more supportive of Canada being part of NAFTA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>42%</td>
<td>Somewhat more supportive of Canada being part of NAFTA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25%</td>
<td>Makes no difference to me</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3%</td>
<td>Somewhat less supportive of Canada being part of NAFTA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2%</td>
<td>Much less supportive of Canada being part of NAFTA</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

What if NAFTA was renegotiated to include stronger, enforceable labour and environmental standards and provisions to enhance human rights, gender equality and indigenous rights in all three countries? Would it make you...?
Eight in ten say Canada should walk away from NAFTA if the Americans reject all demands addressing labour, environmental and social issues.

Support for Canada walking away from the NAFTA table if Americans reject labour, environmental and social change demands

- 32% Strongly agree
- 50% Somewhat agree
- 15% Somewhat disagree
- 3% Strongly disagree

Some people say that if the Americans reject all of the demands Canada is making in the renegotiation of NAFTA that would address labour, environmental and social issues, Canada should be prepared to walk away from the table. Do you...?
Close to six in ten think the Canadian government is sincere in its desire to reform NAFTA in a progressive way.

Here are two views about Canada’s stance in the NAFTA negotiations. Where would you position yourself?

1. The Canadian government sincerely wants NAFTA to be reformed in a progressive way that addresses social, environmental and labour issues.

2. The Canadian government is just going through the motions of asking for all these progressive changes to NAFTA for public relations purposes. They know none of this will actually happen.

View on Canada’s stance in NAFTA negotiations:
- 58%: View 1
- 42%: View 2
Eight in ten Canadians would feel disappointed if gov’t signs a new NAFTA deal that does not include improved labour, environmental and social provisions.

If after making a big deal about wanting a renegotiated NAFTA to include all these labour, environmental and social issues, the Government of Canada went ahead and signed a new deal that did not include of these provisions? How would you feel?

- **Very disappointed**: 33%
- **Somewhat disappointed**: 47%
- **Not very disappointed**: 16%
- **Not at all disappointed**: 4%

If after making a big deal about wanting a renegotiated NAFTA to include all these labour, environmental and social issues, the Government of Canada went ahead and signed a new deal that did not include of these provisions? How would you feel?
An overwhelming nine in ten Canadians would like to see “social clauses” in all trade future agreements.

NAFTA is just one of many trade agreements around the world. Some people say that all trade agreements between countries should include “social clauses”, like the ones Canada is seeking in NAFTA. These would oblige all countries signing trade agreements to agree to meet higher labour and environmental standards designed to address climate change and reduce poverty. Do you...?
Two-thirds of Canadians feel having future trade agreements address social, environmental and labour issues is at least somewhat realistic.

If having future trade agreements include social clauses is realistic:

- Very realistic: 10%
- Somewhat realistic: 55%
- Not very realistic: 30%
- Not realistic at all: 5%

How realistic do you think it is that future trade agreements around the world could be designed to include binding provisions that seriously address social and environmental objectives and that benefit working people? Is it...?
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