



BC FACT SHEET

April 2004

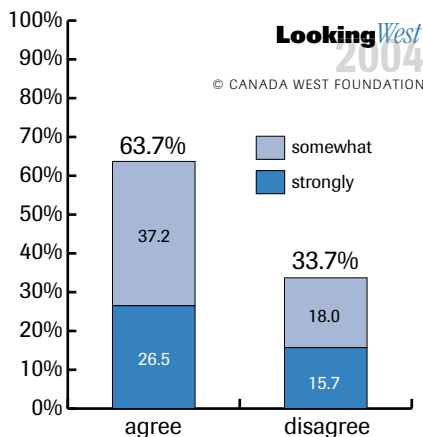
Canada-US Relations

The Looking West 2004 policy priorities data demonstrate almost four in ten (39.3%) British Columbians feel that improving Canada-US relations is a high priority for long-term provincial prosperity and quality of life, while one-third (35.0%) feels it is a medium priority. One-quarter feels it is either a low priority (19.1%) or not a priority (6.0%).

To further probe attitudes about the Canada-US relationship, Looking West 2004 survey respondents were asked two questions specific to trade and the economy. First, westerners were asked to rate their agreement with the statement, "Canada should pursue closer economic ties with the United States." British Columbians are generally positive in their response to this: six in ten agree that stronger ties should be pursued, with one-quarter strongly agreeing. One-third of the respondents disagree.

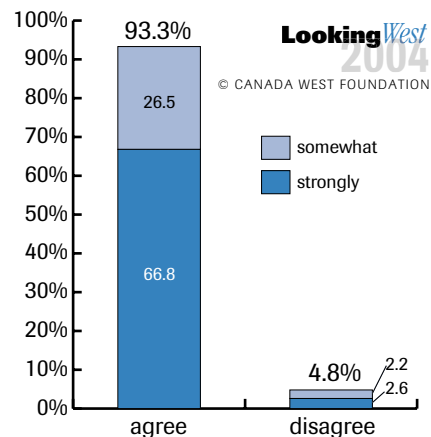
Respondents were also asked to rate their agreement with the statement, "Canada should make every effort to keep the Canada-US border open to Canadian trade." On this point, British Columbians are emphatic: 93.3% agree, with two-thirds agreeing strongly.

Figure 1:
Pursue Closer Economic Ties With US –
BC Respondents, 2004



Canada should pursue closer economic ties with the United States.

Figure 2:
Make Every Effort to Keep Border Open to Trade –
BC Respondents, 2004

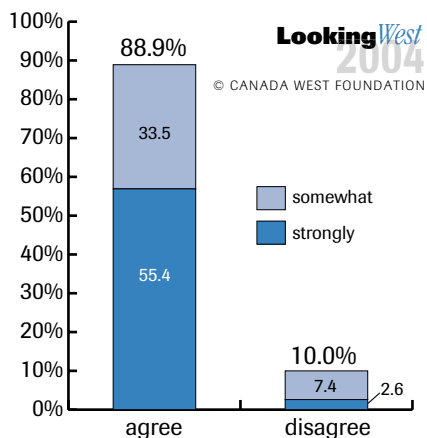


Canada should make every effort to keep the Canada-US border open to Canadian trade.

There has been a lot of debate in recent years about the quality of the Canada-US relationship. To assess attitudes about this, Looking West 2004 respondents were asked to rate their agreement with the statement, "The relationship between Canada and the United States has deteriorated over the past few years." British Columbians clearly think that the relationship has suffered: almost nine in ten (88.9%) agree that it has deteriorated, with the majority (55.4%) agreeing strongly.

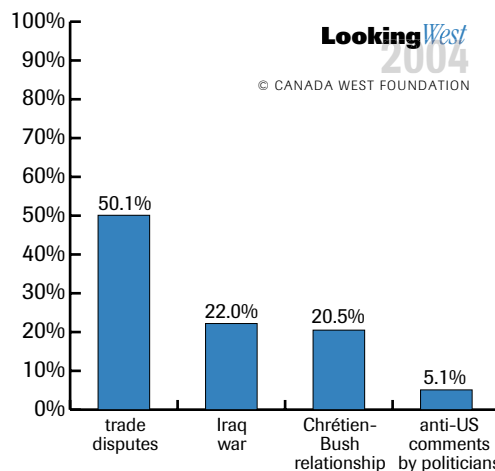
Respondents who agreed (strongly or somewhat) that the Canada-US relationship has deteriorated were asked a follow-up question: "Of the following reasons, which do you feel has most significantly contributed to a deterioration in Canada-US relations over the past few years? Canada-US trade disputes, such as softwood lumber and beef exports; differing positions on the Iraq war; poor personal relationship between Prime Minister Chretien and President Bush; anti-American comments by Canadian politicians." A slim majority of British Columbians (50.1%) put the blame on trade disputes. Two in ten blame differing positions on the Iraq war and two in ten blame the poor personal relationship between former Prime Minister Chretien and President Bush. Only 5% blame anti-American comments by Canadian politicians.

Figure 3:
Canada-US Relationship Has Deteriorated –
BC Respondents, 2004



The relationship between Canada and the United States has deteriorated over the past few years.

Figure 4:
Cause of Deterioration –
BC Respondents, 2004



Asked only of respondents who agreed that the relationship had deteriorated. N = 711



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