

When asked whether or not they felt that Canada was prepared for expanded competitiveness or international trade, Group A participants felt that there were specific elements which Canada is "ill-prepared for". In particular, the groups discussed the dislocation of workers and possible lay-offs. These participants felt that larger companies would survive and prosper while smaller companies would encounter difficulties. In both the Toronto and Montreal A groups, participants felt that Canada lacks a skilled labour force and that this is a measure of being ill-prepared. As well, they felt that with dislocation or lay-offs, segments of the population would have to be retrained, especially in sectors such as the garment industry. In addition, both groups noted that wage demands made by unions are much higher than in the U.S. and that this was a detriment to Canadian competitiveness. Participants of the more positive Montreal group also brought forth Canada's over dependence on the export of natural resources as a detriment to limiting its competitiveness. These participants used as an example Japan's emphasis on skilled manpower to maintain its competitive international edge. Both groups on this initial discussion of trade in the global economy felt that Canada must place more emphasis on its efficiency, skills training, be prepared to deal with the short term hardships (dislocation and lower wages), recognize that trade has to be international and that eventually, "the pendulum will swing back to the middle ground". For these people, Free Trade with the U.S.A. is simply an indication of alignments necessary to compete in the global economy.

When the topic of trade was introduced to Group B participants, they showed a significant difference in their view of trade. These people discussed trade in terms of a balance between imports versus exports. Some participants of Group B felt that more emphasis should be placed on buying Canadian. When this was brought forth in the Toronto discussions however, a