

- o To allay concerns that Canada appears too anxious for an agreement and could be taken advantage of by the "big, bad Americans," participants were urging increased public debate of the issues involved in and elements of a free trade deal, perhaps including a televised First Ministers' Conference on the subject. As well, there were calls for "experts" perceived as credible spokespersons on free trade to speak out on free trade and to endeavour to simplify the issue so that it is more easily understood and comprehensible.
- o The inferiority complex/"complexe du colonize" of Quebecers, well documented in the past, resurfaces in the context of discussion of free trade. While the new entrepreneurial mood is growing in Quebec, the majority of group participants seemed to revert to this perspective in viewing free trade with fear of "Americanization" one of the resulting concerns.
- o This fear or apprehension was evident with respect to cultural issues. While many felt that things would change little under free trade in the short term, there was considerable concern expressed about free trade possibly leading to a loss of Canadian and Quebec identity and overall Canadian independence over the longer run.
- o Concern about "Americanization" seemed to be partly linked to the perceived "secrecy" surrounding the trade talks. This secrecy was considered not as an indication of the sensitivity of the talks, but more as cause for suspicion of the ultimate motives and objectives of the Americans in the trade talks. Some even expressed concern about the Americans' having a "hidden agenda" in the talks.
- o One means of diminishing the prevalence of this attitude may be the promotion of a trade deal which offers greater economic opportunities for Canada and Quebec, within the context of a fair agreement which contains effective mechanisms and procedures for resolving disputes and ensuring adherence to the terms of the agreement.