

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Symposium heard presentations on and discussed information technologies and the restructuring of production and financial markets, the impact on transnational interest groups, transborder criminal activities and the national media and on governing.

Information technology complemented rather than caused changes in the global method of production and firms are creating strategic partnerships to reduce the uncertainty caused by knowledge-intensive production. Such networks lead to global oligopolies, while another harmful effect is that nations become involved in competitions to attract investment. The financial services industry has created the tools for the movement of capital with information technology facilitating transborder capital flows and bringing countries out of isolation. Information technology in this and other domains can create "haves" and "have nots". The rapid movement of capital facilitated by information technology has affected the state since domestic institutions are made more vulnerable as capital takes advantage of different regulatory regimes. This has led to a race to liberalize financial markets.

New information technologies have facilitated the rapid rise of transnational interest groups with multiple agendas. These technologies have also altered the relationship between individuals and interest groups in a number of ways. There will be more of these groups participating in the policy-making process which will tend to be less institutionalized, more issue-oriented and more prone to alliances of convenience. The major challenge for the Canadian government in responding to interest groups' tactics will be coordination. This problem can be ameliorated by the willingness of other players, notably the business community to accept government's leadership and the willingness of the federal government to contribute funds and information.

With regard to money laundering Canada is particularly vulnerable because of weaknesses in the law. Similarly Canada has virtually no information about the movements of money into and out of the country, unlike Australia and the USA which track such movements closely. There is a critical need for an international evidence code which takes account of paperless financial transactions and differing legal systems. There is also a serious resource problem at the enforcement level which is federal.

Changes in technology may be undermining the traditional "mass" national audience, encouraging fragmentation into "niche" communities. In addition, the media attacks the effectiveness and then the legitimacy of government. An alienation of the elites is underway coupled with the seizure of the public agenda by more radical elements. Eventually there will be pools of people with nothing in common. This highlighted the overarching issue of the symposium, namely, whether information technologies were changing nations and the locus of power.

The emergence of the information society had five major effects: globalization; fragmentation, decentralization, and democratization; breakdown of the bureaucratic/industrial organizational model; decreased secrecy; blurring of categorical boundaries. Leadership in this context means taking the lead in establishing an overall