

Respondents indicated that adjusting to changes in order to take advantage of global trade and economic activities will not be easy -- but, "we can do it as well as anybody and we don't have much of a choice anyway". In this respect, no single influencer or decision leader area -- government, business, labour, academic, workers -- was seen as the most responsible agent or positive influencer for dealing with future change. While each influencer was viewed as having a role or responsibility, it was indicated that adjustment to change would be collective in nature: government would have to set the "plan", "sell" Canada's image abroad, facilitate promotion through its trade offices, and target adjustment assistance that would be flexible and responsive on a regional and specific sectoral basis; business would have to be aggressive in the development of new products becoming more efficient and in pursuing new frontiers; labour would have to lower wage demands; academics would have to prepare future workers with emphasis on "new world skills"; and individual workers would have to work harder, produce more, and lower their wage and economic expectations.

Respondents also felt that there were few ways to minimize or avoid the impact of these changes or adjustments in the short term; however, longer term impacts would be offset by training, research and development, sectoral and manufacturing specialization for world markets, etc.