

In view of these many deficiencies in Canada's military capabilities, the Business Council has concluded that a balanced, two-phased program is required to gradually reverse the major decline in the capabilities of the Canadian Armed Forces.<sup>11</sup> Phase one would concentrate on re-equipping, while in phase two the priority would be to increase manpower resources. To meet Canada's defence requirements, the regular forces would rise from 83,500 to 115,000 over 10-12 years. The reserves would also be substantially strengthened. This program would not be cheap. It would necessitate a modest shift of government expenditure commitments away from other programs and in favour of national defence. However, by implementing this program Canada would be moving to assume a defence burden more commensurate with our size and wealth, and more in line with that accepted by other NATO powers.

#### **Other Defence Issues**

Two other defence-related issues deserve brief mention here. The first is the question of national preparedness. Not surprisingly, the decline in Canada's military capability has been more than matched by a deterioration in national preparedness, which may be defined as the ability to mobilize military and civilian resources in the face of emergencies or international conflicts.<sup>12</sup> By the end of World War Two and into the 1950s, Canada had an impressive mobilization capability.<sup>13</sup> During the following decades, however, de-emphasis and general neglect of defence led to a complete atrophying of our rapid mobilization capacity, which is essential to our commitment to European defence.