

2.8 The Role of Individual Canadians

- o Canadians are in need of a "personality make-over," according to many group discussants. They need to be more aggressive and assertive, have more self confidence and take greater pride in their work.

- o There are many actions that Canadians can take as well. Canadians should buy Canadian products, they should patronize Canadian arts, they should take greater interest in economics and should educate themselves to develop skills to cope in an increasingly competitive world.

- o While some discussants felt that Canadians are hard workers, others felt the need for Canadians to make more sacrifices. In fact, some participants expressed a pressing need for Canada to reform social programs such as welfare, medicare and old age pensions in order for Canada to lower production costs and become more competitive internationally. In stark contrast to these views, others argued that those "safety net" programs make it possible for people to take chances and become competitive. These participants cited the examples of Germany, France and the Scandinavian countries as competitive international traders with heavy commitments to social programs.