

the need and desire for "a major overhaul of the way things are done." In actual fact, most of those in the groups tended to doubt whether Canadians would be very willing to sacrifice much to improve productivity.

- o Group participants knew very little about conditions in other parts of the world, but did have surface impressions. Economic and socio-political stability was seen to be seriously lacking in many parts of the world, the gap between rich and poor nations widening and expected to continue to do so. Considerable concern was expressed about the perceived possibility of a global nuclear war and about the fact that some countries which were seen as unstable had or were trying to get nuclear weapons.
- o Participants were not knowledgeable on the subject of free trade, but tended to offer opinions nonetheless. In essence, it appeared that the words "free trade" sound promising and positive, but after discussions on the pros and cons, a considerable number of people were worried about the economic effect of a major surge of U.S. products into Canadian markets. No one seemed aware or concerned about the possibility of increasing countervailing measures being adopted by other countries if trade were not loosened.
- o Part of the difficulty encountered in trying to uncover a consensus in favour of major steps to change our approach to international trade seemed to stem from a lack of understanding of just how critical exports are to the Canadian economy. While quantitative research would obviously better assess the extent of this problem, it seemed apparent that this was yet another gap in economic literacy which would need to be dealt with before a broader national will to change might be achieved.