

- o Why did Canada (Quebec) and the United States undertake these talks ?
- o What are the main problems left to resolve?
- o What are the anticipated advantages to Canada, and especially for Quebec likely to result from free trade?
- o How will different components of a free trade deal affect Canadians?

Some suggested that media coverage should be more thorough, perhaps including a special section in the newspapers or magazines outlining the various issues. Some felt that there was a need to have more experts explain the various possible scenarios resulting from the positions being considered by each country. The negative tone of the press was seen as not having been responded to adequately by Canada's politicians, whom many felt should further explain or present their own reasons for going through with the talks. One woman's comments reflected the general mood when she said: "If the talks are such a good thing for Canada, why can't politicians explain why it isn't the bad thing as the press makes it out to be?" This sentiment was also expressed by participants in the other focus groups conducted in Ontario, Vancouver and Halifax.

Several lower and higher SES group participants felt that they could not understand the talks because they felt they did not have sufficient knowledge of economics, politics or international law. A few individuals believed that experts should, as they said has been done in other fields such as science and technology, simplify the information to help them understand the issue better.