



example, are not necessarily identical. And domestic and international policy interact in a number of critical ways.

Participants presented a variety of observations on the issues of culture, choice and jobs:

- the Canadian telecommunications industry is a world leader and should be promoted. Government regulation of the communications industry restricts the consumer's choice and the ability of Canadian firms to access foreign markets, which restricts domestic economic development and job creation;
- government regulation can achieve important national goals without significantly affecting consumer choice;
- Canadians need to go beyond wanting their cake and eating it too, to make real choices between contending priorities;
- "Canadian content" should not be provided for its own sake. Canadian cultural "products" must be competitive;
- Canadians should be encouraged to invest in cultural enterprises and productions which reflect our goals and values;
- the government should explore new ways to achieve its goals with respect to Canadian content and public access to services (ie. telecommunications, the Internet). "Public lane" partnerships between government and industry are a good example of alternatives to traditional forms of regulation;
- the Broadcasting Act stands as a reasonably useful piece of legislation, but it has weaknesses with respect to content regulation and is not appropriate to some of the new communications media (the Internet in particular);

- the Government must devise new ways to protect intellectual property.

With respect to competitiveness, participants agreed that Canada's telecommunications industry is a world leader, and that it ought to be actively promoted by the Canadian government. There was acknowledgement that current regulatory systems developed to promote our markets and culture have generated an infrastructure that is the envy of many, and should not be lightly abandoned. However, these measures must be assessed against their impact in advancing or restricting two of Canada's principal objectives--economic development and national identity--in light of dramatic changes in communications technologies and the social and political context.

On questions concerning external trade and development policies, participants agreed that Canada's communications policies must be geared toward facilitating the development of relatively weak economies, in order to stimulate the growth of future markets and stabilize the global market, as well as for humanitarian reasons. There was agreement that, while meeting basic needs are a priority in international development, Canada must facilitate the growth of infrastructure, technology-enabled economic and social development and promote partnerships in development policy. We should build on Canadians' successes and extend internationally projects such as SchoolNet, community access networks, delivery of technology-enabled training (particularly in the fields of education and health care), and electronic distribution. While Canada must maintain its commitments to human rights and democracy, we must also focus our energies in ways that promote our commercial interests and reinforce our existing diplomatic, economic and political partnerships. Some participants were concerned that Canadian assistance to