

## B. Canadian Culture and Identity

While some were at a loss to define Canadian identity and culture, those participants who ventured a comment on the question mostly defined it in sociological terms and typically did so with reference or comparison to American culture. Canadians were described as being more peaceful and tolerant as a people than Americans. The nature of Canadian society as a mosaic of various cultural groupings was identified frequently, in contrast to the "melting pot" of the U.S. For instance, one Londoner remarked: "I like the way Canadians from various cultures are allowed to maintain their individuality, whereas in America everyone must become Americanized."

Concerns about Canadians' becoming more like Americans were less salient than concerns expressed about a loss of independence or control. Many participants thought that American influence on Canadian culture and identity under free trade would be no different from what it is at present, which was generally recognized as considerable. For instance, a number of comments reflected the view of a Toronto participant that "Free trade wouldn't change our Canadianness. It relates more to economic issues." Also quite frequently mentioned were perceptions of benefits for Canadians associated with Canadians' becoming more like Americans, particularly with respect to being more entrepreneurial and prepared to take risks. Many felt that in these ways Canadians need to become more like Americans and hoped that "We do become more like Americans by making money and running the economy a little better."