

## 2.6 The Role of Government

- o Some participants were sceptical of the government promoting competitiveness and international trade. These people felt that the government was really telling Canadians that tough economic times were coming. They also expressed concerns over tax dollars spent on costly advertising. Many expressed the need for government to ensure policies would not inhibit opportunities. Others felt that the government should confine its activities to those sectors which have the best economic future (such as high technology) and stay away from those which were not promising for the future (such as non-renewable resources). Many also felt that the government should "push" for more manufacturing opportunities in order for Canada to become more competitive internationally.
  
- o Some participants expressed the need for government to make it easier for small business to get started. This could be accomplished by simplifying forms and access to information on international market opportunities, and they should be willing to finance promising ventures.
  
- o Again, some protectionist sentiments emerged, as respondents felt that the government should encourage Canadians to buy Canadian-made products, should minimize taxes on Canadian products, and should increase subsidies.
  
- o The government can help business by reducing bureaucracy, by helping Canadians to learn about the international market and by promoting Canadian business. Funding research facilities, as opposed to cutting back on research and development, was seen