

Other concerns in terms of local issues were relatively consistent across the board -- including housing shortages, health care, education, the environment and the rise in crime in various neighbourhoods.

Outside of the specific 2-3 year horizon, respondents felt that the Canadian economy was in the throes of a general restructuring; however, there was little sense as to the "big picture" -- with most seeing the effects of the "trees" rather than the "forest".

Further, respondents recognized that changing global linkages -- Europe in transition, the Pacific Rim and the U.S.-Mexico trade discussions -- were beginning to balkanize traditional trading options and that it would change the way that Canada would do business in the future. As to how it would impact Canada on the world economic stage specifically, there was a fairly large "unknown", except that the imperative was to be part of the new order and not to be left behind.

As for how Canadians -- personally and collectively -- would have to cope within the context of economic downturn and change over the next few years, respondents believed that Canadians had to "tighten their belts, get back to solid work ethics, spend within their limits, and increase productivity through training, education and research and development". However, when asked to identify both the key challenges and likely remedies on a future horizon (i.e., to the end of the decade) respondents were at a loss to substantively identify or speculate what the future held, except for the advancement and potential of high technology as a key influencer.