

Focus Group - St. John
April 19, 1990

Introductions:

Maggie, I work for a health care agency. I'm a personnel manager there. I'm originally from Scotland and I've been living in Canada for the last 18 years. I'm a single parent raising three children.

Don, I'm retired from the railway. I worked for them for 36 years and I felt I was too young so I went to work for a smaller outfit here in St. John. I'm married and have two daughters, one married and one in university.

Roy, I've worked in the steel fabricating industry for over 30 years. Six children, they're all grown, all married. The last six or seven years, my wife and I have been into foster care, we look after a couple of crippled children.

David, married 26 years, two children. My daughter is 25, she's graduating from university next week, her second degree, no job. I have a son he's 19, he's in university. I run a convenience store. It's a good life but it's a hard life. I sometimes think that I'd be better off working for somebody else but life's been good to me.

Karen, I'm in the Bachelor of Science program at the university majoring in biology. After that I want to go to medical school.

Dave, I'm single _____, I'm interested in martial arts, that's one of my hobbies.

Eve, I retired in 1988. I've raised four children but they're all gone from home now. I worked when they were older, I did stenographic work for about 17 years.

Bill, I'm a mill worker. Last time I checked I had a job there, we're on strike right now. I have a wife and two children. My oldest is 18 and he's in military college, my daughter is 15 and she's in high school. We're doing great.

Rosemary, I'm a house wife, a mother of three. The three were born before the third year was up. I manage a 12 unit apartment building.

Q. I WANT TO OPEN THE DISCUSSION TONIGHT TALKING A LITTLE BIT ABOUT THE ECONOMY, I WANT TO ASK YOU WHERE YOU THINK IT'S GOING AND THINKING ABOUT THE NEXT TWO TO THREE YEARS WHETHER YOU THINK THAT YOU'RE GOING TO BE BETTER OFF, WORSE OFF OR JUST YOUR GENERAL THOUGHTS ON THE ECONOMY?

Gee, I hope we're not worse off. Everything seems to be sort of topsy turvy at the moment, it must cost the young people today getting married and raising kids a lot of money. They need so much more than I did but I don't really think it could get too much more expensive than it is right now. I know you need two in a family that work today to hold things together and the kids all want what all the other kids have...

It really doesn't look too good. I wouldn't want to be in some of these peoples' age brackets today, raising a family. Luckily mine are all grown up and have gone. I have grandchildren. Thank God, the house and the car is paid for. I'm on a fixed income. I'm on a disability pension so if it takes another bad jump, the economy, it's going to start to hurt. Luckily so far I'm able to keep my head above water. That's about it.

P. DO YOU THINK IT MIGHT GET ANY WORSE?