

Trade Focus Groups - Toronto
April 17, 1990

INTRODUCTIONS:

Nell, I'm a social worker with seniors. I work here in Toronto although I'm originally from the West. I'm single but I live with a family.

Hubert, I'm an immigrant to Canada. I've been here some twenty odd years. I'm an independent operator. I'm married and I've got a couple of kids who have kids. I'm here for a certain reason, to express my opinion about the Free Trade Agreement.

Axa, I'm an administrator. I'm from Scandinavia. I like to do all sorts of things: sew; design clothes...

Schovn, I'm an ability therapist health care professional. I live with my son. My daughter goes to school in London, Ontario. I work for myself visiting clients. I hold clinics three days out of the week where patients that can move can come to me...apart from reading and looking after my son that's all I do. I was originally from Australia but I've been here for 23 years.

Dorothy, I'm retired after working for about 39 years. I was born in Cabbagetown, Toronto and I've lived in Toronto all my life. I'm married, I have one daughter and I'm a new grandparent. We're real film buffs and I like to read. My husband is retired too, we're both enjoying our retirement very much.

Lynn, I'm an assistant to a purchasing agent. I'm engaged to be married in July. I spend a lot of my time at work.

Q. WHAT ARE THE KEY ISSUES THAT YOU FACE TODAY IN CANADA, IN YOUR REGION AND IN TERMS OF YOURSELVES?

Taxation.

The GST.

The taxes and the environment.

Restrictions in all senses. When I came to this country, you worked hard and you were rewarded. Today the harder you work, the less you get out of it. There are so many restrictions here it seems that this country is run by the bank. The bank is controlled by the government and the government is controlled by the bank, that's where almost all the people are getting stuck.

I think the taxes too, they're not fair. I don't see why we should have to pay tax on everything. I don't know much about it but what I do, I don't like.

The prices of apartments. Tearing down affordable housing to put up condominiums.

My perspective working with older people is that these people are voiceless and the government doesn't seem to care about them. I mean, these people pay taxes all their lives, I think they deserve to be looked after. They're getting it at all ends, the rents are so high for these elderly people, if you want to live in style when you get older it's going to cost you \$3000 a month.

Q. WHAT DO YOU THINK THE KEY ISSUES ARE GOING TO BE IN THE NEXT TWO OR THREE YEARS?