Several people mentioned that the background information could become dated quickly. For example, two people pointed out that the number of software firms quoted in the Information Technology chapter (4,000) was inaccurate.

> *"I know for a fact that there are more than 3,000 software companies in Quebec alone."*

As with the Strategic Overview section, a number of people felt that the sector strategies were too general. They suggested including specific actions.

> *"If it is to be addressed to companies, I would like to know how the government plans to help me."*

> *"It's very vague. It says they're 'developing opportunities', but how are they developing them?"*

Activity List

Many people said that the activity list for their sector contained the most useful information in the document. Some questioned, however, whether the Plan was the appropriate vehicle through which to communicate this information. They expressed concerns about the information being dated by the time they receive the document. Trade missions, shows and activities were thought to be too time sensitive for an annual publication.

> *"On page 109, it shows that in May 1993 there was a building and home improvement show in San Francisco. For me to find out in September about a show in May that could have been useful to my business...that's quite upsetting."*

Some people also suggested adding fax numbers to the contact list.

Compendium

Participants were also asked to review a Compendium document which provided more detailed information on the activities listed in the International Trade Business Plan. They found the information in the Compendium to be more useful than the

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