

2.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- o Groups A all recognized the need for trade internationally in the context of a global economy; that there would be short term hardship for long term gain and that the country must specialize, be less dependent on natural resources and needs to train its labour force to be competitive; the issue of dislocation was seen as a short term problem but necessary; union wage demands should be reduced to compete.
- o Groups B recognized the need to trade but saw it as a relationship between imports and exports. Lack of preparedness to compete was seen as due to reliance on exports of natural resources. High labour costs were also seen as a detriment. Participants felt that Canadians should be buying more Canadian goods.
- o The Montreal B group did not trust government to handle Quebec hydro exports; were concerned about reliance on the export of natural resources and thus the environmental costs associated.
- o None of the groups made the linkage between dislocation and specialization.
- o Dislocation was seen as the result of and the down side to expanded trade while specialization was equated to the need to find new markets and to ensure training.
- o All groups agreed that Canada, and in particular, business, must improve their marketing efforts externally.