



Nevertheless, there was general agreement that Canada must reaffirm its commitments to cultural vitality, to technical innovation, to democracy, and to internationalism.

Working Group 1

Working Group #1 was assigned the multi-faceted title "Canadian Content, Sovereignty, and Competitiveness in the Global Infrastructure."

Discussion in this group explored each of these three themes and the relations between them. In the early portion of the discussion, participants raised a number of issues and concerns which they hoped would be reflected in the final report. These concerns are summarized in the following set of discussion questions:

- *what are our goals in "exporting" Canadian culture. How can these goals be achieved. Do others want access to Canadian culture;*
- *do existing media platforms and programmes reflect the diversity of Canadian society. Do all constituencies have adequate access to the means for communication within Canadian society. Do all constituencies have adequate access to the process whereby Canadian culture is projected to the rest of the world;*
- *can mutually-beneficial and effective partnerships be created between government, the private sector, and civil society in the design of communications policy, in both national and international contexts. Is there a stable point of intersection between market/trade issues and the values embodied in Canadian civil society that can be translated into foreign policy;*
- *can we resolve these issues in terms of the language of regulation and de-regulation. Do we need new regulatory frameworks for the new communications technologies;*

- *are the discussion parameters suggested by the working title of this session appropriate. For example, is "sovereignty" somehow more important than "democracy". Is there a straightforward relationship between "competitiveness" issues and those surrounding "culture" and "sovereignty".*

Participants also offered their impressions of the contemporary foreign policy-making environment:

- *we are moving into a new era of "track-two diplomacy," where government is not well suited to take the lead in certain initiatives, and therefore engages representatives from outside of government--ie. the private sector, non-governmental organizations--to play this leading role;*
- *government must develop new partnerships that go beyond a functional division of labour (between firms and relevant agencies, between NGOs and relevant agencies. etc.). Canada is unique as an international actor, in that it has access to the ear of powerful states, and yet is well-regarded by others as a committed internationalist with no particular axe to grind;*
- *Canadians need to understand that all foreign policy decisions are value-laden, and may not be well received by others. The Internet is a mechanism by which public consultation can happen on a larger scale, more cheaply, and on a more directly personal basis;*
- *to make it on to the agenda of the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, a group must frame issues in terms of commerce or trade. The Department's view of communications issues is framed in terms of commerce and trade.*