

PART II.—CANADIAN CITIZENSHIP*

Naturalization procedures and events leading to the passing of the Canadian Citizenship Act are given in the 1951 Year Book, pp. 153-155.

Section 1.—The Canadian Citizenship Act

The Canadian Citizenship Act came into force on Jan. 1, 1947, its purpose being to give a clear definition of Canadian citizenship and provide an underlying community of status for all the people of Canada. Since Jan. 18, 1950 the administration of Canadian citizenship has been the responsibility of the Department of Citizenship and Immigration. The provisions of the Act and its several amendments are outlined in some detail in the 1955 Year Book, pp. 177-181. More briefly, they are given in the following paragraphs.

Natural Born Canadian Citizens, Born before Jan. 1, 1947.—The Act defines the two categories of natural born Canadian citizens as (1) a person born in Canada or on a Canadian ship or aircraft; (2) a person born outside of Canada before Jan. 1, 1947 if the responsible parent (the father or, where the father is deceased or where the child is born out of wedlock, the mother) is a Canadian citizen, if he was, on Jan. 1, 1947, either a minor or had, prior to that date, been lawfully admitted to Canada for permanent residence and had not, before that date, acquired the citizenship or nationality of another country.

The Act provides that a person in the second category will cease to be a Canadian citizen on attaining the age of 24 years or on Jan. 1, 1954, whichever is the later date, unless he has his place of domicile in Canada at such date or has, before such date and after reaching the age of 21 years, filed a declaration of retention of Canadian citizenship.

Natural Born Canadian Citizens, Born after Dec. 31, 1946.—A person born outside of Canada subsequent to that date, whose responsible parent is considered a Canadian citizen pursuant to the terms of the Canadian Citizenship Act, is a Canadian if his birth is registered with the Registrar of Canadian Citizenship within two years of its occurrence or within such extended period as the Minister may authorize in special cases.

The person who becomes a Canadian citizen in such manner automatically ceases to be a Canadian citizen on reaching the age of 24 years unless he complies with the requirements as set out for a person born outside of Canada before Jan. 1, 1947 who was still a minor on that date.

Canadian Citizens other than Natural Born.—Before the 1953 amendments to the Citizenship Act the only persons who acquired Canadian citizenship on Jan. 1, 1947 through the transitional clauses of Sect. 9 were persons who were naturalized in Canada before that date, British subjects who had Canadian domicile at the commencement of the Act and women lawfully admitted to Canada and married prior to Jan. 1, 1947 whose husbands would have qualified as Canadian citizens if the Act had come into force before the date of marriage. Sect. 9 was amended on June 1, 1953 so that a British subject who had his place of domicile in Canada for at least 20 years immediately before Jan. 1, 1947 need not comply with the requirements of Canadian domicile provided he was not under an order of deportation on Jan. 1, 1947.

Status of Married Women.—Since the commencement of the Canadian Citizenship Act a Canadian woman does not lose Canadian citizenship upon marriage to a non-Canadian and a non-Canadian woman does not become a Canadian citizen upon marriage to a Canadian citizen. However a Canadian woman who marries a non-Canadian whose country of allegiance considers her to have acquired its nationality upon marriage may file a Declaration of Renunciation of Canadian citizenship if she wishes to divest herself of her Canadian citizenship. A non-Canadian woman who marries a Canadian citizen must

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