

The causes which may lead to deportation are narrowed after a person has acquired domicile. A Canadian citizen cannot be deported. Canadian domicile is acquired by an immigrant after five years of continuous residence in Canada. Canadian domicile may be lost by voluntary permanent residence out of Canada, and may be forfeited by certain activities hostile to the State. Periods spent in a prison or in a mental hospital and periods during which a deportation proceeding is pending against a person are not counted towards the acquisition of domicile.

A person not a citizen may be deported regardless of length of residence and whether he has acquired domicile or not if he has been convicted under laws governing drug traffic, or if he is found to be a member of a subversive organization or engages in subversion by force or other means of democratic government as understood in Canada, or if he has been convicted of an offence involving disaffection or disloyalty to Her Majesty, or if he, outside of Canada, has engaged in activities detrimental to the security of Canada. Persons, who have not yet acquired domicile are liable to deportation if they fall into prohibited classes at the time of entry or within five years after having been landed, if they have engaged in commercialized vice, have been convicted under the criminal code, or have become inmates of prisons or mental institutions or persons who have gained entry by means of fraudulent documents or similar means.

Appeals are permitted in certain cases where deportation has been ordered.

STATUS OF IMMIGRANTS

Except for the right to vote in national elections, deferred until citizenship is acquired and for the liability to deportation referred to earlier, there are very few restrictions pertaining to the status of immigrants.

While immigrants in general are free to engage in any kind of work, there are some legal restrictions relating to employment in the Public Service of Canada and there may be others relating to work involving national security considerations. Immigrants who have received an assisted passage loan may be required to sign an undertaking to work for one year in a given type of job. This undertaking is between the immigrant and the government rather than between the immigrant and the employer.

Other restrictions, if any, are generally of a private nature and most often relate to a language handicap or to seniority systems in operation in a plant or factory. Recognition of immigrant professional persons by the governing bodies of Canadian professions has frequently been a matter of discussion and is too complex to be dealt with in detail here. Such recognition is often more easily secured by immigrants from the British Isles and from the United States than by persons from elsewhere, partly because of similarity of professional standards and practices and of language. Recognition is generally a matter to be settled between the individual immigrant professional and the relevant governing body of the profession.

Immigrants do not require any special work permit nor do they require any official identification cards, need not register with the police and in all respects have complete freedom of movement in the same way as Canadian citizens and are free to settle anywhere in Canada. Similarly no exit permits or any other official permission is required if an immigrant should decide to leave Canada permanently. Immigrants enjoy full legal rights and protection under the civil and criminal laws of Canada and the provinces. They may own or dispose of property, are protected and governed by laws applying to conditions of work, such as hours of work and minimum wages, and in general have the same rights, privileges and obligations as any other Canadian.

CITIZENSHIP

After four years and nine months of residence following landing, an immigrant may make application for Canadian citizenship which is usually granted if he possesses the required qualifications.