

Many voluntary organizations, immigrant aid societies and church groups also provide language instruction. Some of these classes are designed to meet the special needs of housewives, night-workers and others who are unable to attend evening classes. They, too, receive the benefit of free textbooks as do isolated individuals who must learn the language by themselves or with the help of a tutor.

Because preparation for citizenship also requires a basic knowledge of Canada, its institutions and traditions, and an understanding of the structure and functions of the Canadian Government, the Citizenship Branch publishes booklets that are available free to all newcomers and for the use of language and citizenship classes. The booklets include *Canadian Scene* and the Canadian Citizenship Series—*Our Land, Our History, Our System of Government, Our Resources*, and *The Arts in Canada*.

The process of integration involves a great deal more than learning the language and acquiring citizenship. The newcomer must develop a sense of belonging to the Canadian community and this can happen only when he feels he is fully accepted by Canadians and that he is making a contribution to Canadian life. In the economic sense this may happen fairly quickly, but socially and culturally it takes much longer.

The Citizenship Branch has based its integration program on the premise that Canadian culture will be enriched and strengthened by diversity. Traditionally, Canada is a country with two basic cultures—English and French—and from the very beginning of Canada's history as a nation the principle of acceptance of religious, cultural and social differences has been recognized. The influx of immigrants from many ethnic backgrounds has added cultural variety without changing this basic principle. At the same time, all Canadians share a common citizenship within a common framework of government and democratic institutions. All take pride in Canadian achievements and in the development of Canadian culture.

In keeping with the democratic belief in the dignity and freedom of the individual, it is felt that integration should be voluntary and should not be pressed. It is assumed that integration is more moderate in its demands on the immigrant and less painful for him than assimilation would be. Assimilation usually means the complete absorption of the newcomer by the dominant culture. In the process, cultural and social differences are worn off and a more-or-less homogeneous society emerges. Integration, on the other hand, recognizes and respects the cultural contributions that may be made by people of diverse ethnic backgrounds who, nevertheless, are devoted to the welfare of the same country.

The ultimate responsibility for integration rests with the Canadian people for, without their acceptance of the newcomers into community life, there can be no integration. One of the main objectives of the Citizenship Branch therefore has been to encourage understanding and co-operation between old and new Canadians and between the various ethnic groups in the population.

There are many kinds of non-governmental organizations interested in the welfare and adjustment of immigrants which are co-operating with the Citizenship Branch in carrying out its objectives. They include immigrant aid societies, women's organizations, service clubs, welfare agencies, church groups, educational bodies, citizenship councils and ethnic organizations.

The immigrant aid societies have as their express purpose the assistance of newcomers. This they do by meeting the immigrants at the ports of entry, helping them get settled, directing them to the regular community services, and sometimes providing educational programs and special counselling services for them. Other organizations with broader community or educational aims include the integration of newcomers in their program planning. Language classes for housewives, social gatherings, program participation by newcomers, receptions following citizenship court ceremonies—these are some of the ways in which voluntary groups help the new Canadians find their place in the community. In some areas there are dozens of organizations and agencies working on behalf of newcomers. This has led to the formation of co-ordinating bodies or citizenship councils in many centres so that the work may be carried on more effectively and with less overlapping.