

Non-immigrants wishing to remain in Canada longer than 30 days must register with an immigration office, and any violation of the regulations constitutes an offence under the Immigration Act.

On August 15, 1973 legislation was enacted to allow those who did not have landed immigrant status in Canada to regularize their position, to reduce the backlog of cases before the Immigration Appeal Board and to modify the appeals system for the future. By the deadline on October 15, 1973 a total of 49,900 persons had registered under the program.

In February 1974, the Immigration Regulations were amended to relate the entry of immigrants more closely to the needs of Canada's economy. Immigrants had to possess abilities for which there was a demand in Canada, or the applicant had to have a firm job offer from a Canadian employer. Sponsored dependents were not affected. The amended regulations also eased the entry of adopted children or half-sisters/brothers. In October 1974 further changes were introduced with regard to acceptability of applicants able to give evidence of pre-arranged employment that could not be filled by a Canadian resident, or who would go to areas in Canada where their skills were in persistent shortage.

Canada's tradition of resettling refugees has been manifested in recent years by emergency programs, the latest having been the Vietnamese refugee movement of 1975. By August 31, 1976, over 6,000 refugees from South East Asia had been brought to Canada. Also expanded was the Chilean refugee program under which 5,000 Chilean refugees were accepted for resettlement in Canada, with special consideration of Chilean refugees in Argentina.

In September 1973 the Minister of Manpower and Immigration announced the government's intention to create a new long-term basis for Canada's immigration and population policy. The goal would be to create new immigration legislation that would serve the future needs of Canada as well as those of the present, to define objectives as to pace of population growth and its settlement, and to determine the kind of social and cultural environment wanted by Canadians. Throughout 1974 a special task force was involved with writing a Green Paper designed to outline options in the field of immigration and the consequences of each. It was tabled in Parliament in February 1975 and a Special Joint Committee of the Senate and House of Commons was convened to conduct public consultations. The report of the Special Joint Committee, arrived at after extensive hearings in centres throughout the country, was presented to Parliament in November 1975.

On November 22, 1976 a new Immigration bill was introduced in the House of Commons, reflecting the results of the previous three years' effort. The bill affirmed fundamental objectives of Canadian immigration law: family reunification, non-discrimination, concern for refugees and the promotion of Canada's economic, social, demographic and cultural goals.

There are Manpower and Immigration offices in more than 60 cities throughout the world, and examination of immigrants and visitors is carried out at more than 500 ports of entry on Canadian coasts, at points along the international boundary and at certain airports and inland offices.

The extent of immigration to Canada in any period is affected both by domestic conditions and by conditions abroad. A review of these factors, together with an analysis of trends, may be found in the *1972 Canada Year Book* pp 222-225. The numbers of immigrant arrivals for each year over the period 1949-75 are shown in Table 4.56 of the present edition.

Origin of immigrants. In 1975 Canada received 187,881 immigrants from various countries of origin, a decrease of 30,584 or 14% from the 1974 total of 218,465. Tables 4.57 and 4.58, showing the country of last permanent residence and of citizenship of immigrants, respectively, indicate that by world area the continents of Europe, Asia, North and Central America, Africa and Australasia contributed a lower proportion of the total immigration in 1975 than in the previous year. On the other hand, there was an increased percentage from South America.