

New Citizenship Act. Bill C-20, the Citizenship Act received Royal Assent on July 16, 1976, and the legislation was expected to come into effect early in 1977. It replaced the first Canadian Citizenship Act, in force from January 1, 1947, which was the first one to be introduced within the Commonwealth. By it the concept of a "Canadian citizen" had first come into being, and it provided a means whereby non-Canadian British subjects and aliens permanently residing in Canada or those who might subsequently immigrate to Canada could apply for Canadian citizenship. During the years it had been amended some 60 times.

The new legislation was designed to be more equitable than the old, and to meet the modern conditions that prevail in Canadian society. It covers, among other things, questions of the right to citizenship, the loss and resumption of citizenship, the issuance of certificates of citizenship, offences against the Citizenship Act, the status of persons in Canada and the triability at law of non-citizens as if they were Canadian citizens. The Citizenship Act is administered by the Department of the Secretary of State.

Specifically, it shortens the length of residence in Canada prior to application for citizenship from five to three years, and introduces a more equitable method of calculating residence. It removes various discriminatory provisions, ensuring that men and women will be treated equally. It reduces the age of majority for purposes of citizenship from 21 to 18, and gives the same status to all applicants, eliminating the preferential status formerly accorded to British subjects.

Sources

- 4.1 Population Estimates and Projections Division, Content and Analysis Branch, Census and Household Surveys Field, Statistics Canada. The early growth of Canada's population is analyzed in more detail in Vol. I of the 1931 Census; other accounts of growth prior to the present century are contained in: Vol. I, 1941; Vol. X, 1951; Bulletin 7.1-1 (Catalogue No. 99-511), 1961; and Bulletin 5.1-1 (Catalogue No. 99-701), 1971. More detailed accounts of recent population growth are available in the *Canada Year Book*, 1969 edition pp 153-165, 1970-71 edition pp 210-220, and in above census reports 99-511 and 99-701.
- 4.2 - 4.3.3 Census Characteristics Division, Content and Analysis Branch, Census and Household Surveys Field, Statistics Canada; except 1973 population estimates for provinces, metropolitan areas, and age groups provided by Population Estimates and Projections Division of Census and Household Surveys Field.
- 4.3.4 Program Statistics Division, Program Analysis and Management Services Branch, Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development.
- 4.4 Census Characteristics Division, Content and Analysis Branch, Census and Household Surveys Field, Statistics Canada.
- 4.5 - 4.8 Health Division, Institutional and Public Finance Statistics Branch, Institutions and Agriculture Statistics Field, Statistics Canada.
- 4.9.1 Canada Immigration Division, Department of Manpower and Immigration.
- 4.9.2 Population Estimates and Projections Division, Content and Analysis Branch, Census and Household Surveys Field, Statistics Canada.
- 4.9.3 Census Characteristics Division, Census and Household Surveys Field, Statistics Canada.
- 4.9.4 Citizenship Registration Branch, Department of the Secretary of State.