

In 1975-76 the federal government continued its programs to alleviate seasonal unemployment through the Local Initiatives Program, the Local Employment Assistance Program and Opportunities for Youth. The Job Creation Branch, established in 1973 as a permanent branch within the Manpower Division, directs the activities of these decentralized programs which are organized at regional, provincial and local levels. In the fiscal year ended March 31, 1976, LIP created more than 40,500 jobs through some 5,700 community oriented and managed projects. Opportunities for Youth created about 29,000 jobs in the summer of 1975, but this program was discontinued in 1976.

The Local Employment Assistance Program, intended to assist severely disadvantaged groups, funds projects on a longer-term basis than LIP and OFY. The number of projects in operation at March 31, 1976 was 108 employing 1,687 persons.

Community Employment Strategy, introduced by the minister in November 1974 completed its first year of a developmental phase. Discussions and studies that originated as part of the Federal-Provincial Social Security Review were undertaken and 11 provinces and territories began implementation of the program. The goal of Community Employment is to provide satisfactory work opportunities for people who experience regular unemployment and who depend on government support (or transfer payments) for some or all of their income. Existing programs and job opportunities are used wherever possible to utilize community initiative and resources, creating a sense of community involvement and responsibility.

The Manpower Delivery System provides three levels of service to people looking for employment. The first level consists of a Job Information Centre where job vacancies are displayed enabling clients to decide themselves which jobs they think they can fill. In addition, an Employment Opportunity Library at the centre contains information about the department's programs and the services of other departments and agencies. The second level of service is directed at people who are basically employable but who could benefit from counselling, from courses provided through the Canada Manpower Training Program or from assistance in finding and moving to jobs in other areas through the Canada Manpower Mobility Program. The third level is designed for clients who require concentrated counselling. Counsellors may use outside agencies for special assistance in helping these people to become employable. They are then referred to a job or may make selections from a "job bank".

The Immigration Division is responsible for the selection and reception of people coming to Canada who will be able to establish themselves economically, culturally and socially. They include people whose skills are required by the Canadian economy, relatives of Canadian residents, and refugees and non-immigrants entering on a short-term basis. The department is also responsible for enforcement and control measures to prevent the immigration of undesirable persons.

Since January 1973, all non-immigrants entering Canada to take temporary work must have an employment visa. Visitors are not permitted to come to Canada to look for work. This regulation protects the Canadian labour force against the unwarranted use of foreign labour.

To obtain an employment visa, the person concerned must have pre-arranged employment and certification by a Canada Manpower Centre that no Canadian citizen or landed immigrant is available for that job. Arrangements must be made at a Canadian immigration office in the person's own country.

The Strategic Planning and Research Division collects and analyzes information on national, regional and local labour market conditions in order to give direction to the department's policies and programs. In addition, it carries out research programs in support of its own and other divisions' activities and develops career and occupational counselling and training materials.