

On the subject of internal migration within Canada, some estimates of total net migration by province in the 1966-76 period are given in Table 4.5. Brief summary data from the 1971 and 1976 censuses are provided in Tables 4.64 to 4.67.

## Immigration

### 4.9.1

Canada's immigration policy is based on the principle of non-discrimination and emphasizes the selection of immigrants who are likely to adapt to the Canadian way of life, making a positive contribution to economic and cultural development in Canada.

Canadian immigration officers apply standard norms of assessment to applicants from all parts of the world and, apart from sponsored relatives and refugees, select those with skills in short supply in Canada.

The employment and immigration commission also regulates the entry of temporary workers and foreign students enrolled in public or private institutions and examines millions of others who come to Canada as tourists or for family, social, cultural or other visits. The commission facilitates the return of Canadian residents and implements enforcement and control measures that apply to visitors and immigrants whose presence in Canada may endanger the public health or welfare of Canadians or threaten national security.

In September 1973, the federal government began a review of immigration policy as the first step toward a new national policy. Briefs and letters submitted by national organizations, provincial authorities and members of the public were studied and a series of discussion documents, known collectively as the green paper on immigration, was prepared. It explained domestic and international challenges facing future immigration programs and became the focal point for a national debate on immigration objectives and policy.

Following the release of the green paper, a special joint committee of Parliament on immigration policy was set up to conduct a country-wide program of hearings, conferences and seminars and report its findings to Parliament. Over 90% of the committee's recommendations were later incorporated into an immigration bill tabled before Parliament in November 1976 and subsequently passed by the House of Commons and the Senate. On August 5, 1977, the bill received royal assent and was proclaimed early in 1978.

The resulting Immigration Act, 1976, brings Canada's immigration policy into sharper focus than before, introducing many new features and reinforcing, expanding or clarifying parts of the previous law. It states, for the first time in Canadian law, the basic principles underlying immigration policy — non-discrimination, family reunion, humanitarian concern for refugees and promotion of national goals. It contains provisions that link the immigration movement to Canada's population and labour market needs and provides for an annual forecast of the number of immigrants Canada can comfortably absorb, to be made in consultation with the provinces. The act establishes a new family class, allowing Canadian citizens and permanent residents to sponsor a wide range of relatives, confirms Canada's protective obligations to refugees under the United Nations Convention and establishes a new refugee class. It requires that immigrant and visitor visas and authorizations be obtained abroad and prohibits visitors from changing their status from within Canada.

In recent years, Canada's concern for the displaced and the persecuted has been manifested in two types of refugee resettlement programs: an ongoing program operating continuously around the world, and special programs in response to urgent refugee or humanitarian situations. Two special programs are a Chilean movement which began in November 1973 following the coup d'état in Chile, and a Vietnamese/Cambodian program initiated in April 1975; as of October 31, 1977, approximately 5,600 South American refugees and 7,000 Vietnamese and Cambodians had been admitted to Canada.

There are employment 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 in Canada.

The extent of immigration to Canada in any period is affected by conditions at home and abroad. A review of these factors, with an analysis of trends, may be found in