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HISTORICAL SUMMARY OF THE NATIONAL SELECTIVE SERVICE CIVILIAN REGULATIONS

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1. Canada's civilian National Selective Service dates from March 23, 1942, when Prime Minister Mackenzie King announced the passing of two orders-in-council designed "to effect the orderly and efficient employment of the men and women of Canada for the varied purposes of war." This marked the beginning of Canada's program to do for the civilian side of the war effort what the National Selective Service Mobilization Regulations were designed to do for the military war effort. The purpose and policy of this wartime mobilization of man and woman power was to direct the maximum productive effort of the country on all fronts - industry, labour, agriculture, as well as in the armed forces.

2. The general responsibility for the direction of civilian manpower (including women) was placed on the minister of labour, while provision was made for a director of National Selective Service to head up the organization responsible for carrying through the program. The principal purposes of the original two orders-in-council were to estimate civilian manpower requirements; restrict the entry of men into certain specified occupations; stabilize employment in agriculture; and co-relate military and civilian manpower problems.

CONTROL OF EMPLOYMENT

3. The first order-in-council, sometimes known as the "Restricted Occupations Order," restricted the entry of male persons between the ages of 17 and 45 into a specified list of occupations or industries, unless the male person had been rejected as physically unfit for military service or discharged from the armed forces. If the man had not been discharged or rejected he was prohibited from entering any of the restricted occupations unless and until he had first obtained a permit from a National Selective Service officer, the official through whom the Regulations were administered. These regulations did not apply to female workers.

4. Along with the Restricted Occupations Order a second set of regulations was made, designed to stabilize employment in agriculture. These were known as the "Stabilization of Employment in Agriculture Regulations." They provided that persons employed in agriculture at March 23, 1942, could not take employment outside of agriculture unless they had first obtained the permission of a National Selective Service officer. Such persons were permitted to move about freely from one agricultural job to another so long as they remained in agriculture.