

Immigration legislation

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responsibility for immigration. A major new policy in the proposed legislation is to enhance the provinces' role in the conduct of immigration policy to ensure that it is responsive to the needs of all parts of Canada. As already noted, the bill obliges the Minister to consult the provinces regarding the volume, distribution and settlement of the immigration movement. It also makes provision for formal agreement between the Federal Government and the provinces covering aspects of immigration of particular concern to the latter.

Relatives and dependants

The following provisions will be made regarding the admission of close family members, and non-dependent relatives.

Existing system (family)

Any Canadian citizen or legally landed immigrant over 18 years of age may "sponsor" the following. (The relative being sponsored need only be in good health and of good character and no economic assessment is required of either the sponsor or the relative): husbands and wives; fiancés or fiancées plus their single children under 21; unmarried sons and daughters under 21; parents and grandparents over 60 or, if under 60, are incapable of employment or who are widowed plus their immediate family; orphaned brothers, sisters, nephews, nieces, grandchildren under 18; adopted sons or daughters, where adoption took place prior to their eighteenth birthday and who are now single and under 21; children to be adopted who are orphans or abandoned who are under 13; where a Canadian citizen or

landed immigrant has no husband, wife, son, daughter, parents or grandparents, brothers, sisters, uncles, aunts, nephews or nieces eligible for sponsorship, he may sponsor any other one relative regardless of age or relationship.

Future system

The system proposed for the new "family class" will be the same as above, but will be expanded to include parents and grandparents of any age sponsored by a Canadian citizen.

Existing system (non-dependent relatives)

A Canadian citizen or permanent resident 18 years of age or older may nominate for admission to Canada, a relative who falls into one of the following categories:

- sons and daughters over 21;
- married sons and daughters under 21 years;
- brothers and sisters (married or

unmarried);

- parents and grandparents under 60;
- nephews, nieces, uncles, aunts and grandchildren;
- spouses and accompanying unmarried sons and daughters under 21.

The nominator must be able to show that he or she is in a sufficiently secure financial position to provide for the basic needs of the relative to be admitted.

A relative living abroad who is being nominated must comply with selection criteria designed to reflect his or her ability to become successfully established in Canada with the help offered by the nominator in this country.

Future system

The Government will enact regulations after the coming into force of the new Act to provide that those relatives now eligible for nomination will continue to receive the same level of preference they enjoy under current regulations.

News briefs

- Canadian farmers harvested a record wheat crop in 1976 of 864.3 million bushels, an increase of nearly 40 per cent over that of last year, reports Statistics Canada. The average yield per acre rose to 31.4 bushels from 26.6 in 1975.
- The Department of National Defence is taking over the co-ordination of all coastal search and rescue operations and expanding training facilities, Defence Minister Barney Danson announced on December 2. The Department also announced that all Canadian Forces aircraft engaged in search and rescue will be repainted bright yellow.
- At the United Nations on December 2, Canada called for a new international legal instrument, with provisions for enforcement, to put an end to torture and cruel and inhuman punishment.
- Sir John Rennie, Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) visited Ottawa for three days last month. Canada provided an initial grant to UNRWA of \$3,350,00 for 1976 of which \$2 million was in wheat flour. In response to an urgent appeal,

Canada gave another \$300,000 in cash. Support for UNRWA, combined with peace-keeping in the Middle East, is one of the major ways in which Canada has demonstrated its concern for peaceful settlement of disputes in the area.

- Attorney General Howard Pawley of the Manitoba provincial government, noted recently that of 36 homicides in the province in 1975, the guilty person was apprehended in each case.
- According to the Canadian Bank of Commerce, the province of Alberta should show the strongest economic growth of any province this year and next year.
- Housing starts in November were at a seasonally-adjusted rate of 304,500, their highest level since last February.
- Production in the economy grew at an annual rate of 3.2 per cent in the third quarter this year as inflation slowed to its lowest rate in three years, reports Statistics Canada. The quarterly report on gross national product for the period from July to September says the year-over-year inflation rate was 9 per cent. The last time it was lower was in the second quarter of 1973, when it rose by 8.5 per cent.

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