

INTRODUCTION

The mid-nineties have seen more attention than ever before focussed on the two great "people" issues of our time: the growing number of the earth's inhabitants, and their growing flow, voluntary or involuntary, from place to place and country to country. Neither of these two phenomena can be fully understood without the other. Yet there is still incomplete public awareness of their interlinked causes and effects and their close interrelationships with other pressing issues of policy. Government officials, including Canada's, unfortunately tend to treat the two separately from one another, as do academics, and there is persisting irresolution on dealing with them systematically and coherently, despite commitments made. We are not yet well prepared for what the coming century may have in store for us.

The purpose of this paper is threefold:

- to present what the author sees as basic facts and future possibilities of the situation;
- to discuss key implications of these facts, and reactions to them by international organisations, governments and publics, including Canada;
- and to recommend courses of action by Canada for the future.

Inevitably, the paper contains rash generalisations, personal speculations and over-simplifications which expert readers will readily discern. It is a broad survey cutting across specific domains, intended to stimulate thinking by policy-makers, specialists and the concerned public on what needs to be done. While the emphasis is on Canadian policies, much of what is said here is relevant elsewhere as well.

Frequent references are made in the text to happenings over the past five years. This is because a lot has happened, and also because the paper is in a sense a sequel to the author's *World Population Growth and Population Movements: Policy Implications for Canada*, completed in early 1992 and published as Policy Planning Staff Paper No. 92/7 by what was then External Affairs and International Trade Canada.

The paper has wide sources, oral and written, official and non-official, in Canada and abroad; they are not identified except for a few textual quotations. Many of those consulted may recognise some of their own thoughts, ruthlessly plagiarised and perhaps unwittingly distorted. The author owes heartfelt thanks—and apologies—to the numerous people who generously helped him. There is no bibliography, the convenient excuse being that so much of the information relayed below was provided "not for attribution".

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