

"More international co-operation is needed in order to resolve these matters. For many years, Canada was recognized as a leader in fostering international co-operation to help refugees. I want Canada to maintain our position of leadership on this critical humanitarian issue. That is why we continue to advocate strongly in the international arena for the need to maintain support for the role of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees."

Canada and the World

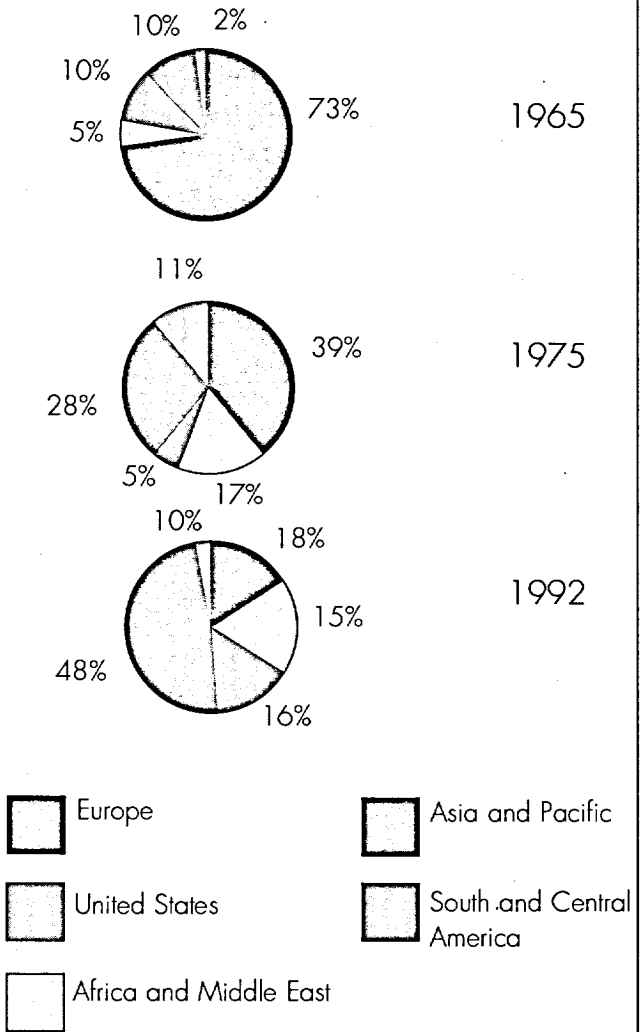
Growing numbers worldwide are looking to the developed world for aid and, increasingly, for safe haven and economic opportunity. A number of factors have combined to compel or encourage an estimated 100 million people to seek better lives in other countries, often outside regular immigration channels. The impact of "migration pressures" in Europe and North America, while pronounced, is only beginning to be felt. In addition to contributing to the protection of refugees, Canada will increasingly be called upon to participate in international efforts to address the root causes that push people from their homes. With a long experience of enlightened stewardship in refugee matters, and a sustained policy of managed immigration, Canada is uniquely positioned to assume a leadership role.

As the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has noted, the irregular migration flows the international community is experiencing are complex. As a result, it is becoming more difficult to distinguish between refugees in need of protection and migrants motivated by other factors. Irregular migration challenges us to alleviate socio-economic conditions that compel people to leave their countries, as well as to avert conflicts and human rights abuses that produce refugees.

The government takes the view that two basic responses are required of governments in the face of the challenge of irregular migration. Firstly, active immigration programs and refugee protection systems are needed to manage migration effectively, efficiently and in a humanitarian way when it does occur. Canada is one of the few countries in the world today that operates a

planned and active immigration program. Hundreds of thousands of people from all corners of the world are provided with a "legal" opportunity each year to make a new life for themselves and their families in Canada. Each year we afford protection and an opportunity for permanent resettlement in Canada to thousands of the world's refugees. We also provide funding to the UNHCR, and co-operate with other nations under its auspices, to relieve the suffering of many thousands more of the world's refugees who have been forced to leave their homes for safety and protection.

IMMIGRATION BY SOURCE AREA: 1965, 1975 AND 1992



Source: Citizenship and Immigration Canada Annual Report to Parliament.

Secondly, because the limitations of a purely curative approach to the problems created by irregular migration are increasingly obvious, governments must increasingly