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Changes in immigration regulations require definite offer of jobs

Changes in the regulations under the Immigration Act designed to stabilize the flow of immigration and to tie it more closely to needs of the labour market were announced in the House of Commons on October 22 by Minister of Manpower and Immigration Robert Andras.

Under the new rules, unless a prospective immigrant in the "independent" and "nominated relative" categories can produce evidence of pre-arranged employment, or is going to a designated occupation*, ten points will be deducted from a total of 50 needed for admittance to Canada.

Also under the new regulations, prospective immigrants in the same two categories will not receive credit for pre-arranged employment unless it has been established that no Canadian citizen or landed immigrant is available to fill the vacancy.

Those not affected

In his announcement, Mr. Andras stated that the changes would have no effect on the movement of sponsored dependants who come to Canada to re-join their families. And he emphasized that the new regulations would be applicable equally to all countries.

The Minister stated that the new regulations would have no impact on Canada's traditional concern for and response to refugees. "We will continue to deal compassionately with refugees, victims of oppression and cases where other humanitarian considerations apply," he said.

Mr. Andras pointed out that a Green Paper on immigration, which would be tabled in the House of Commons early next year, would form a basis for widespread public discussion of the options open to Canada for immigration in the future. These discussions would lead

to a new Immigration Act, Mr. Andras said.

"Immigrants have always played a major role in the social and economic development of Canada," Mr. Andras said, "and the new regulations are designed to stabilize the flow during the immediate period when our basic immigration legislation is under review." And it is essential, at a time of uncertain employment opportunity, that the flow of immigration be closely related to the demands of the labour market.

"It is in the best interest both of Canadians and of new immigrants that new arrivals in this country are able to find jobs quickly and begin the pro-

Pre-arranged employment means:

- .Definite employment.
- .Reasonable prospects of continuity.
- .Meets local conditions of work and wages normally prevailing.
- .Applicant must meet all federal, provincial and other applicable licensing and regulating requirements relating to the employment.

Additional:
No suitably qualified Canadian citizen or landed immigrant is available for the job.

cess of becoming integrated in the community. If jobs are hard to find and new immigrants are in competition with established residents for them, then everybody suffers," he continued.

Canada admitted 104,089 immigrants during the first six months of 1974. This is an increase of 33,256, or almost 47 percent more than the number admitted during the corresponding period of 1973, and an increase of 49,776, or 92 percent more than in the same period of 1972, pointed out Mr. Andras. He estimated that more than 200,000 immigrants would arrive in Canada by the end of 1974.

"If we did not take action to restrain the increase," Mr. Andras said, "we could well have 300,000 immigrants in 1976, more than one half of them settling in Montreal, Toronto and Vancouver."

* Designated by the Minister on the advice of the Regional Directors General of Manpower and Immigration; usually in consultation with the province through the Manpower Needs Committee; severe local shortage; meets all criteria for arranged employment.

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