

In 1947, the Chinese Immigration Act was repealed, and the Chinese assumed the same status as other Asians. In 1949 French citizens born in France were added to the list of the most preferred. The ban against former enemy nationals was lifted: Italians were admitted in 1950; Germans in 1951. In 1950 the minister in charge of immigration was also given the authority to admit anyone who was found to be a "suitable and desirable immigrant having regard to the climatic, social, educational, industrial, labour and other conditions." However, persons from the most-favoured countries could still enter almost automatically, and other northern Europeans still had an edge. Those from Belgium,

Luxembourg, Norway, Sweden, Denmark and Switzerland were admitted if they were skilled in certain trades; and farmers, farm workers, domestics and nurses were admitted from Greece as well as from the Netherlands, Germany, Austria and Finland.

The 1952 Immigration Act deprived immigration officials of the high level of discretion they could exercise in turning back applicants, and a system of examinations and hearings was set up. A small addition was made to the list of most-favoured immigrants — French citizens from St. Pierre and Miquelon. In 1956 the Immigration Appeal Board was established.

There were still restrictions by group — Asians could be admitted only if they were nationals of countries that had agreements with Canada — but the essence of the policy was shifting. The country of origin was becoming less significant, and such factors as occupation and skills were gaining in importance. About 30 per cent of the 783,000 admitted between 1956 and 1960 were British, but 17 per cent were from Italy. Thirty-six thousand refugees of the Hungarian uprising were admitted in 1956, many of them students and teachers.

In 1962 the Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration made the trend official: future stress would be on education, training and skills, although the favoured nations were still favoured in recruiting. In 1964, of 32 immigration offices abroad, 4 were in the United States, 6 in the United Kingdom, 15 in northwestern Europe and one each in Cairo, Hong Kong, New Delhi and Tel Aviv.



*Special dormitory cars, left, and wagon trains, below, carried immigrants west. The wagons are on the road to Vancouver.*

