

General aims

The Committee agrees that Canadian immigration policy should meet certain humanitarian needs as well as promote Canada's economic, social and cultural interests. Accordingly, it favours a reaffirmation of the goals of reuniting families and of offering a home to refugees, and recommends that these two groups be treated differently from other immigrants: immediate family members should continue to be exempted from evaluation on the point system, and refugee movements should be given sympathetic consideration appropriate to the nature and circumstances of each case....

...The Committee recommends a shift from the present immigration system, which allows for the admission of everyone meeting certain criteria regardless of numbers, to a more managed system capable of regulating the total flow. However, the proposed system must do this in a fair and non-discriminatory, efficient, and manageable way....

Development assistance

The Committee believes that Canada should help improve living conditions in poorer countries through development assistance and by working towards an improved international trading system. To the extent that Canada's efforts and those of other developed countries are successful, they will relieve any developing countries which look to emigration as a solution to their problems of the need to do so....

...The Committee considers it the responsibility of the country of emigration to take action to protect itself from the "brain drain", and in such situations Canada should refrain from active encouragement of immigrants. Canada's acceptance of immigrants should be without discrimination as to the country of origin....

Non-discrimination

Canada has become to a large extent a multicultural and multiracial society. The Committee stresses that Canadians must anticipate that many future immigrants will be coming from non-European countries and many will be non-white. This trend is clear from recent statistics. As late as 1967 almost 80 per cent of the immigration flow came

from Europe, but by 1974 slightly less than 40 per cent of immigrants were European-born. This decline in European immigration reflected in large part the improvement in the European standard of living which makes Canada less attractive than it used to be. Significantly, in 1974, apart from the large-scale emigration from Britain caused by troubled economic conditions there, the highest number of immigrants came from the poorer countries of Europe: Portugal, followed by Italy, Greece, and Yugoslavia. These trends are unlikely to be reversed: Canadians must accept the facts that the country's capacity to attract European immigrants has diminished, and that if we desire immigrants, we must look to other parts of the world.

...The Committee unanimously recommends that immigration policy continue to be fair and non-discriminatory on the basis of race, creed, nationality, ethnic origin and sex, and that this principle be formally set out in the new Act....

In order to promote inter-group understanding, the Committee further recommends public and school education and legislative action to protect Canadians and immigrants alike from racial and ethnic discrimination....

Managing immigration flows

A principal objective of the new policy should be the regulation of immigration flow to achieve desired population growth. The Committee suggests this could be accomplished by setting an annual target and by developing processes for determining and keeping close to that target. The main indicators used in setting the target should be (1) demographic, such as fertility rate, size, rate of change in size, and age of population, and rate of entry into and exit from the job market; and (2) economic, such as the level of economic activity and rates of employment and unemployment, which have a tendency to move in shorter cycles....

Sponsored relatives

The Committee reaffirms that the reunification of families should be a principle of Canada's immigration policy.... For these reasons the Committee favours the maintenance of the present system under which close, dependent relatives are automatically admissible to Canada providing they meet health

standards and do not fall within a list of prohibited classes.

At the same time, the Committee attaches importance to another objective of immigration policy – that the skills and talents of immigrants contribute to the Canadian economy – and recognizes that a great many immigrants see Canada primarily as a land of social and economic opportunity.... The Committee is concerned that over time the present classes of sponsored and nominated immigrants, given substantial advantages because they have relatives in Canada, would absorb an increasingly larger share of the places available each year in Canada. To ensure that this does not happen and that "new seed" immigrants continue to find a way to enter Canada, all Committee members except one recommend that the present class of nominated immigrant be dropped, and that the ties between members of the non-dependent extended family be recognized in a different way....

However, the Committee recognizes that relatives can help newcomers in adjusting to their new environment. It therefore proposes that the five points now available to an independent immigrant having a relative in Canada be doubled to ten if that relative is a Canadian citizen. It also recommends that the categories of relatives admissible within the sponsored class be slightly extended....

...Canadian citizens (but not landed immigrants) over the age of 21 should be able to sponsor parents of any age. While some parents undoubtedly would be young enough to enter the work force and therefore not be dependent, there should be a possibility of reuniting any such close relatives desirous of being together. The Committee recommends that this right be limited to Canadian citizens to avoid the possible abuse whereby one of the elder children of a large family could come to Canada and immediately sponsor his parents, who on their arrival could immediately sponsor their other children under the age of 21.

The Committee recommends that the point system be maintained for evaluating all independent immigrants....

Education and training

The Committee favours a reduction from 20 to 12 points for education, one