
Border re-entry system changed

The Federal Government plans to issue a document, called a returning resident permit, to permanent residents planning to be abroad for more than 183 days. It would also be issued to permanent residents abroad who are extending their stay past that deadline.

Permanent residents are people with landed-immigrant status who have not yet obtained citizenship.

The permit system, contained in the new Immigration Act declared law on April 10, is designed to ease border problems for returning residents. Under the old law the Government could cancel a permanent resident's right to return if a person stayed out of the country for long periods. But the period varied from border to border and from official to official in what became an arbitrary system.

"Sometimes we called the thing border roulette," one immigration official said.

Permanent residents have the right to re-enter and remain in Canada but they can lose this right by abandoning Canadian residency or committing serious infractions of the law.

"Residents of Canada who spend more than a total of 183 days in any 12-month period outside the country will be presumed to have abandoned Canadian residence, unless they can satisfy an immigration officer that this was not their intent," the document says.

"Those who have no plans of making a permanent home elsewhere, and who have sound reasons for extended or frequent absences, may apply for a returning resident permit to confirm their intent not to give up their status in Canada."

Travellers can get the permits, containing a photograph and personal information, in Canada before they leave or from Canadian immigration officials in foreign countries. The permits, valid for one or two years, can be extended in Canada or abroad in some cases.

Vacationers temporarily confined to hospital beds abroad, immigrants having to extend visits with their families outside the country, employees with overseas assignments, travelling diplomats and journalists are among those eligible for the new permits.

Last year nearly 40 million people, both Canadian citizens and permanent residents, returned to Canada from trips to the United States and overseas.

Canadian leads UNESCO conference

Napoléon LeBlanc, vice chairman of the Canadian delegation to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, has been chosen chairman of the 144-country general conference which opened in Paris on October 24.

The agenda for the five-week conference includes problems dealing with women's rights, the protection of member countries' cultural property, and "principles governing the contribution of the mass media to strengthening peace and international understanding and to combating war propaganda, racism and *apartheid*".

New convention on Northwest Atlantic fisheries signed

Canada has joined eight other signatories in a new Convention on Future Multilateral Co-operation in the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries, signalling the beginning of a process which will result in the creation of the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO) to replace the International Commission for the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries (ICNAF). The new convention recognizes the changes in fisheries management brought about by extensions of national fisheries jurisdiction.

"The conservation and management of fish stocks which migrate within and beyond the limits of Canadian jurisdiction are of concern to Canada," the Secretary of State for External Affairs Don Jamieson said at the signing ceremony in Ottawa, October 24. "It is obvious that we cannot afford to ignore the interaction of Canadian management measures within our limits with those taken internationally on the high seas."

"For this reason, we are firmly committed...to multilateral co-operation and co-ordination in the field, and are pleased that Canadian proposals to this effect have been found generally acceptable by other participating governments," Mr. Jamieson added.

Canadian fishermen will be given special consideration in the allocation of fish stocks on the Grand Banks beyond 200 miles, and Flemish Cap, in recognition of Canadian surveillance and inspection in these areas over the years and of

the dependency of Canadian coastal communities on these stocks.

The new convention will also provide for the management control of fisheries in areas of the Northwest Atlantic beyond national jurisdiction. It will continue the ICNAF scheme of joint international enforcement.

Canada, Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands), the European Economic Community (on behalf of its nine members), the German Democratic Republic, Iceland, Norway, Portugal, Romania and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics signed the convention at the ceremony. Other prospective signatories who attended the diplomatic conference held in Ottawa a year ago are expected to sign before December 31.

The proposed organization could come into being as soon as January 1, if six signatories deposit their instruments of ratification by the end of this year.

Rivers part of our heritage

The great rivers of Canada should be recognized as part of the natural heritage and action taken to preserve them for future generations, concluded some 60 participants from Canada and the United States who attended a three-day seminar on wild rivers at Jasper, Alberta, in late September.

The seminar, convened and hosted by the Minister responsible for Parks Canada Hugh Faulkner, brought together specialists from federal, provincial, territorial, and state governments, interested organizations and individuals.

In his opening remarks, Mr. Faulkner defined a heritage river as, "a river or segment of a river whose natural flow has been left unaltered by man".

"There are about 90 major Canadian rivers that have not been dammed or otherwise modified for hydro-electric, irrigation or flood-control purposes," he said. "Today these rivers have equal potential for development or for preservation. We can have both if we plan for it."

The workshops emphasized that the establishment of a heritage river system should be achieved through full participation of all governments, the indigenous peoples, private organizations and the general public and that American officials be consulted about rivers in the proposed system that might be shared or linked with the United States.