

RECOMMENDATION

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## REQUIRE ALL GOVERNMENT YOUTH EMPLOYMENT PROGRAMS TO REFLECT THE SEVERITY OF THE VISIBLE MINORITY YOUTH SITUATION

**Three Times More:** Youth unemployment rates over the last twenty years in Canada have been at least two to three times higher than those of adult workers. The situation for visible minority youth is even more severe.

**87% Unemployed:** A 1978 Canada Employment and Immigration Commission study of youth unemployment in Regent Park, Toronto, found a 57 per cent unemployment rate for nonvisible minority youth 15-24 years of age. Among visible minority youth of the same age grouping, the figure was 87 per cent. No evidence was found or brought before the Committee to suggest that the situation has changed or that the situation would be significantly different elsewhere. Social, cultural and economic factors contribute to inadequate skills and educational qualifications.

**Specific Assistance:** The Committee urges Employment and Immigration Canada to adjust its youth programs so that visible minority youth receive attention and assistance that is commensurate with the severity of their situation. There should be employment programs specifically targeted for them offering employment counselling, on-the-job training, co-operative education and opportunities to explore careers through work. Local initiatives should be encouraged. Counsellors at Canada Employment Centres should be trained to work with minority youth, particularly in metropolitan areas.

### RECOMMENDATION:

**All governments should redirect the resources and emphasis of youth programs so that visible minorities receive attention and assistance commensurate with the severity of their unemployment situation throughout Canada.**