

IMMIGRATION AND REFUGEES

The Department has been responsible for the conduct of Canada's immigration program abroad since 1981. In its 1990 Annual Report to Parliament, Employment and Immigration Canada reflected a shift in the government's approach to immigration, placing new emphasis on long-term strategic planning. Instead of the usual one-year program, the Honourable Barbara McDougall, Minister of Employment and Immigration, tabled a five-year immigration plan. The Minister announced that immigration would increase from 200 000 in 1990 to 220 000 in 1991, and to 250 000 annually for the rest of the planning period until 1995.

As part of the Department's drive toward achieving efficiency through automation, Phase 1 of the design and implementation of the Computer Assisted Immigration Processing System (CAIPS) was completed. The system was implemented in London, Hong Kong and at all missions in the U.S. CAIPS has, in addition to the processing gains achieved, augmented the Department's ability to monitor and manage immigration flows by providing more timely information on overseas operations.

Given the integration of the consular and immigration programs, new initiatives in integrated consular and immigration training were developed and delivered in 1990/91. A record number of 44 foreign

service officer recruits received a comprehensive immigration training program. A pilot training program was developed and delivered to the first group of rotational staff responsible for visitor and student programs at non-immigration missions.

The year 1990 saw historic changes in Eastern Europe, which allowed the phasing-out of the Self-Exiled Persons Designated Class (a special quasi-refugee class for Eastern Europeans). The Indo-chinese Designated Class permits the selection of Southeast Asian refugees. It was modified to take into account Canada's commitments under the Comprehensive Plan of Action, a United Nations plan for asylum seekers in the region. As the year ended, conditions were also changing elsewhere in the world, making it less easy to predict situations of increased refugee upheaval.

Despite these significant developments, Canada resettled 18 944 privately sponsored and 12 522 government-assisted refugees as part of the annual immigration plan, as well as 3 277 persons who were accepted under special measures. In 1990, posts abroad issued 181 902 immigrant visas and 644 889 visitor visas. To control the flow of illegal migrants, 16 immigration control officers are now in place at strategic transit points abroad.

TABLE 7.2
IMMIGRANT,
REFUGEE AND
VISITOR VISAS
ISSUED DURING
1990 CALENDAR
YEAR

Region	Immigrant Visas	Visitor Visas
Africa and Middle East	23 977	22 791
Asia and Pacific	72 018	176 732
Latin America and Caribbean	15 703	68 845
South America	4 713	54 212
United States	16 074	153 852
Western Europe	37 944	74 503
Eastern Europe	11 473	93 954
TOTAL	181 902	644 889