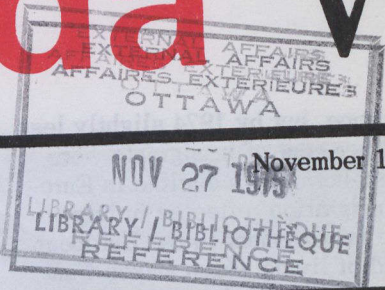


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- Guidelines for a future immigration policy for Canada, 1
- Canada's concern for the sea — message clear at Expo '75, 3
- Handicapped persons hiring study, 4
- Wheat to Brazil, 4
- Towards a stabilized farm policy, 4
- Varsity credits for Forces courses, 5
- World's most powerful satellite, 5
- Loans to Pakistan and Cameroon, 5
- Increased contributions to United Nations agencies, 5
- Canada/Commonwealth Caribbean consultations, 6
- Canada Pension Plan Funds invested, 6
- Le Théâtre du Nouveau Monde on tour from Paris to Abidjan, 6
- Restoration of Fort Lévis, 6
- Canada Council awards and grants, 7
- Postal strike continues, 7
- Skate Canada '75, 7

## Guidelines for a future immigration policy for Canada

After 35 weeks, nearly 50 public hearings in 21 cities, and consideration of the views of more than 1,800 individuals and organizations, the Special Joint Committee of the Senate and the House of Commons on Immigration Policy tabled its report in the House on November 6.

Although the Government's green paper on immigration (see Canada Weekly dated February 19) often formed the basis for the national debate in which the Committee was engaged, the report also "seeks to identify the areas of broad concern that emerged from its interaction with the public and from other investigations; to express the Committee's views on most of these issues; to make recommendations regarding the retention or modification of specific immigration policies or procedures; and finally to suggest broad guidelines for a future immigration policy for Canada".

Passages from the Senate-Commons Committee report follow:

...Since the Committee believes that a country as large and thinly populated as Canada cannot afford a declining population, it concludes that Canada must continue to welcome a minimum of 100,000 immigrants a year as long as present fertility rates prevail.... There was agreement that the Government, when formulating a target each year as called for later in this report, should not treat the minimum figure of 100,000 as an upper limit.

The Committee rejected the view contained in some submissions that Canada should close its doors to immigrants. Equally, it concluded that in an age of vastly increased mobility Canada could not afford to have an "open door" policy, and would have to maintain controls over the total number of immigrants coming each year to Canada. The Committee's preference is for a policy of moderation between these two extremes....

### Economic factors

...The Committee recommends that immigration in future be treated as a central variable in a national population policy and that this objective be achieved through the establishment of an immigration target to be adjusted from time to time to achieve an even rate of population growth as well as to take account of changing economic conditions and needs. This implies a new commitment to policy planning in the formulation of immigration targets.

It also involves recognition of a point strongly made by Dr. Raynauld [chairman of the Economic Council of Canada], "there are very substantial economic consequences from an alteration in the pace of population growth, either from fast to slow or from slow to fast". Subsequently under questioning Dr. Raynauld expressed his views more explicitly:

"It would be desirable not to have too much fluctuation in immigration, no more so than it is desirable to have fluctuations in income and in investment because that generates cycles and instability in the economy that prove to be very costly to Canada."

### Prejudices regarding immigrants

A persistent theme of submissions hostile to immigration was the view that immigrants crowd into cities, exacerbating housing shortages, increasing the crime rate, bringing infectious diseases, taxing the welfare roles and government services, and causing unemployment by taking jobs from Canadians.... The Committee recognizes that all these are problems faced by rapidly growing cities, but concluded that they are caused by the economic, social and cultural dynamism of cities and their attractiveness to Canadians and immigrants alike. In fact, Canadians migrating within Canada from the country to the cities and from province to province are the main impulse for city growth....