

Visitors' opportunity to become legal landed immigrants

People who came to Canada as visitors or illegally on or before November 30, 1972, have until midnight October 15 to apply for landed immigrant status, Manpower and Immigration Minister Robert Andras announced recently. This opportunity is provided by legislation introduced by Mr. Andras in the House of Commons in June to amend the Immigration Appeal Board Act. The new law was proclaimed on August 15.

"The midnight October 15 deadline was chosen to ensure that persons who are not landed immigrants and who came to Canada on or before November 30, 1972, and have remained here since that time have every reasonable opportunity to qualify for landed status," said Mr. Andras.

Up to the end of July, 5,744 persons had pre-registered under this adjustment program. These people have 4,406 dependents, bringing the total number of persons involved at that date to 10,150.

"I am pleased with the number of people who have already indicated their desire to regularize their status in Canada," Mr. Andras said. "These people and those who register before the October 15 deadline will be dealt with very generously. No applicant will be penalized for having entered or for remaining in the country illegally."

The Minister said that any applicant who had any evidence showing he can become established in Canada was "very likely to succeed" in obtaining landed immigrant status. Such evidence could include a job or an offer of a continuing job, an effort at self-improvement, such as upgrading occupational qualifications or learning English or French; or owning a business that has or is likely to become successfully established.

"Should none of these apply," Mr. Andras said, "a number of other factors will be taken into account, such as family relationships with Canadian citizens or residents and their dependence on applicants or applicants' dependence on them."

Any person who does not register by the deadline will lose the right to qualify for landed immigrant status while in Canada, and most probably the right to appeal any future deporta-

tion order, the Minister said.

The very few applicants who might not qualify for landed status under the program will retain a right to appeal a deportation order to the independent Immigration Appeal Board.

"It should be made clear, on the other hand, that this is the last chance for persons living illegally in Canada or as visitors to regularize their status and gain permanent residence while here," said Mr. Andras. "Any person who is eligible to apply and who doesn't take advantage of this opportunity runs the risk of being detected and deported without appeal."



Colin Price — Photo Features

Mrs. Jean Edmonds (above), who was recently appointed Assistant Deputy Minister (Immigration) in the Department of Manpower and Immigration, says she is "appreciative" of the fact that people who came as tourists to Canada and stayed on illegally are now hesitant to declare themselves and benefit by new legislation in effect until October 15. But, she says, "This is their opportunity to have their status settled. The response is good but we hope everyone will make this important decision quickly before the period is over."

Computer privacy

Canada's Department of Communications and the Department of Justice have issued a 184-page report, *Privacy & Computers*. It is based on the work of a task force that interviewed experts, solicited briefs and sent questionnaires to 2,516 Canadian organizations — financial institutions, insurance companies, public utilities, merchants, credit card companies, charities, private investigators and government agencies involved in health, education, taxation, law enforcement and regulation. Half of them have replied.

The report notes that "information of all types has been used and is being used for planning, research and operations by government, business, universities and virtually all sectors of society".

It recognizes a basic dilemma: "There are great benefits to be derived...from computers (in) almost every activity from measuring the extent of pollution to administering a welfare program," but there is also realistic "concern about (their) potential use for invasions of personal privacy".

Questions asked

The task force posed several questions:

Under what conditions should an individual have access to files containing information about him?

What right should an individual have to delete, amend or add to such files?

To what extent should personal data be protected against intrusion or accidental disclosure?

What right should an individual have regarding dissemination of information that is in his files?

Should he be informed about such dissemination and advised of all its uses?

Should individuals be told about information stored in foreign data-banks?

The first two accept data banks as legitimate but deny their right to be inaccurate. The survey showed that "there are more inaccuracies...than is generally realized. Seventy-five per cent of the respondents reported discovering mistakes".

Three Canadian provinces, Quebec, Manitoba and Saskatchewan, give citizens the right to see information on themselves and to insist that their own