

5. Government policy shifts

The 90's will almost certainly see many changes to government policy, whether within the present party rule or as a result of the election of other political parties to power. Many of these policy shifts will occur as a result of international and social changes rather than specific party platforms, and will directly affect the PPO. For example, as a result of current immigration trends, the Canadian government is already acting to reach agreements with the governments of the United States and Mexico to control the flow of refugee claimants into Canada.³

Immigration Focus at Borders.

The locations where increased border controls must logically be focused are the numerous border entry points. International situations and other trends may result in a strong immigration enforcement policy and a federal government decision to adopt a universal immigration border check before a customs review, as is now done by the USA. This new focus would in all likelihood involve the installation and use of computer-based travel document readers at border entry points. The automated checking process could conceivably extend so far as to include a requirement to call up stored images to check doubtful passports, or even the automatic display of all passport images as passports are scanned. In any case adoption of an immigration focus would have implications for the PPO and the accessibility of its data and likely its graphics resources.

Federal-Provincial Cooperation.

Within Canada, the recognition of the need for more accurate verification of information for passport applications could encourage the sharing of information between provinces and the federal government. For example, links might be established to data bases such as birth and death registries maintained by the provinces. These initiatives would again will have an impact on PPO computer

³ pg 1, *The Globe and Mail*, October 17, 1991