

**Mandate:** For example, the Canadian Advisory Council on the Status of Women has provided a useful mechanism for alerting both the public and private sectors to important issues related to the concerns of women and for influencing the making of public policy. As opposed to the Canadian Multicultural Council, which has to date served primarily as a consultative body for government, the Advisory Council's mandate is more aggressive. Its terms of reference are: to bring before the government and the public, matters of interest and concern to women; and to advise the Minister responsible for the Status of Women on such matters as the Minister may refer to the Council for its consideration or as the Council may deem appropriate. The Committee believes that the CMC should be preserved and given a similar mandate.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

**The Canadian Multicultural Council should be reconstituted as the Advisory Council on Multiculturalism, with a mandate similar to that of the Advisory Council on the Status of Women.**

## ENSURE EQUITABLE IMMIGRATION PROCEDURES

**Obstacles:** Although many members of visible minorities were born in Canada and some, such as the Blacks in Nova Scotia and the Japanese and Chinese in British Columbia, have been here for generations, the majority have immigrated to this country from elsewhere. As the chapter on Social Integration has demonstrated, the additional obstacles which visible minorities must overcome as immigrants are substantial.

**Treatment:** The visitor and the would-be immigrant's first exposure to Canada, and to the federal government, comes at border points when he or she encounters customs and immigration officers. The treatment which visible minorities receive in these situations was unquestionably one of the most frequently raised topics in Committee hearings, briefs and submissions. Rightly or wrongly there is a widespread perception among visible minorities that, in the words of one witness, "turbans attract questions."

**Pilot Project:** In recognition of the problem, the Canada Employment and Immigration Commission instituted a one year pilot project Client Relations Officer function in January 1980 at Toronto International Airport. The stated purpose of this new complaint handling mechanism was to heighten the awareness of the general public and the special interest groups of the Commission's complaint handling machinery and to increase its credibility with the public and special interest groups.

**Selection:** The project was evaluated in two phases by the department, in February-March 1980 and September-November 1980. Interviews with lawyers and representatives during the first phase showed that the general impression gained of the handling of incoming residents was favorable—the only suggestion made for change was that of streaming the traffic into two groups: aliens and returning Canadians. However, the situation of visitors was considered to be quite different.

RECOMMENDATION

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RECOMMENDATION

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