

# Immigration

by the community. As with entrepreneurs, the most important factor in the consideration of self-employed applications is experience. Other factors considered are funds available for transfer and the location in which the person plans to establish in Canada.

## Business Visas

Not all investors or business persons wish to immigrate to Canada. In order to assist these persons, a "Business Visa" has been implemented. Its possession will facilitate the admission of business people who enter Canada from time to time to oversee their investments or businesses. The Business Visa will be valid for multiple entries for periods of one year and will be issued on a reciprocal basis.

## Counselling Assistance

In order to assist business applicants, a special program was introduced in 1983. Certain officers at Canadian offices overseas have been provided with formal training so that they can more knowledgeably counsel and select business immigrants. These officers are known as "Business Development Officers" and their primary responsibility is to recruit, counsel, and select business immigrants and to liaise with interested provincial governments. This assistance is currently available at forty-one (41) Canadian diplomatic missions, including Singapore, Bangkok and Manila.

Now is a good time to start a business in Canada. Canada is a vast nation with varied geography and population distribution which can match the needs of any business: sophisticated cities, agricultural districts, or the untapped wilderness. The economy and infrastructure are well-developed. Indeed, entire new industries, such as high technology communications, have been launched within the last decade. Canada is ideally suited for reaching the world's markets. Large markets in the United States are only one day's trucking from major Canadian centres. The transportation system extends across the Atlantic to Europe, to South America, and, of course, to the Pacific Rim. Canada's federal, provincial, and territorial governments offer programs to help business immigrants with their initial decisions and working arrangements. In a phrase, Canada is "Open for Business"

*For further information pertaining to any of the categories described in this article, please contact any one of the five Canadian High Commissions or Embassies listed on page 16 of this issue of Canada ASEAN magazine.*

# Refugees: Canada's Continuing Commitment

Traditionally the third largest resettlement country from Thailand, Canada occupied second position in 1985 with 2,438 Indochinese resettled. During the past year, 1,527 Cambodians, 553 Vietnamese and 358 Lao, temporarily in Thailand, found new homes in Canada.

Canada's Indochinese Resettlement Program is intended to resettle Indochinese on the basis of two objectives: family reunification and those most in need of resettlement and protection for whom no alternative solutions are available. Applicants are accepted under two basic categories: those sponsored by the Canadian government for whom there is a numerical quota (1,800 in 1985) and those sponsored privately by either relatives or groups for whom there are no limits. In both categories, candidates must have the potential to establish successfully in Canada and must pass Canada's medical requirements and background checks. Depending on the degree of connection to Canada and the amount of support available, Indochinese who fail medical requirements may be admitted under special Minister's Permits.

For 1986, Canada expects an intake from Thailand of the same size as 1985. Primarily this arises from a redefinition of "eligibility for resettlement" by the Royal Thai Government which will permit an increase in processing of privately sponsored persons who hitherto were ineligible.

Recognizing that resettlement is not always appropriate and is only one solution of several, Canada supports the new screening process established on July 1, 1985 by the Royal Thai Government with UNHCR assistance. For the first time since the Indochinese exodus began over a decade ago, arrivals from Laos are being screened to assess the validity of

their refugee claims. As a consequence, Lao arrivals have plummeted.

In addition to screening, Canada supports a voluntary repatriation program which has seen nearly 3,000 persons return voluntarily to Laos through official channels. Many more have "spontaneously" repatriated. UNHCR which monitors voluntary repatriates has found no evidence of mistreatment. Based on these findings and aware that economic conditions play a role in the exodus from Laos, Canada recently donated C\$100,000 to a UNHCR rural re-integration project in Laos.

While continuing to consider Cambodians in Khao-I-Dang holding centre for resettlement, Canada recognizes that the majority of Cambodians seek a safe return to Cambodia. Mindful of this desire, Canada with other major resettlement countries and the Royal Thai Government have chosen to restrict processing of border evacuees to close family reunification cases under normal immigration criteria. Once processing logistics are established, Canada will consider a small number of Cambodian "family class" evacuees.

As well as resettlement, Canada contributes financially to the maintenance of Indochinese in Thailand. During FY 85/86, Canada will contribute C\$2.7 million to the budgets in Thailand of UNHCR, UNBRO, and the Red Cross, as well as C\$100,000 to the Anti-Piracy Program.

Canada intends to remain a major player in the resolution of the Indochinese problem in Thailand. Through moral and financial support, and the offering of resettlement places when appropriate, Canada expects to contribute its share to the mix of various solutions which will bring the Indochinese "problem" to a just and durable denouement.



*A street scene in Ban Vinai Camp, one of several refugee camps in the ASEAN region where Canadian officials conduct interviews to initiate the resettlement process.*