



CANADA

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CANADA CITIZENSHIP PLANS

The following extracts are from a statement to the House of Commons on December 14 by the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration, Mr. Guy Favreau, by way of introduction to the estimates of his Department:

The Canadian Citizenship Act came into force on January 1, 1947, and provides for the legal status of "Canadian citizens". The Act is administered almost entirely by the Canadian Citizenship Registration Branch, which has an establishment of 96 at headquarters in Ottawa, and 64 in the citizenship courts situated in various centres in Canada. The most recent citizenship court was established in Ottawa in March of 1963. There are nine other courts — in Toronto, Montreal, Hamilton, London, Vancouver, Edmonton, Winnipeg, Moncton and Windsor.

These, along with the regularly constituted courts, provide facilities for persons wishing to apply for Canadian citizenship. In addition, 56 persons have been appointed to act as courts for the purpose of the Canadian Citizenship Act in remote areas. Four similar appointments have been made overseas for the assistance of servicemen.

... A review is at present being made of the standard required of applicants from the inception of the Canadian Citizenship Act to the present time, with a view to establishing as far as it is possible uniform criteria across Canada.

IMMIGRATION FIGURES

In 1962, 72,080 persons became Canadian citizens. This is the third highest number for any one year, the highest being in 1957, when 95,462 certificates

were granted, and the second highest in 1958, when 84,183 grants were made. From January 1, 1947, to December 31, 1962, a total of 654,379 persons have been granted citizenship in Canada. In addition, 389,586 certificates were issued to persons who wished to have proof of their status as Canadians.

It has been ascertained that approximately 40 per cent of the immigrants who entered Canada in the ten-year period 1953-1962 who are eligible for Canadian citizenship have become Canadians.

Fitting and appropriate ceremonies for the presentation of certificates of citizenship can provide a most important symbol of the benefits to new Canadians and to others of the acquisition of Canadian citizenship. For this reason, consideration is being given to expanding the number of courts. Plans are at present being considered for the establishment of a Court of Canadian Citizenship in Calgary. Through these media and through appropriate publicity, it is hoped to encourage a greater number of people to apply for Canadian citizenship.

CITIZENSHIP BRANCH

The Canadian Citizenship Branch is responsible for two main programmes:

- (1) Developing a greater degree of understanding of Canadian citizenship and of group relations amongst newcomers, Indians and Canadians generally, through advisory and financial assistance to organizations and agencies engaged in citizenship education and community actions; and
- (2) for immigrant instruction, by providing textbooks to provincial departments of education

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