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NEW CITIZENS FOR CANADA

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The responsibility for all Immigration matters under the provisions of the Immigration Act rests upon the Minister of Mines and Resources. The Immigration Branch, one of five branches comprising the Department of Mines and Resources, administers this Act.

While Immigration from overseas was controlled by legislation as early as 1874, it was not until 1906 that inspectional staffs were stationed along the Canadian-United States border. In substance, the Immigration Act currently in force was first enacted in 1910. It has been amended from time to time in the light of changing conditions and administrative experience. Broadly speaking, the Immigration Act is divided into two parts: the first provides for the administrative machinery, sets out the duties of Immigration officers, and defines the procedure applicable to persons seeking entry to Canada and to those subject to deportation; it also defines the classes of persons whose admission is prohibited, the responsibility of transportation companies, and provides penalties for violations of the Act. The second part deals with the selection of immigrants and the control of their movement. The Immigration Act is so designed as to make it possible to cope with changing conditions without delay by enabling the Governor General in Council to amend or repeal existing regulations within the limitations of the Act.

STRUCTURE OF THE IMMIGRATION BRANCH

The headquarters of the Immigration Branch are at Ottawa. The Director of Immigration is responsible for the administration of the Act to the Deputy Minister and the Minister. To ensure efficient administration and effective supervision, the field staffs in Canada and overseas operate as two units, each under the direction of a Commissioner. The Canadian Field Service is made up of four Immigration districts, Atlantic, Eastern, Western, and Pacific. Each district is under the direction of a Superintendent. There are 253 ports of entry along the Canadian-United States border and on the Atlantic and Pacific seabords. The number of officers at ports of entry varies from two or three at small ocean or boundary ports to fifty or more at larger ports where traffic entering Canada by rail, highway and air is extremely heavy. The admissibility of every person who enters Canada is established by an Immigration Officer at one of these ports. The number of individual examinations last year totalled over 34,000,000. The Canadian Field Service also includes inland offices located at strategic points throughout the country whose staffs investigate applications for the admission of immigrants and conduct deportation proceedings.