

has important implications for governmental policies that aim to ensure that each region of Canada develops its economic and social potential to the full....

If the rate of urban growth continues, nine out of ten Canadians will live in towns and cities before the end of the century. Montreal, Toronto and Vancouver are the destinations preferred by an increasing number of migrants from all parts of Canada, and it is also in these areas that foreign migrants are particularly concentrated. A more dispersed pattern of immigrant settlement might help to alleviate some of the difficulties that plague these congested and rapidly-expanding areas....

Few means exist at present to steer immigrants against prevailing population currents, and these are limited in their effectiveness. It would be an exercise in futility to attempt to direct people towards destinations where adequate employment opportunities and their accompanying social amenities were lacking. Canadian immigration policy has generally avoided measures to compel immigrants to settle and remain in any particular place, except for good counselling before immigrants arrive and selection criteria that facilitate the admission of immigrants who are qualified and willing to take jobs which badly need filling at the regional level. But however imaginatively the current techniques to induce more broadly distributed settlement are applied, it must be frankly recognized that the apparent irresistible attraction of major cities for migrants — foreign and domestic — will persist in the years immediately ahead. Accordingly, future immigration policies will need to be formulated with particular attention to their effects on the quality of life Canadian city dwellers seek....

Ethnic character

The fact that Canada is a country with two official languages — and all that expresses in terms of history, constitutional development, cultural complexion and political cohesion — is basic to our national life and character. It is so basic that federal policy cannot ignore the effects future immigration may have on the relationship between the English-speaking and French-speaking members of Canada's population....

Analysis of linguistic characteristics

indicate that over the past two decades, the French language has been losing ground, while the English language has made gains over both French and third languages. The language choice made by immigrants is now, and likely will remain, a significant element insofar as the preservation of a fundamental feature of Canada's population is concerned. For immigration policy-makers, the implications of this are clear for national unity and for the maintenance of Canada's role as a bilingual nation. They point to the elaboration of policies that will tend to favour the admission of a higher proportion of people likely to choose integration within the French-speaking community....

The most notable feature of ethnic composition through the last 100 years has been the very strong growth of the population group that is of neither British nor French origin. Immigration has stimulated the increase in the size of other ethnic groups to where they collectively make up 27 per cent of the population. During the century, the proportion of the population of French origin has remained relatively constant — hovering around 30 per cent — while the British component has declined from 60 per cent in 1871 to just under 45 per cent in 1971....

The working immigrant

Immigration policy — present and future — must respond to the needs of Canada's labour market. In relating immigration to Canada's labour market requirements, the importance of getting that relationship right is uncontested. In both human and economic terms, there is a world of difference between the immigrant who is gainfully employed in an occupation corresponding to his talent, skills and choice and the immigrant who is unemployed, under-employed or working in a job for which he is not suited....

In the face of exploding "migration demand", there has been no corresponding expansion in the choices available to those wishing to emigrate. On the contrary, these have shrunk significantly as more restrictive policies are adopted by those nations that have traditionally received migrants....

Future Canadian policy cannot afford to ignore either the reality of, or the problems created by, the strength of Canada's natural drawing power on migrants from all sources...and Can-

ada's appeal as a country of immigration is unlikely in future to call for deliberate stimulus from Canadian policy itself.

Projections show that during the next decade, the Canadian labour force will continue to grow at a very rapid rate, posing a continuing and substantial challenge to the Canadian economy in terms of the number of new jobs that will have to be created each year. As a result, there are reasons to question the wisdom of the "expansionist" immigration philosophy that has traditionally influenced Canada's outlook....

From the domestic standpoint, effective manpower policy is demanding — and likely will continue to demand — a high degree of selectivity in the recruitment of immigrants for the labour force. Recent adjustments in the "points system" for selecting immigrants have been designed to enhance their employment prospects. Selection procedures and the refinement of techniques for measuring labour market requirements must be kept under constant review to make sure there is the most effective linkage possible between the operation of Canada's immigration and manpower policies....

Volume and composition

A cardinal principle set out in the Government's white paper on immigration in 1966 (and translated in 1967 into the present selection system) was that Canadian immigration policies "must involve no discrimination by reason of race, colour or religion and consequently...must be universally applicable". The present system has rationalized with considerable success methods of assessing the suitability of potential immigrants, but has been less successful in furnishing a reliable, long-term policy framework within which to program the use of Canada's immigration selection apparatus abroad....

Decisions about how much selection processing capacity the immigration program should possess, how it should be distributed geographically (i.e., how many offices, how big they should be and where they should be) and the priorities visa officers should accord to different categories of applications are policy decisions of real significance. Decisions on these points have a direct impact on the volume and composition of the annual immigration movement....