

# CANADA

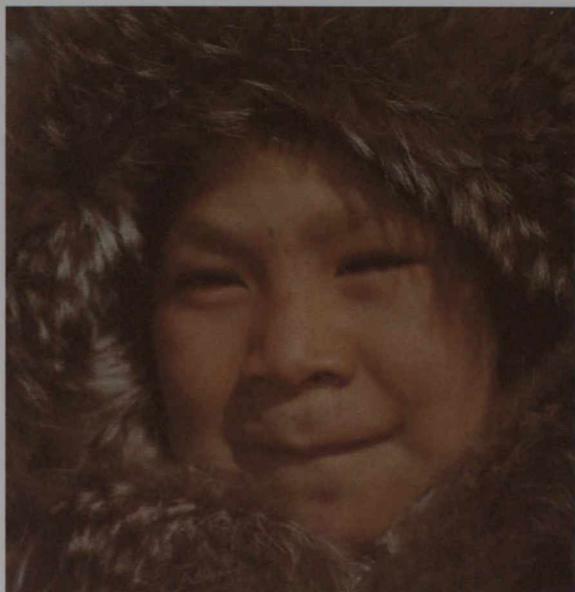
TODAY / D'AUJOURD'HUI



## Canada's Response

VOLUME TEN NUMBER SEVEN OCTOBER NINETEEN SEVENTY-NINE

## Immigration 1979



*The first immigrants were the Inuit (Eskimos) and the Indian.*



### A Change of Immigrants and a Change of Attitudes

In the late eighteenth century Canada was still a loose collection of British colonies, and it seemed natural that they should be settled by loyal fellow subjects of the Crown. For years the policy governing immigration to Canada would be mildly exclusive, welcoming those who were British and resisting those who were not.

The American Loyalists fleeing the Revolution were welcomed, but some later immigrants from

As Franklin Delano Roosevelt once told the Daughters of the American Revolution, we're all immigrants.

The Indians came some 10,000 or more years ago, and the Inuit (Eskimos) a few thousand years after that. The Europeans — probably Celts or Vikings — came next.

Many of the immigrants, past and present, have been refugees as well — some fleeing tyranny, some starvation.

Last year Canada proclaimed a new Immigration Act, the first revision since 1952. It is intended to deny entry to no one because of race or national origin, and it makes special provision for refugees, such as the Vietnamese boat people shown on the cover aboard the freighter "Tung An." In this issue of CANADA TODAY/D'AUJOURD'HUI we offer some details of Canada's program to admit Indochinese refugees, compare the old immigration standards with the new, spout some statistics and report on the present good fortune of a number of Canadians who have come from other places.

the south were not. In 1794 the first legislative assembly of Lower Canada appointed commissioners to reject at the border those who "seemed unlikely to become loyal settlers."

As historian Helen I. Cowan has noted, the theory in Great Britain was that "the vast undeveloped wastelands of the colonies could be used for the good of the whole empire, of the landlords with overcrowded estates, of the manufacturers seeking new markets, of a government striving to quiet agitators."

One well-conducted emigration from Scotland to Canada was supervised by the Earl of Egremont's Petworth Emigration League. Its purpose was not

to shovel out paupers, "but to remove from the minds of persons of all classes the notion that emigration to Canada is banishment and to cherish the idea that it is only a removal from a part of the British Empire, where there are more workmen than there is work to be performed, to another, a fertile, healthful and in every way delightful portion of the same Empire, where the contrary is the case." However, Lord Palmerston and Sir Robert Gore Booth, unlike the Earl, used the opportunity to clear out their holdings in County Sligo with ruthless dispatch.

By the 1830s the results of such sponsored immigration were more popular in Great Britain than in Canada: the citizens of Quebec protested when the shiploads of peasants brought cholera, and the immigration agent at St. John, New Brunswick, accused Gore Booth of "shovelling out the old and infirm" and said the displaced tenants dispatched by Lord Palmerston "wore the foulest rags and their children were stark naked."

In the last half of the nineteenth century North American immigration patterns began to change. The appeal of the New World was felt far beyond British shores, and immigrants who were not from the Empire and who did not speak English began moving in. Chinese gold rushers moved up from California to the new gold fields in British Columbia, and in 1881 the Canadian government gave the Onderdonk Construction Company permission to bring 17,000 coolies from South China to help build the new transcontinental railway.

*Nineteenth-century Irish immigrants were often poor peasants, driven from home by rack-rent landlords. This old engraving idealized their condition.*

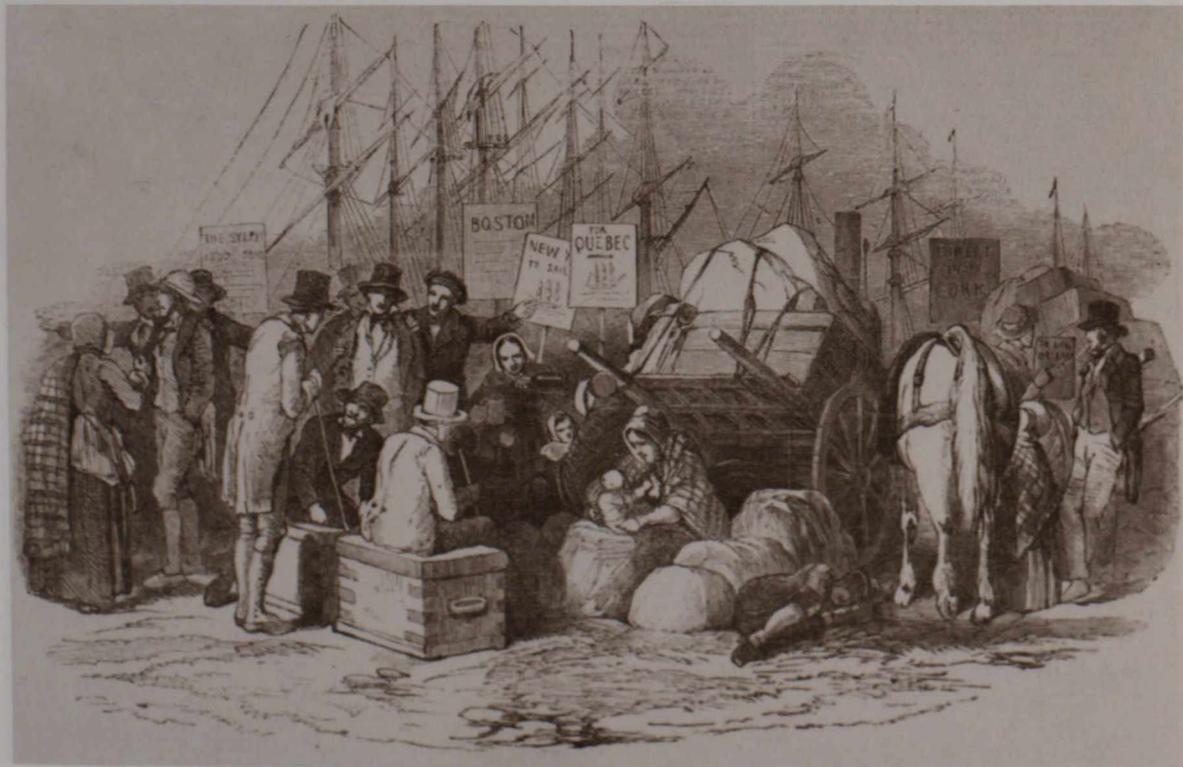
In the 1870s and 1880s Hungarians, Swedes, Norwegians and Germans began to arrive in significant numbers; and in 1898 the government began sending immigration agents to continental Europe and the United States.

Many Canadians found the newcomers as threatening as earlier Canadians had found the displaced peasants from Ireland. The immigration acts of 1906 and 1910 set a new tone. Immigrants from the British Isles were welcomed; northern Europeans were preferred over southern ones; and immigrants from Asia were admitted only in extremely limited numbers. As one commentator said, "Immigrants from those countries and those states which are readily naturalized are preferred."

The assumption that "old" immigrants from Great Britain and northern Europe were more easily assimilated would prove to be untrue. The "old" immigrants would be the ones most likely to

### Who Was What

The act of 1906 gave precise instructions on how to tell an eligible immigrant. An immigrant was "any steerage passenger or any 'work-a-way' on any vessel whether or not entered as a member of the crew; . . . any saloon, second class passenger or person who having been a member of the crew had ceased to be such, who upon inspection is not found to come within the class liable to exclusion from Canada; and any person who has previously resided in Canada, or who was a tourist merely passing through."



*Immigrants dancing on the S.S. Empress of Britain in 1910.*





In 1947, the Chinese Immigration Act was repealed, and the Chinese assumed the same status as other Asians. In 1949 French citizens born in France were added to the list of the most preferred. The ban against former enemy nationals was lifted: Italians were admitted in 1950; Germans in 1951. In 1950 the minister in charge of immigration was also given the authority to admit anyone who was found to be a "suitable and desirable immigrant having regard to the climatic, social, educational, industrial, labour and other conditions." However, persons from the most-favoured countries could still enter almost automatically, and other northern Europeans still had an edge. Those from Belgium,



Luxembourg, Norway, Sweden, Denmark and Switzerland were admitted if they were skilled in certain trades; and farmers, farm workers, domestics and nurses were admitted from Greece as well as from the Netherlands, Germany, Austria and Finland.

The 1952 Immigration Act deprived immigration officials of the high level of discretion they could exercise in turning back applicants, and a system of examinations and hearings was set up. A small addition was made to the list of most-favoured immigrants — French citizens from St. Pierre and Miquelon. In 1956 the Immigration Appeal Board was established.

There were still restrictions by group — Asians could be admitted only if they were nationals of countries that had agreements with Canada — but the essence of the policy was shifting. The country of origin was becoming less significant, and such factors as occupation and skills were gaining in importance. About 30 per cent of the 783,000 admitted between 1956 and 1960 were British, but 17 per cent were from Italy. Thirty-six thousand refugees of the Hungarian uprising were admitted in 1956, many of them students and teachers.

In 1962 the Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration made the trend official: future stress would be on education, training and skills, although the favoured nations were still favoured in recruiting. In 1964, of 32 immigration offices abroad, 4 were in the United States, 6 in the United Kingdom, 15 in northwestern Europe and one each in Cairo, Hong Kong, New Delhi and Tel Aviv.

*Special dormitory cars, left, and wagon trains, below, carried immigrants west. The wagons are on the road to Vancouver.*



In 1966, the government specifically stated that there would be no discrimination among applicants by reason of race, colour or religion; and it adopted a point system applicable to all, which gave weight to age (those below 35 preferred), education, ability to speak English or French and occupational skills. Refugees were still given special consideration, and in 1972 over 5,000 Asians were admitted from Uganda by special provision.

The Immigration Act of 1976 was proclaimed in 1978. It incorporated most of the informal and semi-formal changes that had been made in policy since World War II. There are no more favoured nations: all applicants are judged by the same set of standards. The act is intended to enrich the lives of the immigrants and Canada as a nation. More specifically it is designed to:

- Establish immigration levels that reflect the needs of Canada.
- Improve the distribution and settlement of immigrants.
- Curb illegal immigration.
- Protect Canada's security.
- Expand safeguards for the protection of civil rights.
- Confirm Canada's traditional obligation to refugees under international law.
- Facilitate refugee selection, admission and resettlement.
- Facilitate family reunion.
- Link immigration to Canada's population and labour-market needs.

## Quebec Bienvenue

Quebec has the final say on which immigrants settle there. In 1968 the province established its own Ministry of Immigration and posted immigration counsellors abroad. In 1975 the Andras-Bienvenue Agreement between the province and the federal government gave Quebec further responsibilities.



Quebec has its own point system, giving extra weight to people who speak French, and a person who does not have enough points for general admission may have enough for admission to Quebec. A person admitted to Quebec must first be screened by federal officers, but a person rejected by Quebec might still be admitted to the rest of Canada.

## Destinations

Most immigrants go to Ontario, Quebec, British Columbia and Alberta, in that order. In 1977, when 114,914 immigrants were admitted, Ontario received 49.2 per cent of the total (56,594); Quebec received 19,248 (16.8 per cent); British Columbia 15,395 (13.4 per cent); and Alberta 12,694 (11 per cent). The provinces or territories receiving the fewest were Prince Edward Island, which gained 192 (0.2 per cent), and the Yukon and Northwest Territories with 174.



*At Kensington Market in Toronto, immigrants wear traditional and modern clothes, above, and there is plenty of food, left, for those who are hungry for home.*

## A Few Key Questions About Canada's New Immigration Act

Canada's new immigration law is a distillation of suggestions from thousands of individuals and organizations. It commits Canada to programs supporting national economic, social, demographic and cultural goals and to principles of non-discrimination, family reunification and humanitarian concern for refugees.



Montreal's new Indochinese immigrants.

### *Who may now come to Canada?*

Visitors, students and persons who intend to be permanent residents are all welcomed. There is no discrimination by race, national or ethnic origin, colour, religion or sex. All must meet basic admission standards designed to protect public health, safety, order and national security. Visitors must have sufficient funds to support themselves, and those wishing to study or work in Canada for a limited time must obtain authorization from Canadian immigration representatives abroad *before leaving for Canada*. (United States citizens and permanent residents can apply at ports of entry.) Those seeking permanent residence must be screened by Canadian visa officers *before they leave their home countries*. The officers assess their capacity for successful settlement.

### *How does the selection system work?*

Immigrants are divided into three basic groups:

**Independent Immigrants** are evaluated on employment related and other given factors according to a point system. Points are added for such things as skills, professions or occupations that are needed in Canada, willingness to settle in high-employment areas and ability to speak English or French. Assessing officers may add or

deduct up to five points according to the destination selected. They may award ten points to immigrants who agree to work in designated occupations in specific locations. A maximum of 10 points may be subtracted for years of age over 35. Bonus points are given to those with Canadian relatives who are willing to aid in their settlement.

**The Family Class** includes certain close relatives of Canadian citizens and permanent residents. The parents and dependent children of Canadian citizens are now admissible in all cases. (Formerly only parents 60 years of age or over were included in the class.) Family-class applicants are not assessed under the point system, but they must meet the basic standards of good health and character.

**Convention Refugees** are selected, not by the point system, but on their general ability to adapt to Canadian life. They are defined by the United Nations Convention and Protocol Relating to the Status of Refugees. Consideration is given to the assistance available to them from government and non-government sources. Displaced and persecuted people who do not technically qualify as convention refugees may be admitted on humanitarian grounds.

### *Do all applicants have the same opportunities?*

Yes. Immigration levels are set globally. There are no favoured nations, and the same criteria and priorities are used for all applicants. Members of the family class, convention refugees and others who have urgent and specific needs receive the highest processing priority.

### *How are annual immigration levels set?*

They are set after consultation with the provinces and other appropriate groups. They depend on regional demographic and labour-market needs. Medium- and long-term requirements are established, and flexible annual levels are set in harmony with them.

### *May immigrants choose their own destinations and occupations?*

Immigrants who are qualified for more than one occupation may choose the one that is most beneficial to them in Canada. The same applies to their destinations.

### *How has the status of refugees changed?*

For the first time, Canada's international obligations under the United Nations are fixed in law:

Convention refugees legally in Canada may not

be deported unless they are a threat to national security or public order.

Decisions to deport refugees must be in accord with due process.

Deportation may not be to a country where the refugees' lives or freedom would be threatened because of race, religion, political opinion, nationality or membership in a particular group, unless the persons facing deportation are a danger to Canada's security or have been convicted of a serious crime.

#### *How is immigration controlled?*

Those given authorization for temporary study or work may not seek permanent residence while in Canada. Visitors who overstay, take employment or engage in studies without authorization are violating immigration law and will be required to leave. They may also be arrested without a warrant. A tourist may not apply for authorization to work or study while in Canada.

#### *Who is refused admission?*

Those who threaten public health, safety, order or national security or who have failed to meet the selection criteria are not admitted. Persons with certain diseases are no longer automatically barred. For example, epileptics who can lead productive lives are now admitted. The offences of applicants who have violated foreign laws are assessed in terms of Canadian law. Imprecise criteria, such as "moral turpitude," are no longer used, and there is no longer a list of undesirable categories, such as dope dealers. On the other hand, persons who have not been convicted of criminal offences but who are known to associate with organized crime or who are likely to commit acts of violence may be excluded.

#### *How are people excluded or removed?*

Deportation is the last resort, but the act provides for less drastic methods of exclusion. If a person has improper or incomplete identification, for example, the immigration officer can let him withdraw his application without prejudice or issue an "exclusion order" barring admission for a year. A "departure notice" may be issued to a visitor already in Canada who has committed a minor infraction of immigration law. That person may later reapply for entry. Deportation, a permanent bar, is reserved for the most serious offences. Immigration officers with legitimate doubts about a visitor's intention to leave after his proposed stay may require the posting of a bond.

#### *How are the rights of those under scrutiny protected?*

A person subject to removal has the right to an immigration inquiry, presided over by an adjudicator. Adjudicators are specially trained to give objective judgements.

#### *Can a person under threat of removal appeal?*

The Immigration Appeal Board remains intact, but

persons claiming Canadian citizenship are now referred to the minister responsible for citizenship matters instead of to the board. Those in possession of valid visas, convention refugees and permanent residents may appeal a removal order on humanitarian or legal grounds. Canadian citizens may appeal a refusal to admit their family-class relatives.

#### *What is the provincial role in immigration?*

The minister responsible for immigration must consult with the provinces concerning population and labour-market needs, measures to help immigrants adjust and the distribution of immigrants to meet demographic requirements. Specific federal/provincial agreements on immigration may be made.

*Recent waves of immigration have made Toronto a cosmopolitan city.*





*These refugees, who arrived in Toronto on August 3, are standing in front of their new house, which was provided by The Toronto Sun.*

## Today's Refugees

In late July Canadian military planes began bringing Indochinese boat people from Hong Kong to Canada. The first one carried 23 to Vancouver, 21 to the Prairies, 140 to Toronto and 32 to Montreal and Ottawa. One baby born en route got off in Vancouver.

Canada has a formal refugee program — a revolving fund, for example, provides transportation loans — and since 1945 it has accepted more than 350,000 refugees.

Since 1975 most of the refugees have come from Vietnam. Canada recently increased the quota, and the government now sponsors one Indochinese refugee for every one sponsored privately. Private sponsors must agree in writing to provide necessary food, accommodations, clothing, incidentals and general resettlement help for a full year. The number of Indochinese refugees admitted since 1975 is expected to reach 60,000 by the end of 1980.

Refugees from Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos are processed by Canadian immigration officers in Singapore, Bangkok, Hong Kong and Manila. Most are boat people, but some fled overland to Thailand. They are now flown by Canadian airlines and the

Canadian Department of National Defence to staging centres in Edmonton and Montreal and then, within a week, to their final destinations.

Churches, towns, provinces and private groups are contributing, and by 7 September, 2,549 local and national groups had agreed to sponsor 14,644 refugees.

Alberta will give \$1 million to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to help refugee children in Thailand and Malaysia; Ontario will match up to \$500,000 in funds collected in the province by the Red Cross; and Quebec will accept approximately 10,000 of the refugees admitted under the government plan, plus any who arrive in Quebec under private sponsorship. Quebec is also granting \$400 to each private sponsoring group. Vancouver has pledged \$275,000 to help refugees resettle, and Ottawa has a program to assist 4,000. Individuals contribute to the Canadian Refugee Fund, which was recently created by the government as a private charitable organization.

Canada hopes that a family reunification program will enable people in Vietnam to join their Canadian relatives, and the first 25 visas were recently issued.

## Late Shifts

The numbers and the occupations of Canada's newcomers have changed significantly in the last decade. Immigration has much declined in recent years — from 218,465 in 1974 to a planned 100,000 in 1979. There is a new preference for persons with vocational training or occupational skills, rather

than those with higher education in a broader sense. Applicants may now amass a total of 23 points for vocational training and job experience, while the maximum allowed for education has dropped from 20 to 12. The greatest shift in occupations has been in the category "managers and entrepreneurs," where the numbers have greatly increased, and in the "professional and technical" and "manufacturing, mechanical and construction" categories, where they have dropped substantially.

## Some Well-Landed Immigrants

### Mohamed Meghji, Bookkeeper

Mohamed Meghji, an Asian refugee from Uganda, came to Canada in September 1972, when he was 46. He, his wife and their two children, a boy of 12 and a girl of 17, were living in Kampala when Idi Amin ordered all persons of Asian descent to leave the country within 90 days. Below are excerpts from an interview with Mr. Meghji:

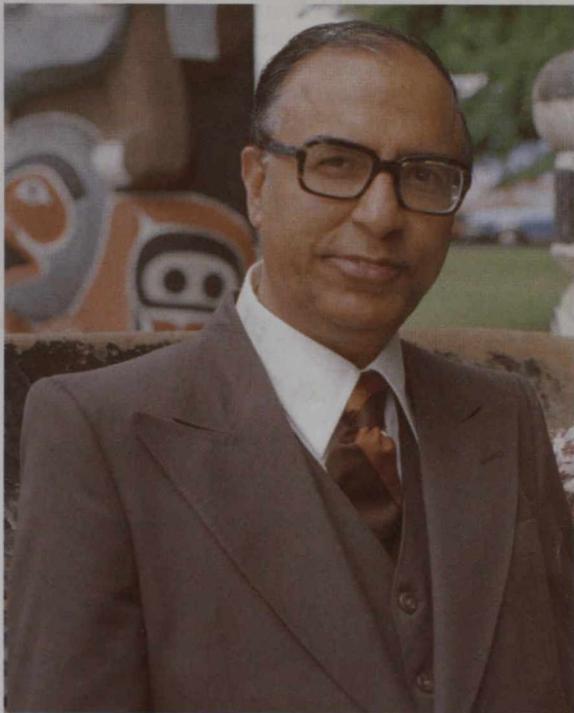
"The order to leave was a total surprise. For one month nothing happened, and then Idi Amin sent out another announcement saying, 'I have not seen people moving away and I'm not going to give any extension of time. If people are not out within the time scheduled, they will be put in a camp.' There was a concentration camp two or three miles outside of the capital. People were terrified and I too decided that the time had come.

"The Canadian Embassy announced that Canada would take 5,000 refugees. We were among the first to come out and were only allowed to take 1,000 Ugandan shillings out, which came to just under \$130 in Canadian money, and that was per family, not per person. Before we boarded the plane they examined all of our luggage, and if there was anything, they took it away.

"We were airlifted to Montreal. What a change! The atmosphere in Uganda was so tense, and Montreal was so relaxed. The immigration officials in Montreal asked us where we intended to go. Some of our people said to us that Vancouver was a good place; the weather was good. So I said I wanted to go to Vancouver.

"I became a bookkeeper for an insurance company, and my wife, Malek, works as a seamstress. We saved our money and bought a very small bungalow in the suburbs.

"My son, Arif, is 19 now, and my daughter, Zainul, is 24. He is finishing high school and has a job as a cook in a restaurant. She is married and lives in Toronto. We are very happy."



*Mr. and Mrs. Meghji are at home in Vancouver.*



## Ed Chiller, Journalist

Ed Chiller is an editorial writer for the *Toronto Star*. He was born in New York City 34 years ago, and he is married to a Dane. They have one child, a boy. They were living in Copenhagen when they decided to pick a new home from a North American almanac. They picked Toronto, and they settled in Canada on August 9, 1976. Below are excerpts from an interview with Mr. Chiller.

"I applied for entry through the Canadian Embassy in Copenhagen. I don't know exactly how I scored, but I had enough points to get in. My French is a bit rusty but it helped. I had visited Montreal twice during Expo '67, when I was living in New York. I lived with a French family whose name I'd gotten from a classified ad. I rented a room for a few days, so I had a little taste of community life, and I was quite impressed with Expo '67, particularly with Habitat. I liked Montreal a lot.

"Toronto, as a major city, is about the best I've come across. Compared to New York, Toronto is a safer city, a cleaner city and, I think, a friendlier city. It's more human — there is a greater sense of relaxation and personal freedom. I think all three of us — my wife, my son and myself — are happy about coming to Canada. I should tell you, my wife and I have just recently separated — a very friendly separation. I think coming to Canada was something she really needed in her life. The advantages for her are extreme — she had made several tries at universities in Denmark, but she didn't like the system there. It was too unwieldy and non-directed. She came here and is now about to graduate with a degree in business

administration from York University. She's starting a career here in a way I don't think she would have done if she had stayed in Denmark.

"One reason I left Denmark was that I felt that my career had gone as far as it was going to go there. I think in many ways my relative standard of living was probably higher in Denmark, not in terms of physical possessions, but in comparison with the general population; but I think that the kinds of activities for children and adults in Toronto are much greater than in Copenhagen.

"My son thinks of himself as a Canadian. He goes to a private school and is now in senior kindergarten and starting first grade. He just turned six, and he and his classmates are reading — they can spot read. In Denmark it's against the law to teach a child to read in the school before grade one, which begins at age seven. I think Canada is a good place for my son to grow up. His curiosity and his capabilities are being developed here.

"I have gone through periods of nostalgia, but on balance I think I've come to my senses; and frankly I feel that Canada offers greater opportunities professionally for me than Denmark. I think Canada is more receptive to foreigners than Denmark. Even though I am fluent in Danish, people there knew I was foreign. In Canada it doesn't seem to make much of a difference. The country is built so much on immigrants that immigrants are accepted; they are not excluded from positions in society or from responsibilities. There are really no unofficial barriers created by place of birth or nationality."

## Robert Wekherlien, Developer



Robert Wekherlien was born in Karlsruhe in Baden, Germany, in 1922. Canada lifted the post-war restriction against German immigrants in 1951, and in 1953 Wekherlien applied and was admitted. He was married and had a son. He headed for Edmonton, Alberta, where a boyhood friend had settled. Edmonton has many ethnic groups, including over 50,000 people of German origin and many German social, fraternal and sports clubs. Below are excerpts from an interview with Mr. Wekherlien:

"We arrived in Quebec City and travelled across the country by train to Edmonton — pioneer coach all the way, a very laborious journey. For us it was a kind of adventure, a vast country of our imagination. I thought there couldn't be a country so large that you had to travel three days and nights, and I thought sure we would be back in Germany. At that time jobs were not so plentiful in Alberta, so we ended up in the immigration hall where I looked for opportunities. I didn't know a lot of English, so I took a position as a repairman for

washing machines, although I never had seen a washing machine. I studied the manual, which came with the machine, for three days and nights; and after that I took the machine apart, repaired it, and put it back. To my own surprise, the whole thing worked.

"Then I went into the selling of iron staircases and railings for a couple of months; then another immigrant and I pooled our savings and bought some gravel trailers, which we leased out. That went on for about three quarters of a year and we sold out. Then I went into business with a friend, rented a Volkswagen pickup, and sold deepfreezes to the farmers. That was very profitable, and as a matter of fact the farmers called our service 'home delivery.' It lasted six or eight months until the winter — the winter of '54 was very cold.

"In '55 I established the German-Canadian Radio Committee, and we started a half-hour, daily German-language program on the French-Canadian radio station in Edmonton. I bought the time from the station and then sold it to advertisers. Then I bought more time on another radio station. We taped our programs in Edmonton and shipped them out by bus. That was good money, \$800 to \$1,000 a month, and a step into my own enterprises. One of the radio programs is still going strong, with one of my old hand-picked announcers.

"At the same time, in 1956, I started in the real-estate business and became extensively engaged in community affairs. We formed a

German-Canadian Relief society to help immigrants of German background who became ill or were in financial need and formed also the German-Canadian Business and Professional Organization and later on the German-Canadian Association of Alberta. The aim of the organizations was somehow to take the stigma away from German post-war immigrants who were still treated as second-class citizens. Now the German immigrants have become highly respected and very equal among other ethnic groups in the province and in Canada.

"My wife and I were in one of those unfortunate immigrant situations, and after a while the marriage did not stand up. She went to the United States, and my son grew up there. He's a US citizen, a member of the Marine Corps, and is now studying for a Master's degree in languages.

"I remarried, to a German immigrant. In a new country you seek companionship among the people who are familiar, although a lot of my friends have married Canadian girls.

"My real-estate business has changed over the years. I took an absolute professional approach — going to the university for a number of years in evening courses and to the Real Estate Institute of Canada. I had originally dealt in residential and commercial real estate, some apartment buildings. Later on, my partner, a Polish immigrant, and I formed a company. We have built warehouses and apartment buildings, but we do not sell what we build. There couldn't be a better place in North America than Edmonton at this time."

*Mr. Wekherlien and one of his buildings.*





## Paul Thibaud, Restaurateur

*Paul Thibaud, a chef, came to the United States from France in 1964 and met and married a young woman from Quebec. A short time later they went to Montreal. In 1976 they sold their house and bought "L'Auvergnat," a restaurant in Outremont, a Montreal suburb. Mr. Thibaud has found Canada a land of opportunity, though not paved with gold. "It is true that you can make money here, but you have to work. In comparison to Europe where everything is structured, here anyone can do anything."*

"L'Amérique, ça me tentait toujours et je me suis dit: 'Je vais rester un an aux Etats-Unis, apprendre l'anglais, puis je reviendrai en France et peut-être que je pourrai exercer un autre métier.' Le Canada, j'en avais entendu parler mais le Québec, jamais. Tout ce que je connaissais du Canada, c'était par des livres: histoires de neige et de trappeurs. Ça été pour moi une agréable surprise quand j'ai su que, en Amérique du Nord, on parlait français. Il est évident que depuis 1967, l'Expo et les Jeux Olympiques ont énormément aidé à faire connaître le Canada et le Québec dans le monde entier.

"J'ai travaillé ici pendant quatre ou cinq ans dans les hôtels. C'est un métier très très fatigant. Je suis ensuite devenu professeur de cuisine dans une polyvalente. Au bout de trois ans, je me suis aperçu que l'enseignement n'était pas fait pour moi. On avait un troisième enfant qui allait venir, on trouvait que le salaire de professeur n'était pas suffisant et je ne voulais pas retourner travailler dans les mêmes conditions qu'avant.

"On avait une maison à Repentigny, en dehors de Montréal. J'ai décidé de la vendre et de risquer d'ouvrir un restaurant. Cela a marché tout de suite. Je pense que j'ai été chanceux parce que j'ai choisi un quartier assez bien. Un facteur important c'est que jusqu'à quatre ou cinq ans, la vente de l'alcool

était défendue dans ce quartier et aucun restaurant en servait.

"Je n'ai jamais pensé aller m'installer dans d'autres provinces au Canada. Le principal motif, c'est quand même la langue. Choisir entre anglais et anglais, j'aimerais mieux finalement rester aux Etats-Unis.

"Moi, j'aime bien le Québec. Je trouve même que le Québec, au point de vue géographique, c'est extraordinaire. D'accord, l'hiver est un peu long. Je trouve que Montréal est une ville privilégiée. En une demi-heure d'auto, vous êtes en pleine campagne; en une heure, vous pouvez aller skier ou faire du bateau; en quatre heures, vous êtes rendus à la mer.

"Si on parle de l'ouvrier moyen, je ne pense pas qu'on puisse trouver autant d'avantages dans un autre pays du monde: assurance-maladie, assurance-automobile, les écoles. Un ouvrier moyen, s'il le veut, a sa maison assez facilement alors qu'en Europe, c'est plus difficile.

"On peut gagner de l'argent mais il faut travailler. Il ne faut pas croire qu'en restant assis, l'argent va tomber. Par rapport à l'Europe où tout est structuré, ici n'importe qui peut faire n'importe quoi.

"Mon épouse était Québécoise alors j'ai quand même été intégré dans la famille québécoise. Par

contre, j'ai connu certaines difficultés côté travail. Je suis restaurateur et dans ce métier-là, il n'y a pas beaucoup de Québécois. Il y a surtout des Néo-Québécois. Je me retrouvais en contact continuellement avec des gens qui ne sont pas nés ici. Cela prend beaucoup plus de temps à s'assimiler au pays même parce que les gens restent entre eux: les Français avec les Français, les Italiens avec les Italiens et les Portugais avec les Portugais.

## Georges Dedoyard, Calligrapher

"J'avais un copain qui était déjà installé dans l'Ontario et qui m'avait vanté la vie au Canada. Pour me prouver que ce qu'il avançait était vrai, il m'a offert de payer mon voyage ainsi que celui de mon épouse.

"L'officier d'immigration était très bon vendeur. Il m'avait dit que, dans mon métier, je pouvais m'installer dans n'importe quelle partie du Canada. Il m'a dit: 'Mettez votre doigt sur la carte et à cet endroit, vous ferez bien.' Comme mon ami était à Hamilton, j'ai choisi Hamilton.

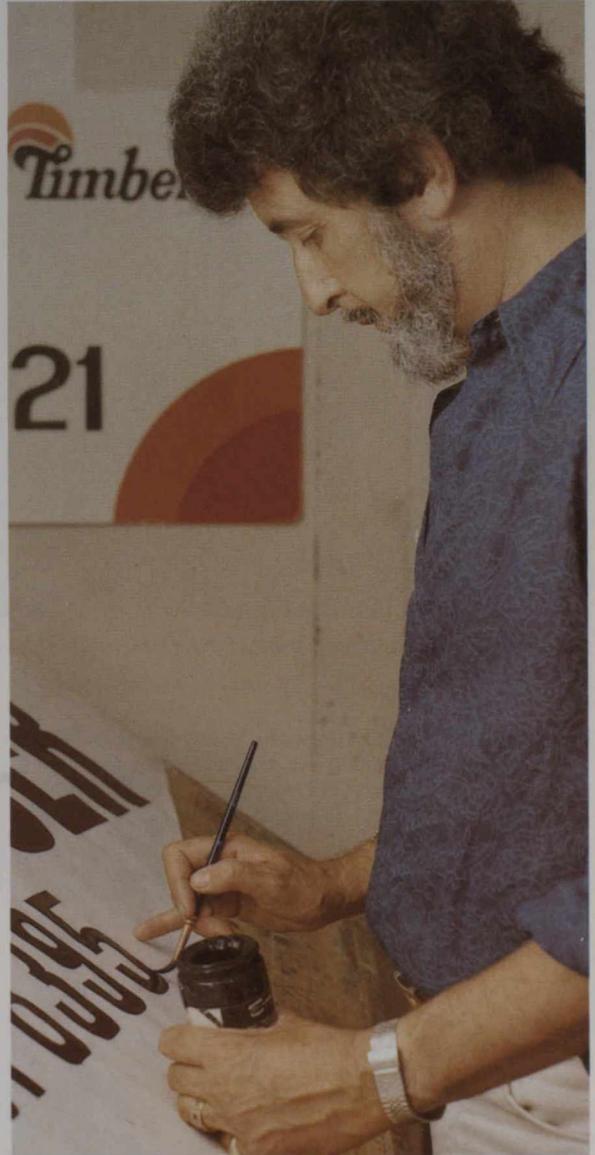
"Je me rendais compte qu'en Belgique, on était limité au point de vue d'avancement dans notre ligne. On aurait dû tuer deux ou trois patrons avant d'arriver à leur place. Le Canada m'offrait beaucoup plus de possibilités. Le lettré n'était pas considéré ici comme il l'était en Belgique. Il faisait partie du salaire minimum. En 1957, il avait \$1.50 de l'heure alors que les peintres en bâtiments, qui eux avaient une union, gagnaient de trois à quatre dollars. Les patrons nous disaient qu'on n'avait pas l'expérience canadienne, ce qui d'après moi était faux. On travaillait un peu plus vite mais moins soigné qu'en Europe. Ils avaient quand même raison. Il m'est arrivé récemment de devoir engager un immigrant fraîchement débarqué et puis je me suis rendu compte qu'il était beaucoup plus lent que l'ouvrier canadien. On a un rythme de travail ici beaucoup plus rapide qu'en Europe.

"On pensait qu'on aurait pu parler les deux langues partout dans le Canada. Mon épouse, Française de la Côte d'Azur, avait énormément de difficulté à s'exprimer en anglais et après trois ou quatre mois de vie à Hamilton, elle a fait un genre de dépression. On a décidé de venir à Montréal où, au moins, c'était français.

"Je trouve que le climat est meilleur ici. En Belgique, j'avais de l'asthme à cause du climat humide et puis, dès mon arrivée, j'ai été complètement guéri. Le froid est plus sec, d'accord, mais plus sain.

"Ce qui était le plus difficile, c'était l'éloignement de la famille. On savait très bien que ça prendrait quatre ou cinq ans avant de la revoir. J'ai eu l'intention de retourner vivre en Belgique les trois premières années de mon implantation au Canada mais après les cinq premières années, nous avions déjà eu deux enfants et nous avons décidé de rester. Je retourne en Belgique chaque année en touriste mais quand je quitte Bruxelles, je dis: 'Je retourne dans mon pays.' "

"Pour moi, la France c'est fini. Je ne m'y sens plus chez moi. J'ai beaucoup changé et puis mes enfants sont nés ici, grandissent ici. Alors, si je voulais retourner, je me retrouverais tout seul. Ma famille en Europe est un peu chagrinée parce que je ne veux plus retourner; on se voit de moins en moins. De toute façon, maintenant, ma vie est ici et je veux y rester."



*In 1957 Georges Dedoyard and his wife, who was from France's Côte d'Azur, came to Canada from Brussels, where he had lettered signs in a store. They first settled in Hamilton, Ontario, then moved to Montreal. Mr. Dedoyard works as a calligrapher, a painter of lettering. He has prospered in Quebec and now considers it his permanent home. "The hardest part of immigrating was being separated from our families. We knew it would be four or five years before we would see them again. During my first three years in Canada I intended to return to Belgium to live, but I decided to stay. After the first five years we had already had two children here, and we decided that this was our country. I go back to Belgium as a tourist every year, but when I leave Brussels I say, 'I am going home.' "*



Early prairie immigrants built houses from the materials at hand. This sturdy home was made of sod.

*This newsletter is published monthly. The views expressed are not necessarily those of the Canadian Government. Unless specifically noted, articles are not copyrighted and may be reproduced. If you have questions or comments or wish to be added to our mailing list, please be in touch—address and telephone number below. If you wish to change your address, be sure to include the number on the top line of your mailing label. Written by Tom Kelly, designed by Greenhouse Communications Inc./Montreal.*

## CANADA

*Today/d'aujourd'hui*

Canadian Embassy  
Ambassade du Canada  
1771 N Street, NW  
Room 300  
Washington, DC 20036  
202: 785-1400

Address Correction  
Requested



BULK RATE  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
PLATTSBURGH, N.Y.  
PERMIT NO. 49

ISSN: 0045-4257  
PRINTED IN CANADA