

CHAPTER 5

How well do Canada's immigration laws and policies respond to immigration issues?

immigration: the process of people establishing homes, and often citizenship, in a country that is not their native country

Canada's government used posters such as these in the late 1800s to recruit immigrants. It wanted to recruit immigrants to fulfill the objectives of the National Policy: to promote Canadian industry, finish the national railway and settle the west. The National Policy was formulated by John A. Macdonald's Conservative government in 1873. To recruit immigrants, the government targeted the U.S., Britain and many parts of Europe, but not countries with French-speaking populations, such as France, Belgium or Switzerland.

Take an informal survey of how many of your friends have ancestors from other countries. The families of many Canadians originated in other parts of the world and immigrated to Canada. How does Canada benefit from new **immigration**? How does the government respond to emerging issues related to immigration today?

This chapter explores Canada's immigration laws and policies. These say who can come to Canada from other countries to work and live.

Immigration is an important part of Canada's legislative framework because it affects the quality of life of Canadians and of people who seek to build a home in Canada. People want to come to Canada for many reasons. Quality of life in Canada pulls many people. Canada also offers shelter to refugees, who are pushed out of their home countries by war and other circumstances.

Immigration poses opportunities and challenges for citizenship: for building a society in which all Canadians — existing and new — belong.

As you read, you will assess how effectively Canada's immigration laws and policies meet the needs of all Canadians. Think about how the government responds to emerging issues that arise from immigration.



FOCUS QUESTIONS

- What criteria does Canada use when accepting immigrants and refugees?
- How do the individual and collective rights of Canadians influence immigration laws and policies?
- How do provinces influence immigration laws and policies?



Examine the posters. What factors affected immigration in the past?

Based on the photographs below, what challenges and opportunities does immigration create for Canada today?

This sign is an opportunity for someone. Canada accepts more immigrants when it faces labour shortages, including immigrants with specific skills to fill demand for workers in particular jobs.



This is Michaëlle Jean, a Francophone originally from Haiti, appointed governor general of Canada in 2005. Immigration can affect the identity of people who come to Canada and of people who already live here, including groups in Canada with collective rights. Immigration creates a mix of cultures, where people need to learn each other's beliefs, values and worldviews.



This photo shows a refugee camp in north Darfur, Sudan. Conflict in Sudan made the people in this camp flee their homes. Canada has obligations to shelter people who need to escape war and other dangers.



Immigration policy needs to take into account the security, health and quality of life of people who already live in Canada.