

IMMIGRATION TO CANADA

- WHO CAN COME? "An individual's status with regard to compulsory military service in his own country has no bearing upon his admissibility to Canada; nor is he subject to removal from Canada because of unfulfilled military obligations in his country... If a serviceman from another country meets our immigration criteria, he will not be turned down because he is still in the active service of his country."
[Statements by Canadian Ministers of Immigration before Parliament, 1967 & 1969]
- HOW TO APPLY Residence in Canada requires landed immigrant status. There are several ways to apply: from the U.S., from within Canada, and at the border. The latter can be advantageous; but in any case a visit to Canada first is usually a good idea. No papers are needed. That way a job situation can be looked into and help with the application procedure gotten from a Canadian anti-draft programme.
- POINT SYSTEM Applicants qualify for immigrant status if they can compile 50 of 100 possible "assessment units" based on their education (up to 20 units, one for each year of formal education, including vocational training), age (10 units if between 18-35 years), employment (10 units for a job offer in Canada), occupational skill (10 units maximum), occupational demand in Canada (15 units maximum) and opportunities in area of destination (5 units maximum), knowledge of English (5 units) and French (5 units), a relative in Canada (5 units), and personal assessment by an immigration officer (15 units maximum).
- PAPERS & MONEY Application forms are available by mail from the Department of Immigration, Ottawa 2, Ontario. Documents to verify statements on the application should be available. These might include: birth certificate, proof of marital status, diplomas or transcripts, letters from previous employers, bank account statements and insurance policies, etc. Two passport-size photos are needed. Applicants should have enough cash to live on while getting established in Canada; \$300-500 is generally sufficient.
- IS IT SAFE? Yes. Draft resisters and deserters are nothing special in Canada. Once in the country legally, they cannot be returned to the U.S. because of their military status. There is no "political asylum" per se in Canada, but once an American has immigrated--and many thousands have--he is fully protected, as a Canadian.
- WHAT'S IT LIKE? Canada is the second largest country in the world, with a population of 20 million. The geography is varied. Some places are cold, some warm (Toronto is south of New England). The job situation is like that in the U.S. There is no "race problem" (though the Indians are treated badly in Canada, too). Large cities are lively and safe; there is pollution and concern about it. The Prime Minister, Pierre Trudeau, dates Barbra Streisand, and wants Canada to be a "haven from militarism." The country is officially bilingual, but outside of Quebec English is spoken everywhere. U.S. companies control much of Canadian industry, and Canadians resent it. There is no draft.
- WHO WILL HELP? There are about two dozen anti-draft organizations in Canada. Among them are: Toronto Anti-Draft Programme, Box 41 Station K, Toronto 12, Ontario (416-481-0241); Vancouver Committee to Aid American War Objectors, Box 4231, Vancouver 9, British Columbia (604-688-5944); Montreal Council to Aid War Resisters, Box 5 Westmount Station, Montreal 215, Quebec (514-482-6825). These groups maintain offices and staffs. A group should be contacted as soon as consideration is given to immigration to Canada.
- WHAT TO DO FIRST Contact a Canadian group and describe your situation. Questions by letter or phone will be answered gladly. Also, a 98-page book, Manual for Draft-Age Immigrants to Canada, is available from Toronto for one dollar. It describes Canada and thoroughly explains immigration policies and procedures.