



Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21
Musée canadien de l'immigration du Quai 21

Situating Southeast Asian Refugees in Cold War Canada

Jan Raska, PhD

Refugees and the Cold War

The Hammer and the Sickle over Canada, c. 1947.

Pamphlet, Canadian Chamber of Commerce, c. 1947.



Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21
Musée canadien de l'immigration du Quai 21

Canada

Polish Veterans (1946-1947)

Polish Soldiers arriving in
Halifax aboard SS *Sea
Robin*, 1946.

Canada Science and Technology Museum /
CN004401.



Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21
Musée canadien de l'immigration du Quai 21

Canada

Displaced Persons Movement (1947-1952)

Latvian DPs Ilga Bormanis and Janis Burka with their luggage in Germany en route for Canada, c. 25 June 1950.

Canadian Museum of Immigration
Collection (R2013.842.18).



Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21
Musée canadien de l'immigration du Quai 21

Canada

Baltic “Viking” Boats (1948-1950)

347 mostly Baltic refugees aboard S.S. *Walnut* arrive in Halifax from Gothenburg, Sweden via Sligo, Ireland, 13 December 1948.

Halifax Chronicle Herald, 14 December 1948.



Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21
Musée canadien de l'immigration du Quai 21

Canada

UN Refugee Convention (1951)

On 28 July 1951, at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, the first twelve nations signed the Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees, drafted by the world Conference of Plenipotentiaries on Refugees and Stateless Persons which met from 2 to 25 July.



© Arni / United Nations Archives.



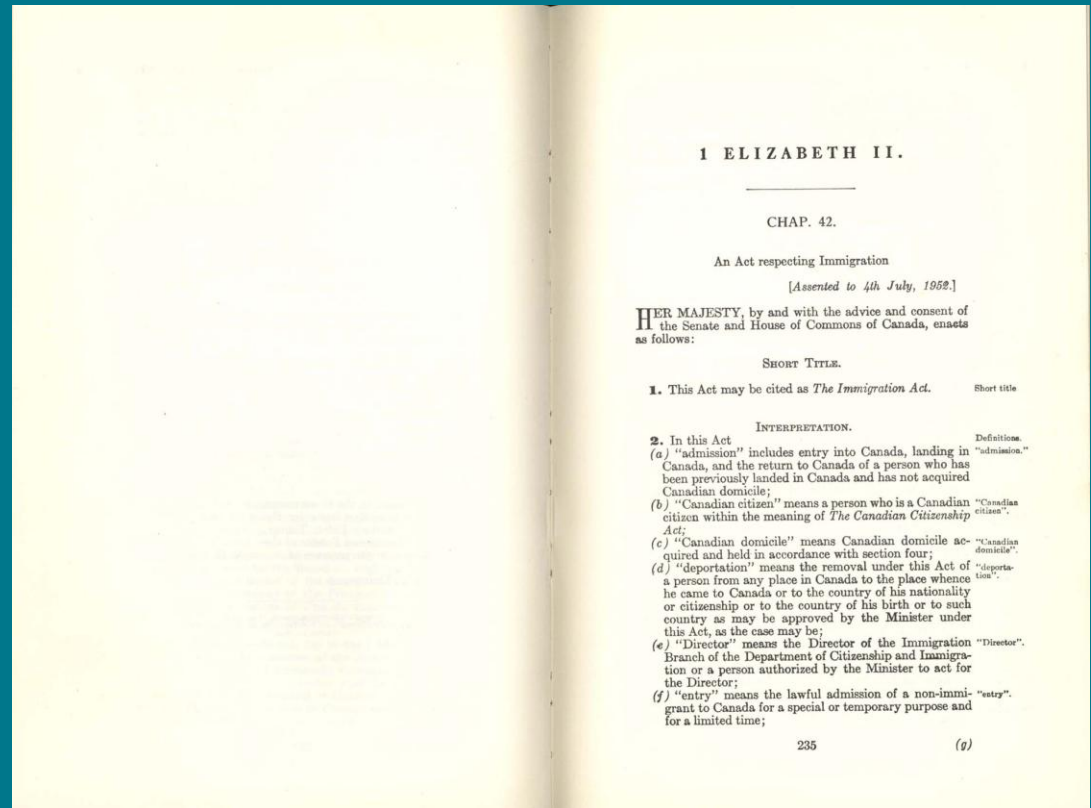
Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21
Musée canadien de l'immigration du Quai 21

Canada

1952 Immigration Act

An Act respecting
Immigration.

Library and Archives Canada / Statutes of
Canada. An Act Respecting Immigration,
1910. Ottawa: SC 9-10 Edward VII, Chapter
27.



Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21
Musée canadien de l'immigration du Quai 21

Canada

Hungarian Refugees (1956-1958)

Sisters of Salvatrice Liota (left) and Josephine Dulaska (right) welcome former Hungarian Member of Parliament Imre Gregor, his wife, Julia, and daughter, Clara, at Pier 21, 15 January 1957.

Harry Cochrane / The Chronicle Herald.



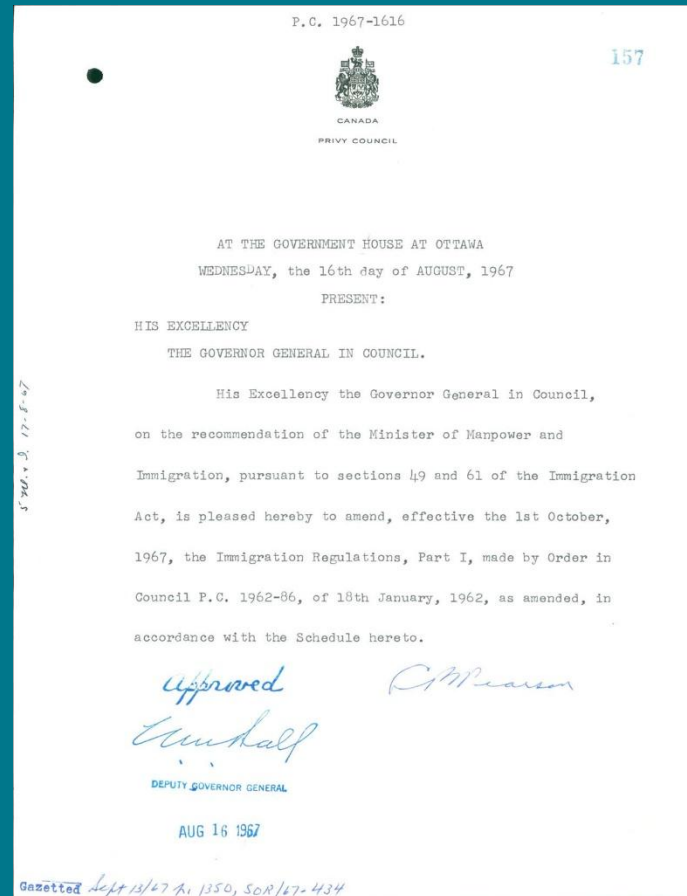
Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21
Musée canadien de l'immigration du Quai 21

Canada

1967 Points System

Order-in-Council PC 1967-1616 (“points system”)

Library and Archives Canada / Immigration Act, Immigration Regulations, Part 1, Amended,” RG 2-A-1-a, vol. 2380, PC 1967-1616, 16 August 1967.



Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21
Musée canadien de l'immigration du Quai 21

Canada

Prague Spring Refugees (1968-1969)

Vienna, Sept. 15, 1968 –
Canada's first charter
flight for Czechoslovak
refugees left Vienna
today, carrying 203
persons destined for
Toronto and other cities
in southwestern Ontario.

*Canadian Immigration Historical Society
Bulletin 46 (July 2005): 21.*



Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21
Musée canadien de l'immigration du Quai 21

Canada

Ugandan Asian Expellees (1972-1973)

Reception of Ugandan
Asian Refugees at CFB
Longue Pointe,
Montreal, October 1972.

Library and Archives Canada / accession
no. NPC, archival reference R112-5134-4-
E, item no. IM72-162.



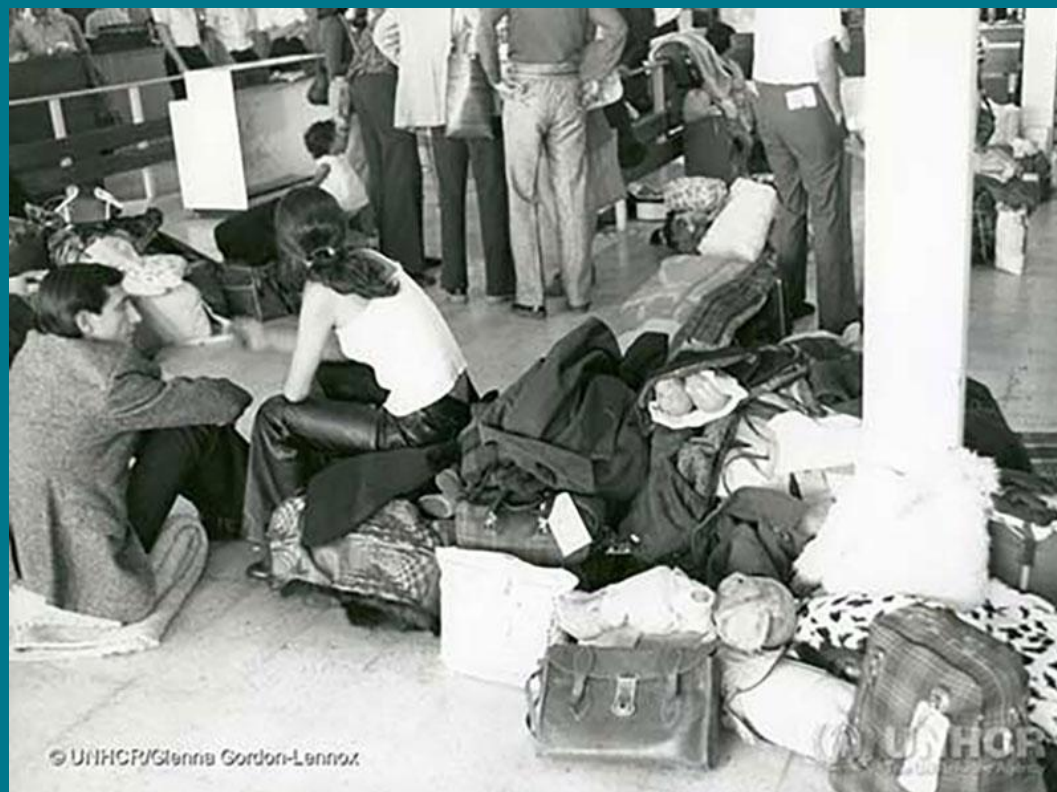
Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21
Musée canadien de l'immigration du Quai 21

Canada

Chilean Refugees (1973-1974)

Taking with them as much as they can, Chilean refugees await their special flight from Santiago to Canada, 1974.

UNHCR / Glenna Gordon-Lennox.



Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21
Musée canadien de l'immigration du Quai 21

Canada

1976 Immigration Act

An Act respecting immigration to Canada.

Library and Archives Canada / Statutes of Canada. An Act Respecting Immigration to Canada, 1976. Ottawa: SC 25-26 Elizabeth II, Chapter 52.

25-26 ELIZABETH II		25-26 ELIZABETH II	
CHAPTER 52		CHAPITRE 52	
An Act respecting immigration to Canada [Assented to 5th August, 1977]		Loi concernant l'immigration au Canada [Sanctionnée le 5 août 1977]	
Her Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate and House of Commons of Canada, enacts as follows:		Sa Majesté, sur l'avis et du consentement du Sénat et de la Chambre des communes du Canada, décrète:	
SHORT TITLE		TITRE ABRÉGÉ	
Short title	1. This Act may be cited as the <i>Immigration Act, 1976</i> .	1. La présente loi peut être citée sous le titre: <i>Loi sur l'immigration de 1976</i> .	Titre abrégé
INTERPRETATION		INTERPRÉTATION	
Definitions	2. (1) In this Act,	2. (1) Dans la présente loi	Définitions
"adjudicator" «arbitre»	"adjudicator" means a person appointed or employed under the <i>Public Service Employment Act</i> for the purpose of carrying out the duties and functions of an adjudicator under this Act;	«admission» désigne l'autorisation de séjour ou le droit d'établissement;	«admission» «admission»
"admission" «admission»	"admission" means entry or landing;	«agent des visas» désigne un agent d'immigration en poste à l'étranger et autorisé par ordre du Ministre à délivrer des visas;	«agent des visas» «visa officer»
"Board" «Commission»	"Board" means the Immigration Appeal Board established by section 59;	«agent d'immigration» s'entend de la personne nommée ou désignée en vertu de l'article 110;	«agent d'immigration» «immigration»
"Canadian citizen" «citoyen...»	"Canadian citizen" means a person who is a citizen within the meaning of the <i>Citizenship Act</i> ;	«agent d'immigration supérieur» s'entend de l'agent d'immigration désigné à ce titre par ordre du Ministre pour exercer les fonctions prévues à la présente loi;	«agent d'immigration supérieur» «supérieur»
"Chairman" «président»	"Chairman" means the Chairman of the Board;	«arbitre» désigne l'arbitre en matière d'immigration nommé ou employé conformément à la <i>Loi sur l'emploi dans la Fonction publique</i> pour exercer les fonctions prévues à la présente loi;	«arbitre» «adjudicator»
"Convention refugee" «réfugié...»	"Convention refugee" means any person who, by reason of a well-founded fear of persecution for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group or political opinion, (a) is outside the country of his nationality and is unable or, by reason of such fear, is unwilling to avail himself of the protection of that country, or (b) not having a country of nationality, is outside the country of his former habitual residence and is unable or, by reason of such fear, is unwilling to return to that country;	«autorisation de séjour» désigne l'autorisation accordée aux visiteurs; «avis d'interdiction de séjour» désigne l'avis visé au paragraphe 32(6); «catégories non admissibles» ou «personnes non admissibles» désigne les personnes visées à l'article 19; «citoyen canadien» a le sens que lui donne la <i>Loi sur la citoyenneté</i> ;	«autorisation de séjour» «entry» «avis d'interdiction de séjour» «departure...» «catégories non admissibles» «inadmissible...» «citoyen canadien» «Canadian...»



Vietnamese, Cambodian, Laotian 'Boat People' (1979-1980)

Arrival of second Canadian
Forces airlift at Vancouver,
young refugee departs
from military aircraft, 30
July 1979.

Canada. Department of National Defence /
Library and Archives Canada / e999901776-u.



Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21
Musée canadien de l'immigration du Quai 21

Canada

Concluding Points

- Refugee 'desirability' and admissions were constantly being constructed to meet the existing ideology of the state, and reflected the social, political, and economic identity of society.
- There was often a difference between the established broader narrative of the Canadian immigration process and the individual experience of arrivals.
- The immigration process at an ocean port of entry, such as Pier 21 in Halifax, was heavily influenced by evolving views of immigrant 'desirability' and therefore, admissibility.



Thank you!



Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21
Musée canadien de l'immigration du Quai 21

Canada