



**Sovereignty and
the Interdependence of Nations:
Implications for Canada**

Group of 78 Annual Policy Conference 2004

A Population Policy for Canada

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**Conference Chair: Peggy Mason
Presentation of Conference Resolutions: Clyde Sanger**

(Draft Notes)

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Background Facts/Assumptions

B No Canadian government has ever adopted a population policy, and there is no evidence that a population policy is contemplated in the foreseeable future.

B Based upon government policies and practices on related issues, e.g. immigration, human rights, refugees, child credits, etc., there is an underlying assumption that an increase in the population of Canada is desirable.

B The well-being of human society is directly related to available resources and carrying capacity of ecosystems, both at present and in the future.

B Large areas of Canada are inhospitable to human settlement and require a disproportionate use of energy and other resources.

B The average Canadian consumes 30 to 50 times as much energy and other resources as a person in the poorer countries of the world. In other words, the impact of Canada=s present population in the use of resources is equivalent to 900 to 1,500 million people in the poorer regions of the world.

B The migration of people from low consuming countries to high consuming countries accelerates the deterioration of the planet=s life support systems.

B The determination of any optimum population for Canada (or any other country), must take into consideration present and future resource consumption, environmental impacts (both in Canada and globally), and other factors which will influence the well-being and quality of life of Canadians.

Is the formulation of a population policy for Canada desirable?

It is apparent from even a cursory study of available data that population is a major factor, and probably the most important factor, in determining the well-being of a people and in sustaining civilization. Should the planet (or any nation) exceed its population carrying capacity, life support systems will be undermined, and the future of civilization will be jeopardy.

It is therefore recommended that the government of Canada provide leadership in engaging the people of Canada in gaining a much improved understanding of this exceedingly complex subject, with the ultimate goal of formulating a population policy for Canada.