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Overview: Devolution in Post-Multicultural Society

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The devolution of services for newcomers resettling in a host country takes its place as one of many structural changes in post-industrial societies during the 1990s. This restructuring appeared inevitable from the early 1990s in Canada and even earlier in the United States. The state as distributor of goods and services to various recipient populations has been responding to uniquely high deficits and an economy which has failed to support the level of service deliveries which the Canadian, and more generally, post-industrial population has come to expect as a customary right.

Newcomers to Canada have experienced difficulties as a result of cut-backs in government services, and their situation is exacerbated by low prospects for gainful employment. Canada has rarely known an (official) unemployment rate below nine percent since 1990, and it has reached as high as eleven percent within this decade. Unofficially, the employment rate is much higher. Many job seekers have become dispirited over futile job-searching and have "dropped out," no

longer even considering themselves a part of the employment market. Still others who may be younger and somewhat marginalized have had to move about or in desperation have taken to

the street, and likewise, remain uncounted.

Among newcomers, unemployment remains chronically high. While estimates vary, a recent study of the

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