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Portrait of Canadians Abroad: Singapore

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Executive Summary

Singapore has been an entrepot trading centre since Stamford Raffles initiated British rule in 1819 and consolidated his power via a constitution in 1823 which specifically ordained a multi-ethnic society. Singapore remains a key trading hub with a large (18%) foreign-born population dominated by Malaysians and foreigners from greater China. Europeans and North American permanent residents represent a small fraction of Singapore's population *circa* 2000. Within this foreign-born population the Singapore Ministry of Foreign Affairs reports 5,140 Canadian citizen residents *circa* December, 2008. However, this relatively small absolute number belies the real Canadian presence in Singapore since dual citizenship is prohibited in Singapore and results in underreporting of Canadians citizens born in Singapore.

Nonetheless, a review of Canadian personalities and institutions resident in Singapore in 2009 reveals several trends. First, the interviewed population was Canadian-born with no naturalized Canadian citizens found in our focus groups. Next, these interviewees were heavily concentrated in the professions (education, law, academia and research). Next, unlike other locations with major Canadian populations the Canadian High Commission was active in both promoting Canada and initiating connections with the resident Canadian community through its four pillar plan. The combination of Singapore's citizenship ascension principles plus its prohibition on dual citizenship insures a *de jure* if not *de facto* small Canadian resident population in Singapore administrative or census records. Nevertheless, Singapore has a large and robust foreign-born population which resides legally in Singapore under a plethora of visa options. A generous visitor and student visa policy coupled with a special employment pass eligibility certificate allows prospective foreign residents to seek employment in Singapore. In addition, various employment passes exist for managers and professionals which allow their dependants to also reside in Singapore.

On a more mundane level, interviews of current Canadian citizens residing in Canada revealed a pre-occupation with the issues of the day. Their perception of a 'democratic deficit' i.e. loss of voting rights and the then pending change in Canadian citizenship ascension rules were controversial issues of interest. Finally, it is clear that all of the interviewed Canadian-born citizens were pulled by economic forces to Singapore and they all maintain strong social and family ties with fellow North American Canadians.

Portrait of Canadians Abroad: Singapore

A. Canadian Citizens Resident in Singapore

The Singapore Foreign Ministry reports 5,140 Canadian citizens residents *circa* December, 2008 with over 80,400 Canadian citizen visitors in 2008. However, detailed data on foreign residents by country of birth status is only available in the 2000 census and it is difficult to tease out the number of permanent Canadian citizens even from this dated data set.

Table 1 Country of Birth of Singapore Residents circa 2000.

Birth Place	Total	Males	Females
All Areas	3,210,822 (100%)	1,602,259 (50%)	1,608,562 (50%)
Singapore	2,647,393 (82%)	1,351,464 (51%)	1,295,929 (49%)
Non-Singapore	563,429 (18%)	250,795 (44.5%)	312,634 (45.5%)
Malaysia	303,828 (9.4%)	131,899 (43%)	176,929 (57%)
China, H-K and Taiwan	145,876 (4.5%)	65,320 (45%)	80,556 (55%)
Europeans	4,687 (.15%)	2,883 (61%)	1,804 (39%)
USA and Canada	3,414 (.1%)	1,862 (54%)	1,552 (46%)

Source: Singapore Census of Population 2000.

Several trends emerge from Table 1 which places Singapore's foreign-born population into perspective. First, Singapore is an international centre which rivals Canada itself since the proportion of foreign born residents circa 2000 was 18% and equalled that of Canada. It is also clear from Table 1 that the vast majority of these foreign-born residents were either born in Malaysia (9.4%) or greater China (4.5%). In fact, North Americans which include Canadians had a trivial presence *circa* 2000 in Singapore with the majority being males.

In the other reported foreign-born categories females dominated the distributions, reflecting the Asian group's occupational distribution in the care giver industries. Table 1 underestimates the North American and hence Canadian presence in Singapore since it omits naturalized Canadian citizens resident in Singapore. Fortunately, the Canadian census can yield estimates of the number of Singapore-born naturalized Canadian citizens who have left Canada across various vintages of Singapore immigrants to Canada. Of the 5,260 Singapore born citizens resident in Canada in 1996,430 had left Canada during the

1996-2001 period. This constitutes an 8% outflow over just 5 years. In the next five year period, 2001-2006 another 190 Singapore-born citizens resident in Canada prior to 1996 left or another 4% rate of emigration. In short, over 12% of long term Singapore-born Canadian citizens have left Canada, however, we do not know if they all returned to Singapore. Nonetheless this is a substantial outflow.

In sum, the dated census data should be taken with a note of caution. First, the Canadian citizen population in Singapore has no doubt risen given the 5,140 Canadian residents *circa* 2008. In addition, this latter figure is a downward biased estimate given that dual citizenship is not permitted in Singapore. Nonetheless, the maximum number of Canadian citizens represented by any cited source is still small relative to the numbers reported for other major Diaspora areas (Hong-Kong, United Kingdom, and USA). Given this niche presence of Canadians in Singapore we now turn to portraits of the individuals and organizations that Canadians represent.

B. Canadian Personalities and Organizations in Singapore

Given this lack of Canadians found in Singapore's official statistics interesting personalities still emerge which reflect the presence of Canadians in Singapore's legal, educational, academic and international organizations located in Singapore.

Personalities: Business

Ms. **Franca Ciambella** is a Canadian trained lawyer residing in Singapore with a track record operating at top levels in large global firms as well as in large multinational organizations. She has acted as General Counsel for Tyco International Asia, Inc. In 1996-2000 Franca worked with the Canadian law firm Stikeman Elliott first as a senior lawyer and then as a managing partner. One of Ms. Ciambella's continuing connections to Canada during this period was her provision of Canadian legal advice while simultaneously acting as a liaison between the Canadian offices of the firm and clients based in South-east Asia.

Personalities: Development

Mr. **Evan Due** is a Senior Program Specialist based in Singapore at the International Development Research Institute (IDRC's) Regional Office for Southeast and East Asia. His research interests include public policy, institutional economics, and poverty analysis. Prior to joining IDRC in 2003, he occupied various positions at the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), including diplomatic assignments in Pakistan, Afghanistan and India. He also worked as Senior Economist in CIDA's Policy Branch and headed Canada's delegation to the OECD/DAC working parties on Financial Aspects and Poverty Reduction. He holds a Ph.D. from the University of Sussex.

Personalities: Education

Genn Odland a Canadian living in Singapore is the Head Principal at the Canadian International School. Initially established in 1989 as a university preparatory day school, the school was called Canadian Overseas College, but subsequently changed its name to the Canadian International School (Singapore). The school has long held a position of pre-eminence in the education of children in the International Schools market. This standing has been earned through years of successful practice and by utilizing modern teaching methodologies tailored for the global student. The Canadian International School maintains an important connection with Canada through its accreditation by the Ontario Ministry of Education, Canada and the International Baccalaureate programmes.

Mr. **Gary Bell** is Associate Professor at the National University of Singapore. Mr. Bell is attached to the Faculty of Law at the university and subjects taught are Comparative Legal Traditions, International & Comparative Law of Sale and Indonesian Law. After an undergraduate degree in theology (BTh) at the Université Laval (Quebec City), Gary F. Bell obtained degrees in both the common law (LLB) and the civil law (BCL.) at McGill

University in Montreal and an LLM at Columbia University in New York City. He was Editor in Chief of the McGill Law Journal, clerked for Justice Stevenson of the Supreme Court of Canada and taught at McGill University. He teaches in comparative law (Comparative Legal Traditions, International and Comparative Law of Sale, Indonesian Law). He conducts research on Indonesian law and on the United Nations Convention on Contracts for the International Sale of Goods. He is also the Director of the Asian Law Institute.

Mr. **Victor V Ramraj** is an Associate Professor and Vice-Dean (Academic Affairs) in the Faculty of Law, National University of Singapore. He has qualifications in law (LLB, Toronto; LLM, Queen's University Belfast) and philosophy (BA, McGill; MA, PhD, Toronto) and was called to the bar of Ontario in 1995. Before joining the Faculty, he served as a judicial law clerk at the Federal Court of Appeal in Ottawa and as a litigation lawyer in Toronto. His main areas of teaching and research are legal theory, criminal law, constitutional law, and counter-terrorism policy. He is the co-author/co-editor of three books, including *Global Anti-Terrorism Law and Policy* (Cambridge University Press, 2005) and *Fundamental Principles of Criminal Law* (LexisNexis, 2005). His scholarly work has been published in leading international law journals. He has held visiting appointments in the Faculty of Law, University of Toronto, and at Kyushu University and has presented academic papers to audiences in Canada, Hong Kong, India, Iran, Ireland, the Philippines, Singapore, South Africa, Sweden, Taiwan, the United Kingdom, and the United States. In 2005-2006, he spent a sabbatical leave at Queen's University Belfast as a visiting scholar studying counter-terrorism law and policy. He is currently working on a project on emergencies and the limits of legality.

Organizations: Development

International Development Research Centre

The International Development Research Centre (IDRC) is a Crown corporation created by the Parliament of Canada in 1970 to help developing countries use science and technology to find practical, long-term solutions to the social, economic, and environmental problems they face. The support is directed toward creating a local research community whose work will build healthier, more equitable, and more prosperous societies. The International Development Research Centre (IDRC) has a regional office in Singapore which has recently supported projects

Organizations: Business

Canadian Chamber of Commerce: (Cancham)

Ms. **Marlene Han** is the President of the Canadian Chamber of Commerce in Singapore. The present Chamber is a proactive, non-governmental body, which represents a wide range of business interests in Canada, Singapore and the Asia-Pacific region. Their purpose is to develop an environment that fosters commerce, facilitates investment and focuses on economic relations between Singapore and Canada. Membership is comprised of those interested in making business contacts and developing business opportunities between Singapore and Canada. Open to both Canadians and non-Canadians, the

members represent businesses of every size and across the widest spectrum of activities, from large multinational corporations to small, independent businesses.

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Organizations: Social Networking

The Canadian Association of Singapore puts on a number of large annual events each year, as well hosts many on-going social and recreational activities for Canadians living in Singapore. Some of the social activities which the Canadian Association of Singapore hosts are the “Out & About in Singapore Walking Tour”. This walk covers Singapore’s historic district, examining the imposing buildings that housed Singapore’s early government, the MAPLE LEAF BALL and High Tea at the Jewel Box.

Mr. **Wayne Smith** is the President of The Canadian Association of Singapore and also organizes social events and functions for Canadians living in Singapore.

Canadian Association of Singapore

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Organizations: School Alumni

Ms. **Evelyn Wong** is the President of The Canadian Alumni Singapore (CAS). Evelyn Wong (BSc (Hons), MBA, and Masters in Industrial Relations from University of Toronto, Canada) was originally a research director for a public sector union, Ontario Nurses’ Association, before relocating to Singapore, joining the National University of Singapore to teach industrial relations and human resource management. She was the first director of the Singapore Institute of Labour Studies (now Ong Teng Cheong Institute) providing training, education, research and consultancy in leadership and employment relations for unions, employers and government agencies locally and in the region. She served 6 years as director of international affairs in the Singapore National Trades Union Congress (SNTUC). She is now self-employed, and has been working with a non-profit

organization promoting corporate social responsibility. She is currently President of Canadian Alumni Singapore and Executive Committee member of the Canadian Chamber of Commerce in Singapore .

The Canadian Alumni Singapore (CAS) was formed in 1979. It is guided by a Board of Advisors drawn from a pool of Colombo Plan scholars. The administration and other activities are run by the elected Executive Committee. Its main objective is to bring past and recent Canadian graduates living in Singapore closer together. CAS is also committed to promoting the excellence of Canadian higher education to Singaporeans. CAS welcomes mutually beneficial activities, which ties CAS members with other groups like Canadian-Singapore Business Association (CSBA) and other Alumni under the umbrella of Alumni International Singapore.

Canadian Alumni Singapore

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C. Summary of Singaporean Immigration and Citizenship Policies

Citizenship by birth

A person is a Singaporean citizen by birth if he or she is born in Singapore with at least one parent who is a Singaporean citizen.

Citizenship by descent for overseas Singaporean Parents

As is currently the case, parents wishing to pass on citizenship by descent to their children must register their child within a year of his or her birth at a Singapore Mission overseas or with the Immigration & Checkpoints Authority in Singapore and produce proof that they are the legal parent(s) of the child.

Dual Citizenship in Singapore

Dual citizenship is not allowed in Singapore. Foreigners who naturalize as Singaporean citizens are required to renounce all foreign citizenships. Minors who are dual or multiple citizens by birth on foreign soil, by descent from foreign parents or by naturalization before the age of 18, are required to renounce all foreign citizenships by the age of 22 or they may lose their Singaporean citizenship. One implication of this rule is that naturalized Canadian citizens born in Singapore would tend not to report their Canadian citizenship status when they return to Singapore in the Singapore census. This would partially account for the low count of Canadian citizens reported in table 1.

Singapore Immigration policies

To understand the current state of immigration policies in Singapore a brief history of Singapore's changing political status in the region is need. In the early 1900s under the British, little if any, immigration control existed. Transient workers came and went according to demand for their services. Immigration control was first enforced in 1919. The Passengers Restriction Ordinance was introduced on 11 April 1919 to control the arrival of newcomers. Those born in Singapore and Malaya were not affected. Singapore joined the Federation of Malaysia on 16 September 1963. Immigration then became a Federal Department under the control of Immigration Headquarters in Kuala Lumpur. Singapore separated from the Federation and became a sovereign state on August 9 1965. Despite the separation, free travel existed temporarily between Singapore and West Malaysia. A task Force was set up in 1974 to deal with the problem of illegal immigrants and over-stayers. An exit Control was implemented at all checkpoints from 1 January 1978.

The Immigration & Checkpoints Authority (ICA) is a government agency under the Ministry of Home Affairs. ICA has combined the former Singapore Immigration & Registration (SIR) and the enforcement tasks carried out the former Customs & Excise Department (CED) at an assortment of checkpoints. Operational on 1 April 2003, ICA is accountable for the security of Singapore's borders against the entry of objectionable

persons and cargo through the land, air and sea checkpoints. ICA also performs other immigration and registration functions such as issuing travel documents and identity cards to Singapore citizens and various immigration passes and permits to foreigners. It also performs procedures against immigration offenders.

In modern Singapore as noted above over 18% of the resident population in Singapore is foreign born and enter via a number of specialized visa points which are outlined below.¹

Entry Visas

The requirement of an entry visas is part of ICA's multi-pronged approach in Singapore. Canada is currently not required to have either a Business or Social Visit visa for entry to Singapore.

Generally, foreigners who do not require visas for entry and are entering Singapore for social or business visits may be granted either a 14 or 30-day social visit pass upon their arrival in Singapore if they meet the following entry requirements;

- a) passports must be valid for at least 6 months beyond their stay in Singapore;
- b) must possess confirmed return or onward journey tickets with entry/visa facilities to their next destination;
- c) must have sufficient funds to maintain their stay in Singapore.

The granting of social visit passes to visitors is determined by the immigration officers at the point of entry. The period of stay granted is shown on the visit pass endorsement on the visitor's passport. Visitors are advised to take note of the number of days stay given as it is a punishable offence to overstay beyond the number of days given. If there is a need to stay beyond the period granted, visitors may submit an application for an extension of stay at Immigration & Checkpoints Authority before the expiry of the visit pass.

Visitors Seeking Employment in Singapore (Long Term)

Foreigners seeking employment in Singapore may apply for a one-year (non-renewable) Visit Pass. Foreigners who wish to work in Singapore have to first secure a job offer. They will need an Employment Pass sponsored by the local employer who is required to apply for the pass in Singapore. An Employment Pass Eligibility Certificate (EPEC) allows foreigners who are i) holders of selected university qualifications, or ii) current or former holders of selected skilled migrant visas to stay in Singapore for up to one year to facilitate their job search in Singapore. The EPEC is not a work pass and does not allow the holder to work. EPEC is issued on a one-time basis and is non-renewable. For more information on Employment Pass and EPEC, please visit the website of the Ministry of Manpower at www.mom.gov.sg

¹ Information gathered from the Immigration & Checkpoints Authority (ICA)

Student's Pass

A Student's Pass allows a foreigner to remain in Singapore for the purposes of study. A foreigner is required to apply for a Student's Pass if he/she has been accepted by an education institution to pursue full-time studies in Singapore.

Employment Pass Eligibility Certificate (EPEC)

Any holder of a foreign issued educational certificate is required to obtain the Employment Pass Eligibility Certificate (EPEC) from Ministry of Manpower and submit his/her application. The Employment Pass Eligibility Certificate (EPEC) allows foreigners to stay in Singapore for up to one year to facilitate their job search in Singapore. It is not a work pass and does not allow the holder to work.

A local sponsor and Form V39I are not required for applicants holding the Employment Pass Eligibility Certificate (EPEC). A local sponsor (Singapore Citizen/ Singapore Permanent Resident/ Representative of a Singapore-registered company, above 21 years old) is required for all applications to extend a visit pass. There does not appear to be an annual limit to the amount of visas issued every year.

Employment Pass (EP)

Foreign professionals and executives who wish to work in Singapore may apply for the Employment Pass (EP). The EP is for foreigners who earn a fixed monthly salary of more than \$2,500; and have recognised qualifications.

Pass Types

P Pass/Q1 Pass

There are three categories of Employment Pass: P1, P2 and Q1 Pass. The P Pass is for foreigners seeking professional, managerial or executive and specialist jobs.

P1 Pass – for applicants earning a fixed monthly salary of more than \$7,000.

P2 Pass – for applicants earning a fixed monthly salary of more than \$3,500 and up to \$7,000 and he/she possesses recognised qualifications.

Q1 Pass – for applicants earning a fixed monthly salary of more than \$2,500 and he/she possesses recognised qualifications.

Compensatory attributes such as skills and years of experience may be taken into account for Q1 applications.

Passes for Family Members

Employment Pass holders can apply for the Dependant's Pass and/or Long-Term Visit Pass for their family members.

Dependant's Pass

Both P and Q1 Pass holders can apply for a Dependant's Pass for their:

- Spouse
- Unmarried or legally adopted children under 21 years of age, including newborns

Long-Term Visit Pass

P Pass holders can also apply for a Long-Term Visit Pass for their:

- Common law spouse
- Unmarried daughters above 21 years of age
- Handicapped children
- Step-children
- Parents/parents-in-law

Change of Employer

Employment Pass holders must apply for a new pass whenever they change employers. There is no need to cancel the existing pass before doing so. Each application made will be considered on the basis of the merits of the case.

The employee will only need to conclude the previous pass upon termination of employment with the previous employer.

Change of Business Entity or Posting to a Subsidiary Company

Companies may call for an Employment Pass (EP) holder to be relocated from one business entity to another under the following scenarios:

- Change of business entity
- Conversion from sole proprietor/partnership to private limited company
- Conversion from private limited company to public listed company
- Restructuring
- Takeover by another company
- Merger of companies
- Transfer between subsidiaries/associates

Change of Company Name

Documents must be produced at the Work Pass Division when there is a change in company name (without any change in legal entity).

Change of Company Address

The company should inform the Work Pass Division when there is a change in the companies operating address.

Change of Salary

The employer must notify the Work Pass Division in writing when there is a change to the Employment Pass holder's salary.

Change of Designation

The employer should inform the Work Pass Division in writing if there is a change in the designation of the Employment Pass holder. A letter bearing the signatories of both the employer and the employee stating the new designation and its duties should be submitted.

Change of Residential Address

An Employment Pass holder should inform the Work Pass Division of a change in residential address.

Change of Marital Status

Employment Pass holders should submit a copy of the marriage certificate and apply for Dependant Pass for the pass holder's spouse.

When to Cancel

The Employment Pass must be cancelled upon cessation or termination of employment or upon attainment of Singapore Permanent Residence.

The Personalised Employment Pass (PEP)

The Personalised Employment Pass (PEP) is a new scheme to ease the contributions of global talent to Singapore.

Presently, the issue of an Employment Pass (EP) is tied to a particular employer. Any change of employer requires a new application. If an EP holder exits the company, his EP is cancelled and he must leave Singapore unless he finds employment with another company. The latest PEP is not attached to any employer and will be issued on the strength of an EP holder's individual merits. A PEP holder is able to stay in Singapore for up to six months in between jobs to consider new employment opportunities.

S Pass

Foreign mid-level skilled workers, such as technicians who want to work in Singapore may apply for the S Pass. The S Pass is for foreigners who receive a fixed monthly salary of a minimum of \$1,800. S Pass applicants will be evaluated on a points system, taking into account various criteria including salary, education qualifications, skills, job type and

work experience. The number of S Pass holders a company can employ is limited at a sub-quota, or Dependency Ceiling, of 25% of the company's total workforce.

S Pass applicants whose fixed monthly salary is more than \$2,500 a month may submit an application for a Dependant's Pass (DP) for their family members. S Pass holders who earn less than \$2,500 per month are not authorized to bring in their dependants, i.e. spouses, children and other family members. If the children of such S Pass holders want to study in conventional public schools in Singapore, they will have to pass a Qualifying Test (QT) or the Admissions Exercise for International Students (AEIS).

The 3-in-1 Work Permit (WP)

The 3-in-1 Work Permit (WP) identification card combines the WP, Immigration Disembarkation/Embarkation Card (Green Card) and Visit Pass.

The WP is for foreigners who:

- Wants to work in Singapore; and
- Earns a monthly basic salary of not more than \$1,800.

A prospective employer must first apply to the Controller of Work Permits for a WP before employing a foreign worker. All foreign workers must be at least 16 years old at the time of the WP application.

Skilled Worker

A skilled foreign worker is one who possesses at least a SPM qualification or its equivalent, or a NTC-3 (Practical) Trade Certificate [also known as ITE's Skills Evaluation Certificate (Level 1) from July 2002] that is relevant to the worker's occupation.

EntrePass

The EntrePass is an Employment Pass for foreign entrepreneurs who would like to start businesses in Singapore. The proposed business venture must not be engaged in illegal activities. In addition, businesses not of an entrepreneurial nature (e.g. coffee shops/hawker centres/food courts, foot reflexology/massage parlours, karaoke lounges, money changing/remitting, newspaper vending, geomancy and tuition services etc) will not be considered for an EntrePass.

Miscellaneous Work Pass

The Miscellaneous Work Pass is for foreigners working in Singapore on short-term assignments. The following groups of foreigners entering Singapore for short-term assignments will require a Miscellaneous Work Pass (previously Professional Visit Pass categories A to C as shown below):

- A) A foreigner who is involved in activities directly related to the organisation or conduct of any seminar, conference, workshop, gathering or talk concerning any religion, race or community, cause, or political end;
- B) A foreign religious worker giving talks relating directly or indirectly to any religion; and
- C) A foreign journalist, reporter or an accompanying crew member not supported/sponsored by any Singapore Government agency to cover an event or write a story in Singapore.

Training Employment Pass

This pass is for foreigners doing practical training attachments for professional, executive or specialist jobs in Singapore. Foreigners undergoing practical training attachments for professional, managerial, executive or specialist jobs in Singapore are required to apply for a Training Employment Pass.

Foreigners under the following categories may apply for the pass:

- Undergraduates:
The training attachment in Singapore must be part of the trainee's degree programme from an acceptable educational institution; or
- Intra-company trainees:
Companies can bring employees from their foreign offices/subsidiaries, to Singapore for professional or executive training. Intra-company trainees should hold a degree or diploma.

To qualify for the Training Employment Pass, the applicant should:

- Earn a fixed monthly salary of more than \$2,500; and/or
- Hold acceptable tertiary/professional qualifications.

Training Work Permit

The pass is for unskilled/semi-skilled foreign trainee undergoing training in Singapore for up to 6 months.

Long-Term Visit Pass (LTVP)

Work Passes for Foreign Spouses of Singapore Citizens, Spouses not already on LTVP can apply directly for a Work Pass – an Employment Pass (EP), S Pass or Work Permit (WP). Each application would be assessed on its own merits.

Employment of Foreign Students

Foreign students are not allowed to work in Singapore during term time or vacation time unless they are granted Work Pass exemption under the Employment of Foreign Manpower (Work Pass Exemptions) Notification.

D. Issues and Interviews in Singapore

Canadian citizens resident in Singapore voiced unique issues when interviewed which reflected their socio-economic profiles (education, law and international NGO's) as well as the timing of the interview.

Since the interviews were conducted in December 2008 two timely issues emerged from the interviews. First, the inability to vote in the then recently held Canadian federal election was a concern for some long term residents while the impending loss of voting rights for the other shorter term Canadian residents in Singapore proved an emerging issue. Since all of the eleven interviewees were Canadian-born this voiced "democratic deficit" extended beyond federal elections to include an inability to vote at the provincial level were they had resided for several years before arriving in Singapore. The majority of the interviewees recognized, but did not accept, the traditional argument that tax exempt status precludes voting. They stated uniformly that their tax exempt status was derived from the fact that they did not use Canada's social welfare system (health, education, pensions, etc) and that the loss of voting privileges was a unique 'tax' for living outside of Canada and independent of their tax paying status.

When broached about existing alternative Diaspora voting models including the Italian and South Korean examples of direct representation with overseas' members of Parliament the Canadian-born interviewees' reactions were mixed. Some interviewees felt that an overseas' elected member of Parliament diluted the role of Canada's Parliament while a minority felt that this direct representation would give overseas resident Canadians a voice in legislation which potentially concerned them. These interviewees in particular noted that this added voice would allow them to overcome their inability- given their distance from Canada - to lobby for modifications in Canada's Citizenship Act or to apply pressure on Canadian officials who they felt were lax in providing services.

Second, all interviewees as noted were Canadian-born and their birthplace was reflected in their views of the proposed (April, 2009) changes in Canada's Citizenship Act. These proposed changes will remove the right of non-Canadian-born citizens to pass on their Canadian citizenship to their children born abroad and thus did not directly affect a majority of the interviewees. Nonetheless, a minority of these Canadian-born interviewees noted that if their Canadian children married a Singaporean than their grandchildren could potentially be stateless. In addition, two interviewees noted that these changes were a mistake in principle since the perceived problems in the current system did not apply to Canadians in Singapore.

Beyond these overarching political questions, several Canadians in Singapore voiced more mundane concerns about issues which could be characterized as the special costs associated with Canadians living abroad. Education of their children, health care delivery for their parents in Canada and a need to supplant that care, and the maintenance of their professional standing in Canada all emerged as ongoing concerns, especially with the women interviewed. It was noted that social and institutional support groups for

Canadians were missing in Singapore given the small number of resident Canadians. In this light, it is important to note the pro-active policy of the Canadian High Commission in Singapore with respect to interacting with Canadians through its “Three Pillars” outreach project which was appreciated by those Canadian citizens who were aware of active in this program.

Finally, it is clear that all of the interviewed Canadian-born citizens were pulled by economic forces to Singapore and they all maintain strong social and family ties with fellow North American Canadians.