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Haiti

What can you say? The very name invokes collapse and disorder. "Haiti accounts for the western third of the island of Hispaniola, with the Dominican Republic taking up the remainder. And while both countries groan under populations of 9-million-plus, Haiti's are squeezed into just 27,560 sq. km -- an area smaller than Vancouver Island. According to the CIA World Fact Book, 2008 GDP per capita was \$8,200 in the **DR** and \$1,300 in Haiti. Literacy runs to 87% in the **DR** -- 52.9% in Haiti. Religious affiliation in the **DR** is "Roman Catholic 95%, other 5%," in Haiti "roughly half the population practices voodoo." Ethnic make up in the **DR** is "mixed 73%, White 16%, Black 11%." -- the composition of Haiti is "Black 95%, mulatto and White 5%." Aerial photos show Haiti's portion of Hispaniola as a brown denuded wasteland against the verdant green of **DR**. The starkest contrast is surely that on the day after the earthquake, life in **DR** went on as usual. Televangelist **Pat Robertson** scandalized the *bien pensants* when he said: "Something happened a long time ago in Haiti, and people might not want to talk about it. ... They got together and swore a pact to the devil. They said: 'We will serve you if you'll get us free from the French.' [This is based on a surprisingly resilient] tale of Haitian voodoo priests sacrificing a pig and drinking its blood in 1791 in order to secure Satan's aid in expelling the French occupation [sic]. In return, the priests are said to have promised Haiti to Satan for the next 200 years." (Time, January 14, 2010) Whatever the cause, Haiti was the poorest nation in the hemisphere before the first tremor. Dilapidated buildings and shoddy infrastructure could only hurtle Haiti deeper into an everlasting tailspin of trauma and violence. Compare the 1989 7.1 magnitude earthquake in San Francisco, there was a lot of destruction but only 67 people died. After the Haitian quake, our **Governor General**, the Haitian Sensation, inserted herself front and centre, pleading as usual on behalf of the country she loves -- as opposed to Canada. Ottawa fell into line, committing to several inalterable courses of action: Fast-tracking family reunification applications, prioritizing Haitian adoptions, expediting around 5,000 immigration applications. Hopefully not all 5,000 will correspond to the more than 5,000 prisoners who escaped when the main prison in Port-au-Prince collapsed. Or looters: "As he ran from the scene with a big box of tampons, **Love Zedouni** shouted: 'I've got no idea what this is, but I'm sure you can sell it.'" (Globe and Mail, January 18, 2010) Given that Ottawa's screening procedures are pretty limp at the best of times, we mustn't expect any *real* miracles here. Ottawa has pledged \$135-million for the Haitian relief effort and promises to match dollar for dollar private donations (so Canadians donate and then Ottawa gallantly uses our own money to match that amount). This past summer, Ottawa announced that it was forgiving \$2.3 million in debt owed by Haiti -- part of a larger debt forgiveness programme that will write off \$1.3-billion in Third World loans. A year ago, then-**Foreign Affairs Minister Maxime Bernier** (he of the biker chick girlfriend) announced \$555-million in aid to Haiti, "because we have in *Quebec a Haitian community that has brought so much to Canada*." And so much more on the way.

Unlimited Obligations for Foreign Aid to Haiti

Prime Minister Stephen Harper used to be known as a fiscal conservative. Now, because of bailouts over the past year, Canada is deeply in deficit and there are broad hints that federal programmes and spending will have to be restrained. Well, not when it comes to handouts to Haiti. A week ago, Harper announced that, in addition to

money (\$5-million, plus the previously announced \$555-million over five years [2006-2011], plus sending 2,000 Canadian troops to Haiti) already announced, the government would match dollar for dollar private donations from Canadians up to \$50-million. Now, in wild exuberance, the feds will sink us deeper into deficit and will match all amounts -- no limits -- that Canadians might raise. Kids are being shaken down in their schools by eager beaver teachers, **LCBO** check out counter people are trying to prod customers to fork over \$2.00 apiece. "**Prime Minister Stephen Harper** is giving Canadians millions more reasons to donate to Haiti relief efforts. Harper announced Saturday that Ottawa would match all donations from Canadians to recognized charities working in Haiti, removing a previous cap of \$50 million. The federal government made the move as donations from generous Canadians have already topped 60 million." (Toronto Star, January 23, 2010)

Gypsy Caravan

"The sudden arrival of Roma 'gypsies' in Ontario has teachers here grappling to connect with some of the most perplexing students in the world. With no English, limited education and an often shaky regard for school, the wave of Roma children give fresh urgency to the term 'at-risk.' Schools across Toronto and Hamilton, caught largely by surprise, are rushing to *educate staff*, hire more **ESL** teachers and find Hungarian and Czech interpreters for everything from report cards to welcome kits. 'We've got major problems with this wave of students and we need help -- we've had more than 100 kids show up this fall and our staff are scrambling,' said Trustee **Irene Atkinson** at a recent crash course on Roma culture organized by the **Toronto District School Board**, one of several this fall in Toronto and Hamilton. 'We need to develop curriculum for Roma teenagers in *Grade 10 who are working at a Grade 4 to 6 level*,' she said. It's not just about academic catch-up. What sets Roma apart from most immigrants -- and has Canadian educators desperate for help -- is that many don't seem to care about school. Roma students can seem lukewarm to learning, even suspicious. Puzzled teachers say many Roma children seem unfamiliar with routines such as the school bell. Some plunge into fist-fights, show little respect for teachers, ignore homework and skip school for days at a time, *even in elementary grades*. ... 'Our children were being treated badly in the Czech Republic because they are Roma,' said **Katarina Polyakora**, through [a] translator. Her children are in Grades 3 and 8 at **Precious Blood Catholic School** in Scarborough. 'Our younger child has darker skin and was called racial slurs like Blackface -- even the teacher would sometimes rip up her artwork,' said Polyakora, whose family came here in February from the Czech Republic seeking refugee status. ... Roma families from the Czech Republic began seeking asylum in Canada late in 2007 after Ottawa lifted a long-standing visa requirement. But when Canada brought back the visa requirement for Czechs this summer, Roma refugees began arriving from Hungary and Slovakia. 'It's street smarts, not book smarts that's been their priority. So you have to make school a place where they want to go,' suggested [**Paul**] **St. Clair**, executive director of the **Roma Community Centre**. ... St. Clair is swamped with calls from schools struggling to understand Roma students. One principal asked St. Clair to find out why a 14-year-old Roma girl stopped coming to school. He learned the father felt school no longer was necessary because his daughter was old enough for marriage. [Wow, that's enriching!] One Don Mills-area teacher at the session noted a 14-year-old Roma girl in her class is married. St. Clair also warned teachers Roma parents may keep their children home for weeks if they get sick because they may blame the

school environment for making them ill. Attendance can even be spotty in kindergarten, because it was not always mandatory back home. St. Clair urged teachers to make Roma children feel valued, possibly for the first time in their lives, by profiling their culture in class and by urging them to join after-school clubs and teams. **Queen Victoria Public School** in Parkdale has registered some 70 new Roma students this fall, and quickly set up two special half-day classes for children with limited schooling (called **LEAP** classes; **Literacy Enrichment Academic Program**). The class of 12 is starting to make headway, said teacher **Rosanna Reutter**, through a mix of *mime*, pictures, and running translation into Hungarian by one of the few children who knows some English. ... There now is a waiting list for **LEAP** classes across Toronto fuelled by the arrival of Roma refugee claimants, said programme co-ordinator **Betty Ann Taylor**. 'Roma children don't face gaps in their learning,' she said. 'They face craters.' Roma parents back home have also faced accusations of pushing their children into street crime rather than schooling. [Czech translator **Jan**] **Rotbauer** chose carefully which documentary he showed during a recent *sensitivity session* for about 100 teachers. 'The **National Geographic** one was okay, but a **BBC** documentary about Roma parents putting children out to rob people at **ATM** machines? I thought it was too negative and not balanced.'" (**Toronto Star**, November 28, 2009) It's not often that the **BBC** is accused of bias, but Mr. Rotbauer undoubtedly knows best. Hungary and Czech Republic were admitted to the **European Union** in 2004. Romania, our other Gypsy sending nation, entered in 2007: "There is freedom of movement among all European countries, no visas required [and Gypsies] could easily look for improved prospects anywhere in Europe. Of course, an asylum claim in Canada comes with guaranteed welfare assistance attached while it wends through the **Immigration and Refugee Board (IRB)** process." (**Toronto Star**, September 12, 2009) Oh, well then.

It's Time To Stop the "Refugee" Scam, Secure Canada's Borders & Repeal "Singh"

It's been 25 years since a hard-bitten Scottish socialist, feminist, and judicial interventionist **Madam Justice Bertha Wilson** wrote the Supreme Court ruling that has become known as the "**Singh Decision**." This inspired piece of meddling lunacy granted any scamster who managed to put his little toe on Canadian soil the right to claim "refugee" status. We had to give him an oral hearing and venues for appeal. Even better, the Supremos decided that illegals had all the rights of Canadians. Thus, a refugee claimant would receive welfare, medicare, dental care (which our own working poor do not get), legal aid, public housing and, of course, English or French and skills training all at taxpayers' expense. Prior to 1985, people flying in making refugee claims numbered in the low hundreds each year. Ever since thousands have poured in each year. The hearings and appeals stretch on for years. Meanwhile, the "claimants" scarf up welfare and other government services and cost us more \$2-billion a year. More than 500,000 "refugees" have entered Canada this way since 1985. So nutty is the **Singh Decision** that should President Obama fly to Canada and say, 'I'm a refugee,' we'd have to give him a hearing, welfare, medicare, legal aid, and even job training. Common sense matters not. That the U.S. is a democracy doesn't matter. That he's the president wouldn't matter either. We'd be on the hook.

Successive government have sought with little success to get some handle on the invasion. More recently, the Conservatives have slapped visa requirements on sources of particular abuse -- Mexico and the Czech Republic, where large numbers of Gypsies have decided to come to Canada claiming to be "refugees" from their democratic homeland. Now the **Canadian Press** (January 8, 2010) reports: "Ottawa is seriously considering imposing visa requirements on visitors from Hungary to cut off a growing flood of refugee

applicants, mainly from the Roma community, The **Canadian Press** has learned. It would be the third such move in less than a year, after Canada imposed visas on visitors from Mexico and the Czech Republic last summer. ... Now, the Eastern European country is among the top three sources of refugee claimants. The number of claims made every month was usually between 20 and 40 immediately after the visa requirement was lifted in the spring of 2008. By the fall of 2009, the monthly total was about 200. While numbers for the last three months of the year have not yet been made public, they are expected to show another sharp increase. At the same time, the refugee board's approvals of the claims have plunged to zero, with many of the claimants withdrawing or abandoning their applications as they come up for processing." The visa requirement will penalize the vast majority of Hungarian visitors who are legitimately coming to visit friends or relatives.

Parliament must help Canada regain control of our borders. The Government should introduce legislation using **Sec. 33** of the Constitution -- the "notwithstanding" clause. Very simply, the legislation would say: "Notwithstanding the **Singh Decision**, no person shall obtain immigration or refugee status, unless they apply and are vetted abroad." Thus, Gypsies who think they have a legitimate claim would have to apply to the Canadian Embassy in Budapest. No more flying to Canada and feasting off the taxpayers for years on end.

.. And They're Off!

Two days after Haiti shook, Ottawa quietly announced it was preparing "to release the remaining 25 Tamil migrants held in Vancouver on suspicion of links to terrorism since they arrived in Canada three months ago. The men were among the 76 passengers and crew of a ship seized off Vancouver Island Oct. 17. All of the men claimed refugee status, saying they were fleeing the aftermath of the civil war in Sri Lanka. *Fifty-one of the men were eventually released* after posting bonds and agreeing to appear when summoned for hearings on their refugee claims. The remaining migrants have remained in detention at the request of the **Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA)**, which had said it wanted to submit evidence about the 25 men's possible connection to the **Tamil Tigers**. ... The government's principal consultant and witness on the migrants was a Sri Lankan terrorism expert, who said he believed many of the migrants were members of the Tigers. One of the 25 men still in detention was also identified by **Interpol** as a member of a special Tiger suicide squad." (**CBC**, January 15, 2010) Now, they're loose and they're ours!

Run, Jump, Make A Soft Landing

"Under the **Olympic Charter**, people designated as *Olympic Family Members* needn't show the usual visa to travel here. Instead, they'll be admitted under a special application process handled by the **Vancouver Olympic Committee**, which will submit those names to **Citizenship and Immigration Canada**. There is also a special process of entry for accredited workers. While some consider Canada's immigration policy to be liberal, government officials routinely deny access to people from nations known for persecution in order to avoid taking them in as refugee claimants, [eternally wet **University of Toronto** immigration and refugee law specialist, **Audrey**] **Macklin** said. 'In the case of the Olympics, of course, there is some pressure on Canada not to do that because the Olympic Games are supposed to be a symbol of international harmony and co-operation,' she said. While defections by athletes from the **Eastern Bloc** were common during the **Cold War**, refugee claims continue to be made even now during international events hosted by Canada. During the 1988 **Calgary Winter Olympics**, at least one person, rumoured in media reports from the time to be a Romanian coach,

applied for status. [One? Were we ever such innocents?] Thirteen athletes ... asked to stay during the **Victoria Commonwealth Games** in 1994. Six Cubans raised the ire of their government when they made claims during the 1999 **Pan Am Games** in Winnipeg. During the Ottawa-Hull-hosted **Francophone Games** in the summer of 2001, at least 106 participants from 17 countries made bids for refugee status. And despite rigorous visa screening for **World Youth Day** in the summer of 2002 in Toronto, a handful of people made claims. Some 150 delegates to the **International AIDS Conference** in Toronto did so in 2006. Despite these numbers, immigration experts and advocates aren't predicting a major surge in claims connected with the Vancouver Games. In fact, they say in contrast to Summer Olympics, the risks are fairly low. *'People who practise winter sports are usually from the northern hemisphere (nations), they're very low for potential refugee claimants,'* said **Patrice Brunet**, a Montreal-based specialist in immigration law. [Seems you can't throw in the towel these days without hitting some sort of immigration specialist.] **Richard Kurland**, a Vancouver immigration-policy analyst, doesn't discount the likelihood that some visitors may try to overstay. Part of the problem, he said, is that Canada has no way of tracking who leaves." (**Canadian Press**, January 13, 2010) Special "Games" entry exemptions for all and sundry and no exit controls whatsoever. Wow, what's not to like? With an average 30,000 inland refugee claimants a year, the total cost since establishment of the **IRB** in 1989 is likely in the range of \$30 Billion. Wisely, our government never actually shares the figures with the toiling tax-paying classes.

2010 Olympics Are Peddling A Politically Correct Fantasy

"Who is fighting to ensure that the immigrants of European descent are adequately represented at [the] Vancouver 2010 Winter Olympic Games? I'm talking about the people who can be credited for turning the city from a giant wilderness into the budding metropolis of today. The place, and indeed the whole of my country, Canada, was pretty Third-Worldish until the English, French, and various other Europeans arrived and started planning and building infrastructure and government, and teaching the natives discipline, order, and capitalism. Canada or the **USA** without European immigrants would look somewhat like Africa. It's no coincidence that the best countries in the world are either European or founded by Europeans. Everywhere they go, European immigrants make things better – until they're asked to leave, at which point everything usually descends back into chaos. Not that they ever get any thanks for it. So, how are the Vancouver 2010 Olympics paying tribute to these increasingly marginalized European immigrants and their defining contributions to Canada? By ignoring them completely, it seems. The logo for the Games is some sort of native Indian stone carving resembling a bloke with massive oedema of the legs. While the natives were carving away at such lovely things, the Europeans were busy building an entire world around them, but that's conveniently overlooked. The mascots for the games are various hybrids of legendary native Indian animals that could only ever exist only after a good toke-up of Canadian weed: a half-whale half-bear hybrid (*Miga*), a whale-thunderbird-bear hybrid (*Sumi*), and a sasquatch (*Quatchi*). A feature on the 2010 Games website allows you to take a quiz to find out which mascot you are. I can tell you, without even taking the quiz, that even as a Canadian I would be exactly none of them because I'm not some sort of native Indian hallucination with a Japanese name who resembles an Asian cartoon character. I'm descended from the people who built my country, but they've been forgotten." (**Rachael Marsden**, **London Telegraph** blog, October 6, 2009) Before the tsunami of outrage subsided, Ms. Marsden was back with another heresy: "The **Vancouver Winter Olympics** has unveiled the Olympic medals and they are – yes! – 'aboriginal designed.' As a Canadian myself, I was so excited I threw my dreamcatcher across my tipi." (**Blog**, October 15, 2009)

Yet Another Settlement Scheme

Picture poor **Annie Sullivan** spelling out "water-water-water" into the unreceptive hand of a million **Helen Kellers**, year after year without end: "Immigrant and refugee youth in the **City of Abbotsford** will get a helping hand from a new \$69,076 pilot programme that helps young people get accustomed to their new home. The **Immigrant Youth in Schools Pilot Programme** addresses the needs of a specific group of immigrant youth in grades 8 to 12 who are at risk of dropping out or not achieving their full potential. Starting in January, the **Abbotsford School District** will provide in-school support services such as individualized counselling and training courses to at-risk immigrant and refugee students in grades 8 to 12. ... The pilot welcomes older immigrant students arriving with limited English language or formal education, students who have significant social and communication barriers, and students who are struggling with mental and emotional issues as a result of traumatic experiences before arriving in Canada. ... 'When these young immigrants arrive in our city they will have the benefit of programmes to help them get the most out of their education,' said **Abbotsford South MLA John van Dongen**, who noted the support of **Abbotsford Member of Parliament Ed Fast** and Ottawa. The programme is funded by the federal government through the **Agreement for Canada-BC Co-operation on Immigration**, and through B.C.'s **WelcomeBC** programme." (**Abbotsford Times**, January 12, 2010) Canadian kids ensnared in those tricky Grade 8 to 12 years may find themselves rapidly losing interest in schools pandering to the lowest common denominator, but if it improves settlement optics, who cares?

More Disappointing Outcomes

One of the axioms of immigration holds that while first generation children may flounder in English and reading comprehension, they excel in math and science -- especially South and East Asians. Well, it's time for Canadians to dial back the old expectation meter again. According to a January 13, 2010, **Queen's University** press release, "First-generation immigrant adolescents in Canada performed below average in math and science in recent testing. ... These results from a study by **Queen's University Faculty of Education PhD** candidate **Shaljan Areepattamannil** are surprising because they contradict findings of other studies. 'Immigrant children are the fastest growing sector in the Canadian child population and account for nearly one in five Canadian school children. Therefore, the integration of immigrant children into schools should be an important issue for educators,' says Mr. Areepattamannil. 'How these children adapt and the educational pathways they take will clearly have profound implications for Canadian society.' [Won't they just.] The study examined the results of 2,636 13-year-old first-generation immigrant students from British Columbia, Ontario and Quebec who took part in the 2007 **Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS)**. The data reveals those students' math and science results were 'substantially below' the **TIMSS** scale average of 500. Because **TIMSS** 2007 Grade 8 assessment was administered in only three Canadian provinces [the main immigrant receiving provinces], Areepattamannil feels more research using Canada-wide data is needed. Still, he feels the findings should raise some concerns. 'Most of the parents of first-generation immigrant students arrived in Canada from China and India. Unlike schools in Canada, both curriculum and instruction in schools across these countries emphasize rote memorization,' says Mr. Areepattamannil, who came to Canada from India in 2004. 'I'd like to further explore the factors that precipitate first-generation immigrant students' disengagement from Canadian schools with a view to understanding what needs to be changed to better accommodate the needs of first-generation immigrant students in the Canadian school setting.'" Notice the automatic assumption that it is Canada that must change. Is it

possible that across the board failing immigrant outcomes are the result of our making rather too much effort?

HEALTH WATCH

AIDS Ahoy

Early in the new year, the **U.S.** lifted the ban on **HIV**-positive foreigner visitors. "There are 57 countries that still restrict entry, length of stay or residency for people suffering with **HIV**, according to the **United Nations**. They include China, Singapore, United Arab Emirates, Egypt, Australia, New Zealand, and Russia. In Canada, foreigners with **HIV** are blocked from entering as economic immigrants if it's judged they'll place an 'excessive' demand on health or social services. ... In Canada, foreign students or tourists are not required to disclose their **HIV** status. But immigrants are tested for the virus before becoming permanent residents. Refugee claimants who test positive, along with children or spouses of Canadians or permanent residents, are allowed entry. Economic immigrants who test positive are barred if it is deemed they will cost the public health care system more than \$5,100 a year – the average cost of health care per Canadian, says **John Norquay**, immigration lawyer for the **HIV & AIDS Legal Clinic** (Ontario). With antiretroviral treatment costing about \$1,000 a month, almost all **HIV**-positive economic immigrants are rejected, he adds. From January 2002 to December 2008, 3,706 would-be immigrants to Canada tested positive. Immigration officials say 90 per cent of them were allowed in the country. All but 8 per cent fell into the categories (as refugees or children or spouses of valid immigrants) that are exempt from the 'excessive' health care standard. Entry could be granted to economic class immigrants with **HIV**, Norquay says, if they can prove their medical costs would be covered by private insurance. Norquay sees the potential for a legal challenge based on the **Charter of Rights and Freedoms**. 'It's essentially discrimination on the grounds of a health condition or a disability,' he says." (**Toronto Star**, January 10, 2010) How progressive. How enriching.

CRIME WATCH

Bienvenue Au Montreal!

"In January 2004, **Criminal Intelligence Service Canada (CISC)** initiated **Project Soothsayer**. The goal of the project was to develop a strategic early warning system for organized and serious crime in Canada. ... Unfortunately, the last 20 years have seen the growth of several Haitian-Canadian-dominated street gangs in the Montreal area. Two gangs in particular -- the **Bo-Gars** and the **Crack Down Posse** -- have emerged as formidable and ruthless competitors in Montreal's criminal marketplace. Should these two gangs develop more formal links to criminal groups operating in Haiti, the consequences for Montreal would be significant." (**Upheaval in Haiti: The Criminal Threat to Canada**, Stewart Prest, Carleton University, June 2005) The report was commissioned by **CISC**. By 2008, when Sorel's main **Hell's Angels** bunker had been reduced to cinders, things were less speculative: "It was in Sorel that it all began on Dec. 5, 1977, when the **Hells Angels** established themselves in Canada by creating the Montreal chapter and headquartering it in the wrong city. Over the next quarter-century, America's criminal export forged a cross-country network of clubs that made them Canada's only truly national organized crime syndicate. ... Since the spectacular police roundup in the spring of 2001, however, the Hells' power has waned to the point where the fortress they built in Quebec has been spectacularly breached. ... The Hells' demise in Quebec left a void that the Mafia quickly filled. But **Operation Colisée** ended the mob's brief reign when the **RCMP** rounded up in 2007 their five bosses and more than 60 soldiers and associates. That left the field to

one gang that has been spreading like a subterranean fire: the Haitians. If there was any doubt about that, just consider the comment of retired **RCMP Sergeant Mike Roussy**, who was a senior investigator with **Project Colisée**: 'After we sent them away, the Italian wiseguys still left on the streets of St. Leonard told me: *Look at what you guys did. You brought all the Italians in and now the blacks are taking over.*' Some witnesses to the Sorel fire said they had recently seen Montreal street gang members - read Haitians - elbowing their way through local nightclubs." (**Montreal Gazette**, October 21, 2008) In Montreal, the eldest son "of Canada's most powerful Mafia family was gunned down [on December 28] in a bold, violent strike that had experts predicting bitter reprisals and a potential Mob war. ... **Nick Rizzuto** was shot in broad daylight beside a Mercedes sedan and he collapsed into the freshly falling snow as terrified onlookers watched the gunman flee. He was the son of **Vito Rizzuto**, the so-called godfather of the country's dominant Mafia clan. [**Antonio Nicaso**, the author of several books on the Mafia] said the killing may be related to a string of recent firebombings of Italian coffee shops in Montreal, and could have been the work of street gangs. He said the Rizzutos' decision to align themselves with some street gangs was a controversial one - not only within the Italian Mafia, but it also created enemies among the city's Haitian street gangs. Police have charged a Haitian man in connection with the recent coffee-shop firebombings. And several witnesses Monday described the gunman as a young black man." (**Daily Gleaner**, December 29, 2009)

Make Crime Pay - Become A Lawyer

"A convicted terrorist lost his bid Friday to practice law in Greater Toronto. **Parminder Singh Saini**, who hijacked a plane at gunpoint in India 26 years ago, is 'not of good character,' the **Law Society of Upper Canada** ruled. ... The 'horrendous crime,' ... figured as only one of many factors in the law society's rejection of Saini's application to the Ontario bar, [the panel wrote. Saini continues to be listed as a 'danger to the public' by the immigration department, the panel noted. He does not have landed immigrant status." (**Toronto Star**, January 16, 2010) Erstwhile member of the ultra radical **All India Sikh Student Federation**, Saini has been fighting deportation since 1995. "Mr. Saini, now 46, was among a group of hijackers who overtook a domestic **Air India** flight in 1984, purportedly in retaliation for the Indian army's assault on a holy temple in Punjab weeks earlier. They forced the plane -- en route from Srinagar, India, to New Delhi -- to land in Lahore, Pakistan. No one was seriously injured in the incident, but witnesses said Mr. Saini, referred to as the 'team leader' in court documents, fired a gun. [A *kirpan* -- the much debated 'ceremonial' knife -- was brandished to good effect in the hijacking.] Saini was sentenced to death for his role in the crime, but that was later commuted to life imprisonment in a Pakistani jail. He was granted full parole after 10 years and ordered to leave the country, but instead of returning to his native India, he came to Canada in 1995 using false documents that identified him as '**Balbir Singh**' and settled *with family* in Brampton. [Is there anyone in the world *not* related to someone in Canada?] When immigration officials discovered the fraud later that year, Mr. Saini was detained and ordered deported. The immigration minister also certified him as a danger to the public, a designation that has not yet been lifted. ... Mr. Saini has been fighting to stay in Canada ever since, a process that has been grinding its way through layers of federal bureaucracy for years. His case was bolstered in 1998 when the Pakistani president pardoned his criminal conviction, which became the basis for a 2000 **Federal Court** decision that overturned Mr. Saini's deportation order. That was reversed on appeal the following year, however, with the court deciding a Pakistani pardon was not equivalent to a Canadian pardon." (**National Post**, September 29, 2009) Not a very progressive finding for a for a Canadian court is it?