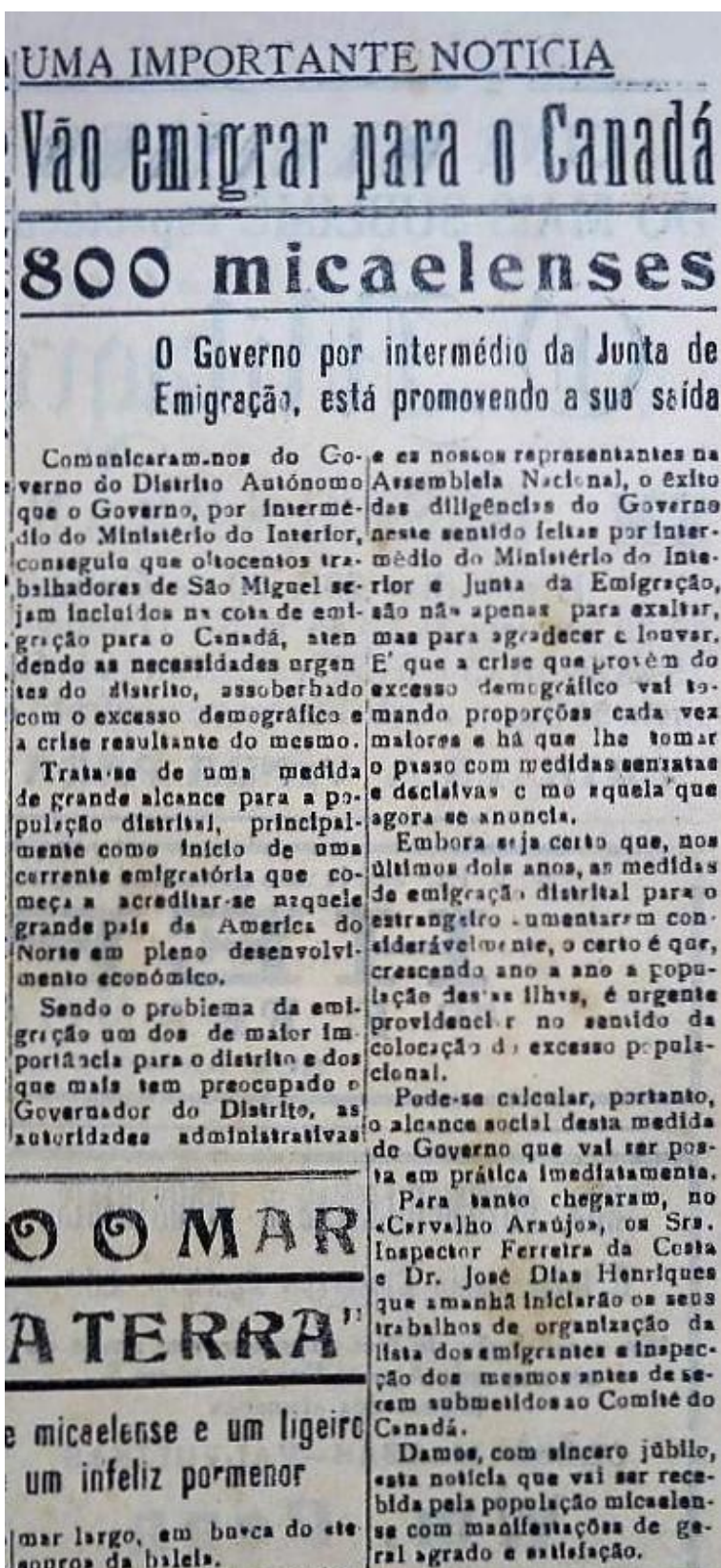




José-Louis Jacome, June 29th, 2020



## 800 *Micaelenses* Added to Portuguese Immigration Quotas



In 1953, following the numerous representations made by Dr. Armando Candido, Deputy of the Ponta Delgada District, the Portuguese central government adopted a very special measure to alleviate the Azorean difficult and even urgent economic situation. Furthermore, the important measure was specially designed to help the people living in the archipelago most populous island, São Miguel. The measure added 800 *Micaelenses* to the 1954 Canada immigration quotas. A total of 950 Azoreans would be able to emigrate that year. The measure is quite unique. Citizens from Madeira and mainland Portugal which had their own economic problems were blocked that year. They could not apply. The important measure was announced in all local media including the *Correio dos Açores* daily on 28 October 1953.

As a result of this measure, 1954 was really the *Micaelense* year of the first wave of Portuguese immigration to Canada. On **March 22**, the first group left the Molho Salazar pier in Ponta Delgada aboard the Homeland ship. 330 men left that day, 276 from São Miguel and 54 from other islands. 89 married and 241 singles.

On **April 23**, 450 more left aboard the Homeland again, all from São Miguel. This was the largest group of Azoreans of this immigration wave.

Finally, on **April 27**, another 171 immigrants from São Miguel left to Canada aboard the Nea Hellas.

**About the author**

Born in São Miguel and living in Montreal since 1958, I published a book in 2018 about Azorean immigration to Canada in the 1950s. "De uma ilha para outra" was published in Portuguese and French. The book and an exhibition that accompanies it were presented in Montreal, São Miguel, Toronto and Boston. The book is sold in Montreal, Toronto and São Miguel, and through my Website. I continue to publish information and stories relating to the first big wave of Azorean and Portuguese immigration to Canada in the 1950s through my Website [jjacome.com](http://jjacome.com) and my Facebook page [D'une île à l'autre](#).

JLJ-T-004, 29-06-2020, 1954, The Micaelense Year (text, references and author notes; **355** words)