

Canada's Ethnic Press: Unity from Diversity



Diversity ...

In Canada, ethnic newspapers are no new phenomenon. Active for more than 80 years, they have been a major force in integrating newcomers into Canadian society while helping them retain their culture.

In the greater Toronto area, for instance, there are 112 daily, weekly, monthly or quarterly ethnic-language publications. In the country as a whole, there are more than 40 cultures represented in the ethnic press.

Many of these periodicals are large-scale national publications. The *Ukrainian Echo* (*Homin Ukrainy*), for example, a weekly newspaper carrying international, national and local news of interest to the Ukrainian community, has a country-wide circulation of over 13 000. The *Alliancer* (*Zwiazkowiec*), published by

The Canadian mosaic in print.

the Polish Alliance, provides information to 9 000 Polish-Canadians twice-weekly. There are also Italian, German and Chinese business publications that cater to their particular communities.

Most Canadian ethnic periodicals are, however, small, and many editors have other full-time jobs. Stan Zybal, a former editor and student of Canadian multi-lingual press, describes the editor's job as "financial and legal advisor, family counsellor, and leader. Quite often I spend as much time helping readers with their individual problems as I do on editing the paper."

... Towards Unity

Since 1958, the Canada Ethnic Press Federation (CEPF) has helped make Cana-

dians aware of the ethnic press. The CEPF has attempted to ensure that the ethnic press contributes to Canadian unity.

The late Judge W.J. Lindal, a former president of the CEPF, describes the ethnic press as "pro-Canada." "It is not pro-Quebec or pro-Prairies or pro-Maritimes or for any race, religion or area. These publications strengthen Canadian unity and add colour to the variety that exists in that unity."

Dr. Joseph Kirschbaum, twice president of the CEPF, adds that the ethnic press "goes beyond the immigrant communities' internal needs. It helps introduce newcomers, who are sometimes unfamiliar with the benefits of democratic institutions, to a new way of life."

