

L PREVALENT

by: Tim Judah
for: Govm't of Canada



federal jurisdiction showed that the overall average salary of visible minorities was less.

Our schools also need to address the challenge of adjusting to differences of race, language, traditions and back grounds. Not only do Canadian textbooks contain biases and stereotyping of minority groups, but some students are likely to be sent to special education classes and basic-level courses.

The high profile given to incidents between police officers and visible minorities has escalated tensions to the point where this area of race relations is of critical concern to all.

Visible minorities are seldom portrayed in the media as an integral part of Canadian society. They are still stereotyped and are underrepresented in programs and as employees.

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It is a picture at odds with a nation that sees itself as being basically open, just and fair. There are continuing incidents of racism and racial discrimination in all parts of this country, and in many areas of day-to-day Canadian life.

The existence of laws and international commitments are not enough. More than ever, we need to work together. We need to expose the fear, prejudice, indifference and ignorance in which racism is rooted.

Eliminating racism and racial discrimination in Canada requires much more than just government action. The effort must involve all sectors of society - business, labour, professional groups, community-based

voluntary organizations, those who shape and influence public opinion - the media, educators, community spokespersons, religious, business and union leaders, public officials and, not least, ordinary Canadians as they go about their daily lives, - have a particular role to play in ensuring fairness and increasing public awareness. By forging a strong partnership, we can better identify action needed to:

- *educate the public;
- *change our institutions;
- *help voluntary organizations and coalitions;
- *generate more research about racism and racial discrimination and how to fight it;
- *reinforce the example at the federal level;
- *promote the shared involvement of all levels of government.

Personal discrimination stems from prejudice and ignorance. We have to examine such prejudices privately and

in public forums. We have to learn to understand the viewpoint, and the experience, of the victim.



Until the philosophy which holds one race superior and another inferior is finally and permanently discredited and abandoned there will be war...and until there no longer exists a first class or second class citizen of any nation...and until the colour of one persons skin is of no more significance than the color of their eyes...until that day...the dream of lasting peace shall remain but a fleeting illusion to be pursued but never attained.

BOB MARLEY, "War" (Paraphrase) 1977

Proclamation of the Second Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination



WHEREAS Canada subscribes to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights which recognizes that the individual has inalienable rights of all members of the human family and that freedom, justice and peace in the world;

CONVINCED that any philosophy of racial differentiation or doctrine of racial superiority is morally reprehensible, socially unjust and dangerous to society and that there is no justification for racial discrimination either in theory or in practice;

CONVINCED also that racial discrimination harms not only those who are its objects but also those who practise it, in whatever form, including the system of "apartheid;"

ACKNOWLEDGING that the Constitution of Canada, through the Charter of Rights and Freedoms provides for equality before and under the law and equal protection and benefit of the law without discrimination based on, among other things, race, national or ethnic origin, colour or religion, not precluding any law, program or activity aimed at ameliorating conditions of disadvantage based on these grounds; and recognizes the multicultural character of Canadian society;



BELIEVING firmly that there is no obligation more compelling, no duty more irresistible than to ensure that minorities live at all times in conditions of fairness and justice;

DETERMINED to build a nation in which every Canadian regardless of race, national or ethnic origin, colour, or religion, has the opportunity to realize his or her potential and can live in dignity, respect and peace;

NOTING WITH SATISFACTION the efforts made by Canadians toward the elimination of racism and racial discrimination;

MINDFUL however, of the urgent need to redouble these efforts to eradicate racism and to secure understanding of and respect for the dignity and equality of all Canadians;

RECOGNIZING that the General Assembly of the United Nations, in its resolution 38/14 of December 20, 1983 and in its Programme of Action for the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination 1983-1993, called upon all States and organizations to participate in the celebration of the Second Decade by intensifying and extending their efforts to ensure the rapid elimination of racism and racial discrimination;

CONSIDERING that the Government of Canada made a commitment at the Federal-Provincial-Territorial Ministers Conference on Human Rights in September, 1985, to issue a Proclamation regarding this Second Decade;

THEREFORE NOW, I, Brian Mulroney, Prime Minister of Canada, do hereby proclaim the Second Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination (1983-1993) and call upon all Canadians to participate in the celebration of the Second Decade by intensifying and extending their efforts to ensure the rapid eradication of racism and racial discrimination and the realization of mutual understanding, respect, equality and justice for all Canadians.

Let us all work toward the day when racism and racial discrimination become history and when every Canadian can participate fully and equally in the life of our country.

Prime Minister of Canada
March 21, 1986