

The Media

Active for more than 80 years, ethnic newspapers flourish across Canada. In Toronto alone there are 112 daily, weekly, monthly and quarterly ethnic-language publications. From coast to coast, more than 40 cultures are represented in Canada's ethnic press. Many are large-scale national publications, such as the *Ukrainian Echo (Homin Ukrainy)*, that has a circulation of more than 13 000.

Since 1958, the Canada Ethnic Press Federation (CEPF) has been the voice of the country's ethnic publications. One of CEPF's primary goals is to contribute to Canadian unity.

Ethnic broadcasting in Canada is also thriving. Eight radio stations in five cities are authorized to broadcast 100 per cent of their weekly program to specific ethnic groups, notably Italian, Ukrainian, German, Greek and Chinese. Toronto has a full-time ethnic television station. British Columbia, Canada's most western province, has a regional ethnic pay-TV network. Two ethnic satellite-to-cable network services are licensed and more than 60 radio stations include ethnic programming in their broadcast schedules.

Business

In all facets of Canadian society, whether one talks about high technology (Michael Cowpland, innovative high-tech entrepreneur), high fashion (Alfred Sung, renowned designer) or high finance (the Reichmann brothers, real estate and financial moguls), Canadians who came here as immigrants have gained international acclaim in the business world.

Across Canada, ethnic Canadians are 50 per cent more likely to be self-employed than other Canadians. Aware of the impact of multiculturalism, the Canadian Chamber of Commerce interacts with organizations such as the Canada-Arab Business Council, the Canadian East European Trade Council and the Canada-Korea Business Council. The government's Federal Business Development Bank consults regularly with ethnocultural business associations in major centres.

The Arts

Artists with ethnic origins from all parts of the world now enrich the Canadian cultural scene. For example, more and more of Canada's distinguished writers have origins other than British or French. Over the past several years, writers of Italian, eastern-European and Jewish background have achieved recognition. More recently, the works of West Indian immigrant writers such as Austin Clarke and Cyril Dabydeen and of South American-Canadians such as Ludwig Zeller and Pablo Urbanyi have been published.

Community Programs

Community-based organizations and coalitions play a major role in the promotion of racial equality, cross-cultural understanding and citizenship participation. Their efforts are supported by the government's multiculturalism programs, which provide financial help and advice to community groups, Canadian institutions and, in some cases, individuals.

Services to new immigrants and citizenship inquiry offices are a large part of many community-based programs. Various institutions, including the police, the media, health and social services, unions and municipal governments, also participate in education programs designed to improve race relations and adapt to cultural diversity.

Law and Policy

While Canada's history contains examples of heart-breaking injustices toward minority groups, Canada's citizens, institutions and government continue to work toward eliminating discrimination from Canadian life.

To further its goals of equality, diversity and community, Canada has developed concrete, forward-looking programs and laws.

In July 1988, the Government of Canada acknowledged and honoured the changing face of the country in ground-breaking legislation, the Canadian Multiculturalism Act. The Act states that every citizen, regardless of origin, has an

equal chance to participate in and contribute to all aspects of the country's collective life. The legislation is designed to "encourage and assist the social, cultural, economic and political institutions of Canada to be both respectful and inclusive of Canada's multicultural character." The Act also gives the federal government responsibility for promoting multiculturalism throughout its departments and agencies.

The Canadian Multiculturalism Act is the culmination of a series of developments over the past two decades:

- When multiculturalism became official government policy in 1971, a modest grants program was set up to assist community groups, coalitions, immigrant support networks and citizen advocacy groups.
- In 1972, a Minister of State for Multiculturalism was appointed.
- In 1977, the Canadian Human Rights Act provided legal safeguards against discrimination based on race, origin or religion.
- In 1981, the multiculturalism mandate was expanded to include race relations.
- In 1982, equality rights and multiculturalism were enshrined in Canada's Constitution in the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms.
- In 1986, employment equity legislation was passed.
- In 1988, the government provided funding to establish a Canadian race relations foundation.
- As well as federal government initiatives, since 1971 most provinces have established formal multiculturalism policies and programs.

Commitment

Canada's commitment to multiculturalism is more than words on paper or laws in Parliament. Multiculturalism is woven into the very fabric of Canadian life. It is Canada's hope that by recognizing multiculturalism as a fundamental characteristic of the country's society, Canadians of all cultural origins will contribute to the common goals of equality, national unity and social harmony.

