

On this matter I am happy to find that I am preaching to the converted. For your Association has fully demonstrated that its opportunities to relate to the wider community in which it finds itself are not limited by its size or character.

However, all of us know that, because of the very fact that the Italian Professional and Businessmen's Association is a good example, there are other groups and organizations which have so far found it difficult to relate to their social context and have sought, instead, to draw in upon themselves out of a misguided sense of self-preservation.

It would be presumptuous of me to try to give the impression that the process of relating to other parts of Canadian society is a simple task. Canadians boast of their open and mobile society in which it is possible to find satisfaction and self-fulfilment. And this claim is true enough -- up to a point. But most Canadians of whatever origin, at one time or another, have come up against barriers to their progress. They can be at times pretty formidable to a first generation Canadian.

At the same time, I think that as Canadians we can legitimately draw satisfaction from the fact that the Canadian community is gradually improving in this respect. It is infinitely better now than it was at the end of World War II. And the improvement has been due, in large measure, to a change in thinking brought about by the very presence of new-comers. Nation-building, unlike a mosaic which is static in time, is a growing, changing thing. The fact is that we have been giving each other a liberal education in the values of a multicultural society. The result is a greater tolerance, a greater understanding of what each has to offer in achieving this goal. There are still barriers along the road but they are getting smaller.

Nation-building is a collective undertaking involving all groups in the community, not just the Europeans, the West Indians, and the Chinese but also those from the founding groups of British and French origin. The liberal