

However efficient educational services for adult foreign-language migrants may be, many newcomers do not acquire real proficiency in the English or French languages. A sizeable percentage of them will obtain knowledge sufficient only to cover immediate economic needs and other essential aspects of daily life. The role of the press in the migrants' own language, therefore, has two perspectives -- one as a means of retaining a needed link with the culture and developments in the country of origin, the other as a means of extending the migrants' understanding and knowledge of Canadian ways of life, customs and values.

A responsible ethnic press, therefore, can be a major factor in bringing about healthier intergroup relations and strengthening the fabric of Canadian society. I feel confident that you are playing -- and will continue to play -- a significant part in helping Canada set an example for the nations of the world in demonstrating how diverse cultures can flourish together in peace and harmony.

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