



Recruitment of visible minorities is one way Canadian police forces promote understanding of, and sensitivity to, cultural diversity.

Cosmopolitan Canada

The impact of multiculturalism is felt in all aspects of Canadian life. For example, when eating out do you opt for curry or shish kebab, sukiyaki or sweet and sour, ravioli or roast beef? The range of ethnic restaurants in Canadian cities is immense, and although originally opened to cater for a particular ethnic group, they nowadays serve a clientele from all cultural backgrounds.

Similarly, as you tune in your Canadian radio, you will hear programmes in a variety of languages. These are not broadcasts from foreign stations, but Canadian productions aimed at specific ethnic groups, notably Italian, Ukrainian, German, Greek and Chinese. Eight radio stations from Montreal to Vancouver devote 100 per cent of their weekly

schedules to ethnic programming, while 60 more use ethnic programmes to make up at least a part of their schedules.

In addition, eight TV stations devote some of their output to ethnic broadcasts; and two ethnic satellite-to-cable networks have recently been licensed.

Strengthening Canadian unity

The ethnic press has been in existence for 80 years, and now caters for more than 40 cultural groups. It has played a major role in integrating newcomers into Canadian society, while helping them to retain their original cultural identities.

As a former president of the Canada Ethnic Press Federation maintained, 'These publications strengthen Canadian unity, and add colour to the variety that exists in that unity.'

Variety is also the keynote of the Canadian literary scene, as writers whose background is neither British nor French start to make their mark. Urdu poets Shaheen and Irgana Azia, Indian novelist Reshant Gool, and Pakistani short-story writer M A Athar Tahir are among those who have brought new perspectives to Canadian writing.

At the same time, a South American flavour has entered Canadian literature through the works of Pablo Urbanzi, an immigrant from Argentina, and Ludwig Zeller, who hails from Chile; while Austin Clarke and Cyril Dabydeen have brought a breath of the Caribbean to the Canadian literary scene.

In addition, Jewish-Canadian Irving Layton has been nominated for the Nobel Prize, in the early 1980s. Japanese-Canadian Joy Kagawa has won three international literary awards. And Czech-Canadian Josef Skvorecky has won a Governor General's Award.

