

Celebrations should be implemented in consultation with the communities. It could be that they could be celebrated in much the same way as those which are already part of the school culture.

RECOMMENDATION:

The Canadian Council for Multicultural and Intercultural Education should promote respect for the observance of various national days and holy days of the cultures represented in the school population.

RECOMMENDATION

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INTRODUCE HOME-SCHOOL LIAISON OFFICER PROGRAMS FOR THE BENEFIT OF STUDENTS AND PARENTS

Communication: The problem of communication that often exists between the parents of visible minority students and the school system is a further manifestation of the inability to come to terms with cultural differences. It is frequently taken for granted that parents understand the system. The breakdown occurs because these parents are reluctant or even afraid to approach the school because it is imposing to them as an institution.

Information: Many of the most successful programs, from the point of view of schools and parents, are the Home-School Liaison Programs that exist in many school districts. The work done by the officers of these programs is concerned with informing minority cultural groups about the schools, and with making liaison officers and their services available to the schools.

Vancouver: The experiences and duties of the home-school co-ordinator program from Vancouver were brought to the attention of the Committee. The co-ordinators:

- Advise and counsel parents about their child's performance.
- Encourage the parents to participate in school.
- Counsel the parents concerning domestic problems.
- Explain ethnic perspectives to school staff.
- Provide interpretation when language is a problem.
- Act as go-between when the student's ethnic background may be involved in a problem situation.
- Translate report cards.
- Lead group discussions for school staff on cultural orientation of groups in school population.

Enthusiasm: The Committee endorses such undertakings for their contribution to smoothing the transition from culture to culture for students and parents. It also helps alleviate problems between parents and children as the children enthusiastically adopt Canadian attitudes toward child-parent relations.