

## PROMOTE THE DEVELOPMENT OF MORE POSITIVE ATTITUDES TOWARD VISIBLE MINORITIES

**Negative:** There seems to be universal acceptance within visible minority communities that the schools should promote a positive attitude toward minority students. There is a definite lack of information presented for this purpose and as a result students are unaware of how to respond to those with whom they are unfamiliar. The presentations that are made are frequently ineffective in reducing or eliminating negative attitudes.

**Preconditions:** Considerable research has shown that certain thinking abilities and the ability to perceive people in certain ways are necessary preconditions to accepting human diversity. The development of the ability to see things as others would see them and the ability to perceive attributes other than color when you look at someone are just two examples of abilities that need to be developed if students are to be more tolerant.

**Guides:** The Committee received a number of positive examples of teachers guides and curriculum units which improve student thinking abilities, teach them to work together co-operatively, enhance their self-images and present them with information about other cultures:

- a) **Black Studies: A Resource Guide for Teachers**, Intermediate Division, published by the Ontario Ministry of Education (1983). This material is an important contribution to educators who, partly because their own knowledge was deficient, have not taught students about Black Heritage in Canada.
- b) **Micmacs Project of Prince Edward Island**. The development of this project, together with the curriculum material produced, was important in creating greater sensitivity to cultural and ethnic similarities and differences.
- c) **Dealing with Differences**, Scarborough Board of Education, is a Case Study Exercise for Teachers, in which school situations are replicated, with a view to isolating the alternatives which can be used to deal with racial/ethnic incidents.
- d) **A Cultural Enrichment Program**. Ahmed Ijaz demonstrates in his study, *You Can Change Your Children's Attitudes* through positive presentation of another culture with opportunities for participation in creating arts and crafts, dance etc... typical of that culture.
- e) **Exploring Likeness and Differences with Film**, Bette Hood, North Vancouver. This is a twelve week social studies program for grades 5 and 6, which utilizes films to present the everyday life of members of different ethnic groups. Facts can be gained, closed minds can be opened and a sensitivity to others could be developed through the exploration of likeness and differences.

### RECOMMENDATION

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