

RECOMMENDATION

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**PROMOTE HARMONIOUS RELATIONS
AMONG CANADA'S ETHNIC AND RACIAL
GROUPS**

The press and other media, like many other Canadian institutions, have not yet fully integrated into their working principles the decade-old government policy of multiculturalism. The concept of multiculturalism is contradicted regularly and flagrantly, if unintentionally, in the current practices and products of media institutions.

Exception: Since 1979, Radio-Québec has featured the program *Planète*, which presents interviews and documentaries on the historical, social, cultural and economic life of approximately 20 minority communities in Quebec. The program, produced in the language of the particular group and subtitled in French, permits an interchange with the wider community.

Update: It is time for the Government of Canada to update its communications policy, especially in respect of the broadcast media, to set a clear course for the communications industry.

National Unity: The Broadcasting Act of 1967-1968 required in clause 3(g)(iv) that the national broadcasting service should "contribute to the development of national unity and provide for a continuing expression of Canadian identity." At that time, however, it is likely that the concept of national unity almost entirely meant Anglo-French unity, and that Canadian identity may at best have encompassed Third Language communities. It is most unlikely that the visible minorities were interpreted to have a place in these concepts at the time.

RECOMMENDATION:

The Department of Communications, when drafting the proposed new Broadcasting Act mentioned in the recent Speech from the Throne, should explicitly charge the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation to contribute to the development of national unity by promoting harmonious relations among the ethnic and racial groups which make up Canada's population.