

Of course, the white Canadian frequently does not understand any of this background. He or she picks up on the mistrust and the fear which the immigrant communicates—and communicates it right back. There is no great mystery to this, it is human nature everywhere. It is the same in India as it is here.

For most of the time in Canada I have been an independent businessman, and this has required a great deal of adjustment on my part. There is quite a difference between the business environments and customs in Canada from those in India. This has been a long, difficult, and frequently painful schooling for me. I am successful now because I understand how Canadians think, and I present myself in a way that is acceptable. By this I don't mean that I wear checkered flannel shirts and drink beer. I certainly do not have a checkered flannel shirt! What I mean is that I learned to provide in my insurance business those things—dress, attitudes, habits—that customers want. My service suits their needs. The colour of my skin or their skin does not matter.

Many of my countrymen do not approach life in Canada from the standpoint of service. They are not observant of how the majority behaves, and they are not sensitive to the values and customs of the majority. A simple example is the matter of burping in public. This is considered rude by Canadians, and demands an apology on the part of the guilty party. In India it is not the custom to say "excuse me". Yet such a small thing can cause a misunderstanding. In India, if you want to get through a crowded place, you just push through without any kind of "excuse me". If you do that in Toronto, especially if you are an East Indian, you only add fuel to racism. There are hundreds of other small things like these.

"Canadians must learn more about these different newcomers in their midst, and the immigrants must learn about what is acceptable in Canadian society."

I think that education on both sides is the only answer. Canadians must learn more about these different newcomers in their midst—and the immigrants must learn about what is acceptable behaviour within Canadian society. Integration cannot happen without this kind of education.

We have our own organization NACO, a national association for Canadians whose origins are in India, and it does a very effective job in helping the two sides adjust to each other. I could name many activities, but perhaps a couple will suffice. In 1979, the organization was able to have a Revenue Canada ruling repealed which had previously disallowed deductions to those Indians who sent money back to their elderly dependants in India. NACO brought before the Parliament clear evidence from the Government of India that these financial contributions were crucial to the well-being of the people back home. Just recently the organization was

