

This report is one blueprint for the realization of the long-standing ideal that the circle of Canadian life should embrace all Canadians equally, an ideal first spelled out as formal government policy on October 8, 1971, when Prime Minister Trudeau tabled the government's response to Book IV of the report of the Royal Commission on Bilingualism and Biculturalism in the House of Commons.

We believe that cultural pluralism is the very essence of Canadian identity. Every ethnic group has the right to preserve and develop its own culture and values within the Canadian context. To say we have two official languages is not to say we have two official cultures, and no particular culture is more official than another. A policy of multiculturalism must be a policy for all Canadians.

Much of the evidence received by the Committee urged that this policy be put into effect for all Canadians, including visible minorities.

Institutions can unintentionally restrict the life chances of non-white individuals through a variety of seemingly neutral rules, regulations and procedures.



For the purpose of this report, visible minorities have been defined as non-whites who are not participating fully in Canadian society. The approximate non-white population of Canada is 1,864,000 or 7 per cent of the population. These figures include the aboriginal people, Canadians with origins in Africa, Arab countries, China, India, Pakistan, Japan, Korea, South East Asia, Latin America, the Pacific Islands, the West Indies and the Philippines. The Committee did hear from other groups of Canadians who are white, but are identifiable because of their name, language, mode of dress, or because historically they were victims. Their submissions are reflected in the recommendations of the Committee's final report.

It is generally perceived by Canadians that Canada has, when compared with other countries, an enviable record in the area of race relations. There are very few laws, or rules, in institutions that overtly deny equality of access to visible minority Canadians. Studies have