

RECOMMENDATION

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Considerations: At the same time, the Committee recognizes and wishes to highlight the potential drawback of relegating all issues related to multiculturalism to one department. In order to avoid the possible "ghettoization" syndrome which could result, care should be taken to ensure that the new department's mandate includes a clear designation as the "lead" ministry, responsible for the coordination of related policy issues emanating from other departments. To this end, a directive similar to the one currently identifying the Secretary of State as the minister responsible for coordinating all domestic federal human rights activities might be an appropriate model. Similarly, the Committee is also aware of the potential costs involved in creating a new ministry, but believes the infrastructure requirements can be minimized if existing funds are used to advantage.

RECOMMENDATION:

The Federal Government should immediately introduce in Parliament a Multiculturalism Act, creating a Ministry of Multiculturalism.

RECOMMENDATION

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ESTABLISH A STANDING COMMITTEE

Annual Report: In order to ensure the necessary parliamentary supervision of the Act, and consistent with the approach taken in the area of bilingualism, the House of Commons should establish a Standing Committee on Multiculturalism, to which the annual report of the Ministry would be referred.

RECOMMENDATION:

The House of Commons should amend Standing Order 69 (1) to establish a Standing Committee on Multiculturalism.

RECOMMENDATION

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STRENGTHEN THE MANDATE OF THE CANADIAN MULTICULTURAL COUNCIL

Reduction: Several of the briefs and submissions received by the Committee referred critically to the recent reduction in size and renaming of what was the Canadian Consultative Council on Multiculturalism. The Committee is inclined to agree that the original number was unwieldy but at the same time believes that the mandate of the new Canadian Multicultural Council (CMC) should be strengthened.

Closely: A strong Council provides an invaluable opportunity for visible minorities and other ethnic groups from the private sector to work closely with government in developing multicultural policy and identifying problems in other areas of public policy. The creation of such councils has been helpful in other multicultural, multiracial societies. It is also consistent with the federal government's stated desire to consult more closely with citizens in a variety of other policy areas through consultative bodies and councils.

