

## THE MAKING OF A MOSAIC

Most of Canada is built on very old rock. The Laurentian Shield—the basalt that underpins the forests and cups the lakes of Ontario, Quebec and Manitoba—has been in place for billions of years.

The people who live on the rock and on the rest of a very large land are new. Even the Indians, the Inuit and the Vikings came rather recently, and the process of joining

all the different immigrants into a country is very new indeed.

It is a popular, though recent, fancy to describe the combination as a mosaic, a harmonious picture with many ethnic hues. It is a pleasant concept but it has limitations. Some seventy-nine cultural groups, from Albanians to West Indians, coexist with ease; but the

mosaic was not put together with art, tiles and grout but by chance and sweat and often tears. It is always changing. New immigrants arrive every day, old neighbourhoods die, people move and the children of one group marry the children of others.

## January/Janvier 1983

## CANADA TODAY/D'AUJOURD'HUI

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