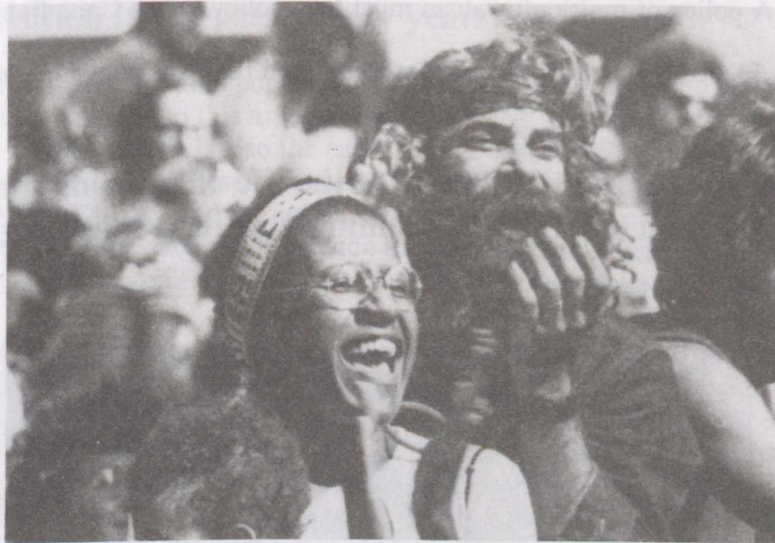


Canada will be the ultimate loser if we do not take advantage of the skills and abilities which visible minority Canadians have to offer.



Most visible minorities are not participating fully in Canadian society. Opportunities are being denied because visible minorities are frequently believed to be from a different culture and it is believed they will not "fit" the structures of public and private institutions in Canada. One need only look at the employment practices of police departments, fire departments, government services, universities, the media and private companies to see that visible minorities are consciously or unconsciously denied full participation in almost all Canadian institutions. Visible minorities are, in fact, the invisible members of our society. Canada will be the ultimate loser if we do not take advantage of the skills and abilities which visible minority Canadians have to offer.

The government must now consciously choose to remove all roadblocks preventing the full participation of all citizens in the cultural, social, economic, and political life of the country.

Canada stands on the threshold of a new era. In a country with a long history of innovation, accommodation and tolerance, the challenge of an increasingly multicultural and multiracial society is one which can and should be met head-on. In the same way that previous generations overcame the problems posed by regional and linguistic differences through the creation of a federal system of government and the adoption of an official policy of bilingualism, the government must now consciously choose a course of action which will ensure that there are no roadblocks preventing the full participation of all citizens in the cultural, social, economic and political life of the country. The Special Committee on the Participation of Visible Minorities in Canadian Society was charged by Parliament with the responsibility for charting this course for Canada's visible minorities.