



Canadian Multiculturalism Act

- 1971** Introduction of *Canada's Multiculturalism Policy* (Trudeau). This set the foundation for the Multiculturalism Act.
- 1988** Passage of the *Canadian Multiculturalism Act*

The *Canadian Multiculturalism Act* helps to preserve and promote multiculturalism in Canada. Some of its most important points are summarized below.

The Government of Canada will:

- a) Recognize and promote the understanding that **multiculturalism (cultural and racial diversity) describes Canadian society** and acknowledges the **freedom of all Canadians** to preserve, enhance and share their cultural heritage.
- b) Recognize and promote the understanding that multiculturalism is **an important characteristic of Canadian heritage and identity** and that it is important to Canada's future.
- c) Promote the equal **participation** of individuals and communities **of all cultural backgrounds in the shaping of Canadian society**.
- d) Recognize the **communities whose members share a common cultural background** and their historic contribution to Canadian society and help them develop.
- e) Make sure that **all individuals receive equal treatment and equal protection** under the law, while respecting and valuing their diversity.
- f) Encourage and help the social, cultural, economic and political institutions of Canada to be **respectful of Canada's multicultural character**.
- g) Promote the **understanding and creativity that come from** the individuals and communities of **different cultural backgrounds** (or origins) living together.



- h) Encourage the **recognition and appreciation of the different cultures** of Canadian society.
- i) Preserve and encourage the **use of languages other than English and French**, while strengthening the status and use of the official languages of Canada.
- j) **Promote multiculturalism** throughout Canada while following the national commitment to the official languages of Canada.

All federal departments and organizations will:

- a) Make sure that Canadians of all origins have an **equal opportunity for employment and advancement**.
- b) Promote policies, programs and practices that help **individuals and communities of all origins help develop Canada**.
- c) Promote policies, programs and practices that help people **understand and respect the diversity of Canadians**.
- d) **Collect statistics** to help the development of policies, programs and practices that reflect the multicultural reality of Canada.
- e) **Make use of the language skills and cultural understanding** of individuals of all origins.
- f) Generally work in a way that is **sensitive and responsive to multiculturalism in Canada**.

