***Multiculturalism Part of Canadian Reality***

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Canada is a multicultural country. Multiculturalism is the Canadian identity. Multiculturalism is a reality and a fact of Canadian society.

When one denies multiculturalism, one is denying the existence of the many cultures that make up the Canadian population.

Saskatchewan especially is a multicultural province as there is no majority ethnic group that is dominant in Saskatchewan. John Diefenbaker put it so aptly when he said that Canada is like a flower garden, with a variety of flowers that make this whole garden beautiful.

We ought to be proud of our multicultural identity. Other countries are looking at Canada’s multiculturalism as a model. Canada was the first country in the world to establish a Multiculturalism Act and a Multiculturalism Policy. Australia is now following Canada’s lead.

I asked some Canadian born high school students what they liked best about Canada. Their answer was, “We have so many friends from different countries in our school. It is fun and interesting to learn about their cultures.”

Just look around and you’ll see the influence of the various cultures in every facet of our lives, from the architecture, clothing, food, music, religion, language, health and much more.

Multiculturalism enhances and enriches the quality of life in society. People are the most important component in society. Prince Albert is truly a multicultural society. Do you know how many cultures make up Prince Albert? Think about it. The First Nations alone are multicultural. They have different languages, traditions, customs, dress and music. Take time to learn about them. It is not only interesting but informative.

Canada today is a peaceful country and we can keep it that way by reaching out to all people with understanding respect, appreciation and acceptance for who they are.

There is nothing wrong for people to be proud of their heritage. At the official opening ceremonies of the Olympic Games in Norway, the Norwegians proudly wore their traditional musical instruments and music and used their traditional mode of travel. It was spectacular.

We have the world in Canada, and can touch a person from another culture no matter where we live in our country.

Multiculturalism is an asset to Canada. We must nurture this fact if we want everlasting peace and harmony.