

**Excerpts from the
Canadian Multiculturalism Act
- passed July 21, 1988 -**

<http://laws.justice.gc.ca/en/C-18.7/text.html>

Preamble -

WHEREAS the Constitution of Canada provides that every individual is equal before and under the law and has the right to the equal protection and benefit of the law without discrimination and that everyone has the freedom of conscience, religion, thought, belief, opinion, expression, peaceful assembly and association and guarantees those rights and freedoms equally to male and female persons;

... AND WHEREAS the Government of Canada recognizes the diversity of Canadians as regards race, national or ethnic origin, colour and religion as a fundamental characteristic of Canadian society and is committed to a policy of multiculturalism designed to preserve and enhance the multicultural heritage of Canadians while working to achieve the equality of all Canadians in the economic, social, cultural and political life of Canada ...;

MULTICULTURALISM POLICY OF CANADA

- 1) It is hereby declared to be the policy of the Government of Canada to
 - (a) recognize and promote the understanding that multiculturalism reflects the cultural and racial diversity of Canadian society and acknowledges the freedom of all members of Canadian society to preserve, enhance and share their cultural heritage;
 - (b) recognize and promote the understanding that multiculturalism is a fundamental characteristic of the Canadian heritage and identity and that it provides an invaluable resource in the shaping of Canada's future;
 - (c) promote the full and equitable participation of individuals and communities of all origins in the continuing evolution and shaping of all aspects of Canadian society and assist them in the elimination of any barrier to that participation;
 - (d) recognize the existence of communities whose members share a common origin and their historic contribution to Canadian society, and enhance their development;
 - (e) ensure that all individuals receive equal treatment and equal protection under the law, while respecting and valuing their diversity;
 - (f) encourage and assist the social, cultural, economic and political institutions of Canada to be both respectful and inclusive of Canada's multicultural character;
 - (g) promote the understanding and creativity that arise from the interaction between individuals and communities of different origins;
 - (h) foster the recognition and appreciation of the diverse cultures of Canadian society and promote the reflection and the evolving expressions of those cultures;
 - (i) preserve and enhance the use of languages other than English and French, while strengthening the status and use of the official languages of Canada; and
 - (j) advance multiculturalism throughout Canada in harmony with the national commitment to the official languages of Canada.

- 2) It is further declared to be the policy of the Government of Canada that all federal institutions shall
- (a) ensure that Canadians of all origins have an equal opportunity to obtain employment and advancement in those institutions;
 - (b) promote policies, programs and practices that enhance the ability of individuals and communities of all origins to contribute to the continuing evolution of Canada;
 - (c) promote policies, programs and practices that enhance the understanding of and respect for the diversity of the members of Canadian society;
 - (d) collect statistical data in order to enable the development of policies, programs and practices that are sensitive and responsive to the multicultural reality of Canada;
 - (e) make use, as appropriate, of the language skills and cultural understanding of individuals of all origins; and
 - (f) generally, carry on their activities in a manner that is sensitive and responsive to the multicultural reality of Canada.
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At first, this document may seem difficult to read. To make it easier, look closely at the ***grammar structures***. There are just two main structures to watch for:

- Whereas the Constitution of Canada provides that every individual is equal before and under the law and has the right to the equal protection and benefit of the law without discrimination... → it is hereby declared that...
- It is hereby declared to be the policy of the Government of Canada to... → recognize and promote the understanding that multiculturalism reflects the cultural and racial diversity of Canadian society ...

Using that technique to unlock the meaning of the passage, what does it say in the 'Preamble' about

- the cultural rights of the citizens of Canada?
- the cultural identity of the citizens of Canada?

And, under the 'Policy' itself, what do you think is the most important goal mentioned in each of section (1), and section (2)?