

HANDOUT 4: Multiculturalism Quotes and Equality Rights

Discuss these quotes with your teacher. Consider the uniqueness of multiculturalism, its benefits and downfall. You will be using these quotes for the “Coffee Talk” activity.



Quote 1

“There cannot be one cultural policy for Canadian of British and French origin, another for the original peoples and yet a third for all others. For although there are two official languages, there is no official culture, nor does any ethnic group take precedence over any other. No citizen or group of citizens is other than Canadian, and all should be treated fairly...” (*Pierre Trudeau announcing the policy of multiculturalism in 1971*)

Quote 2

“Pluralism, the side-by-side existence of many forms of human association, is an essential quality of modern Canada. Official multiculturalism...was a bad idea in the beginning, and in time will probably be seen as one of the gigantic mistakes of recent public policy in Canada.” (*Robert Fulford, Globe & Mail*)

Quote 3

“Someone recently called me a ‘banana,’ yellow on the outside, white on the inside. I told him I’m Canadian on the outside and Canadian on the inside. I’m just one piece of the mosaic. In this country, we don’t all look alike.” — A second-generation Chinese-Canadian. (<http://newsinreview.cbclearning.ca/wp-content/uploads/2000/04/ujjal.pdf>)

Quote 4

“Canada is not a melting pot in which the individuality of each element is destroyed in order to produce a new and totally different element. It is rather a garden into which have been transplanted the hardiest and brightest flowers from many lands, each retaining in its new environment the best of the qualities for which it was loved and prized in its native land.” (*John Diefenbaker, Prime Minister of Canada, 1957-1963*)

Quote 5

“Every individual is equal before and under the law and has the right to the equal protection and equal benefit of the law without discrimination and, in particular, without discrimination based on race, national or ethnic origin, colour, religion, sex, age or mental or physical disability.” (*Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, Sec. 15 (1)*)