

**MULTICULTURALISM** in Canada is the sense of an **equal celebration** of racial, religious and cultural backgrounds. Multiculturalism policy was officially adopted by Pierre Trudeau's government during the 1970s and 1980s.

Canadian multiculturalism is fundamental to our belief that **all citizens are equal**. Multiculturalism ensures that all citizens can **keep their identities**, can **take pride in their ancestry** and have a **sense of belonging**. Acceptance gives Canadians a feeling of security and self-confidence, making them more open to, and accepting of, diverse cultures. The Canadian experience has shown that multiculturalism **encourages racial and ethnic harmony and cross-cultural understanding**, and discourages hatred, discrimination and violence.

A **MELTING POT** is a metaphor for a society where many different types of **people blend together as one**. America is often called a *melting pot*. Some countries are made of people who are almost all the same in terms of race, religion, and culture. Then there are places like the United States, where there are many different types of people. A place like that is a melting pot, because the people — despite their differences — **manage to coexist and live together as one nation**. Anywhere diverse people are assimilated could be called a melting pot. In a melting pot, **differences become less important than unity**.

### Cultural Mosaic vs. Melting Pot

- Canada prides itself at home and abroad as a country made up of a cultural mosaic rather than a cultural melting pot. The mosaic is based on our belief that Canada as a whole becomes stronger by having immigrants bring with them their cultural diversity for all Canadians to learn from. 
- The cultural melting pot, as adopted in the United States, tells immigrants that no matter who they have been in the past, upon landing on American shores, they are Americans and are expected to adopt and follow the American way.  (Pg. 72-73).

