



Multicultural Council of Saskatchewan

From Many Peoples Strength

Saskatchewan Multicultural Week

November 14-22, 2015

Building Welcoming Communities

Why Celebrate Saskatchewan Multicultural Week?

In 1974, Saskatchewan was the first province to enact multiculturalism legislation, recognizing the right of every community to retain its identity, language and traditional arts and sciences for the mutual benefit of citizens. In 1997, the Act was revised and a section of the Act states the policy should preserve, strengthen and promote Aboriginal cultures and acknowledge their historic and current contribution to development of Saskatchewan. More information is available on [The Saskatchewan Multiculturalism Act](#). Responsibility for the Act resides with the Ministry of Parks, Culture and Sport.

The Act states broadly the provincial multiculturalism policy and provides the Minister power to carry out the purposes of the Act. The Multicultural Council of Saskatchewan (MCoS) was founded on November 22, 1975 and has been instrumental in the development and promotion of these multicultural values, including the Saskatchewan motto *From Many Peoples Strength*. Saskatchewan Multicultural Week is celebrated each November the week that includes November 22nd.

Multicultural Values

MCoS has outlined four multicultural values that inform our work; they are supported by the Saskatchewan Multiculturalism Act (1997) and the Canadian Multiculturalism Act (1985).

Respect for Diversity

We recognize the multicultural diversity of the people of Saskatchewan. We believe in the strength of supporting cultural continuity and pride in one's cultural ancestries. We celebrate the sharing between cultures because culture is a two way street.

Recognition and Rejection of Racism

We recognize the negative impact of racism and discrimination. We promote the importance of all people in overcoming these issues to achieve equitable outcomes for all Saskatchewan residents.

Intercultural Connections

We actively support and encourage efforts to bring communities together in ways that will build relationships based on understanding and respect to foster capacity for problem solving and planning.

Integration

We support welcoming and inclusive communities that create a sense of home and belonging. We recognize the creativity and innovation that arise from bringing different cultural perspectives together and cultivating the unique contributions of all.

Turn over for action ideas...

Action Ideas for Multicultural Values

Respect for diversity

- Remember that there are many ways to do anything; diversity breeds creativity and innovation.
- Spend time with grandparents, relatives or community members. Honour their stories & experience.
- Learn about your own ethnic, cultural or religious heritage. Share it, so others understand you.
- Honor everyone's holidays. Participate in celebrations.
- Experience games, music, art, poetry, novels and food from many cultures. Learn their significance.
- Order your [2016 Multifaith Calendar](#). They make great gifts and prizes that promote multicultural values.

Recognition and rejection of racism

- Notice the workings of power & privilege in your community. Notice who is represented in places of power, media, occupations.
- Create or participate in opportunities for active dialogue to build equity and justice in our institutions and communities.
- Consider Peggy McIntosh's work on privilege:
<http://www.deanza.edu/faculty/lewisjulie/White%20Privilege%20Unpacking%20the%20Invisible%20Knapsack.pdf>
- Try some of the activities available through Regina Public Schools' ACT! (Anti-racism Cross-cultural Team development) program at <http://iss.rbe.sk.ca/act>
- High schools can join MCoS for our Arrêt/Stop Racism Youth Leadership Workshops in February.
FREE registration >>> Contact MCoS.

Intercultural connections

- Smile and say *hello*. Talk to people you don't know. Learn to say *hello* or *thanks* in another language.
- Ask questions with respect. Choose curiosity over certainty or judgement. Listen before you react.
- Notice when and where people feel safe. Create more occasions and spaces like this.
- Learn about differences by having a pen/email pal, reading, hosting a newcomer family, etc.
- Learn from new and uncomfortable situations. Go to a place in which you are the minority.
- Create opportunities to work and play together.
- Consider what your values are. Compare them to others.

Integration

- Nurture belonging. Cultivate empathy.
- Watch, listen & ask to learn what feels welcoming to each person. Catch yourself making assumptions.
- Invite someone with a different perspective to join a group you belong to. Work together to learn and make the group more welcoming to meaningful participation.
- Remember that we don't all need or want the same things to feel that we are treated equally.
- Know that no one is silent though many are not heard. Work to change this.
- Practice Saskatchewan's motto: *From Many Peoples Strength*

Each of us can play a role in continuing cultural traditions, celebrating diversity, recognizing and rejecting racism, building intercultural connections and supporting integration. Contact MCoS for ideas and support.



Multicultural Council of Saskatchewan
425 Albert Street North, Regina SK S4R 3C1
P: (306) 721-6267 | F: (306) 721-3342
E: mcos@mcos.ca | www.mcos.ca