

Ways to Welcome Saskatchewan Multicultural Week November 20-26, 2011

Why Celebrate Saskatchewan Multicultural Week?

In 1974, Saskatchewan became the first province to enact Multicultural legislation. We celebrate Saskatchewan Multicultural Week every year in November to commemorate this progressive act. We can be proud that it recognizes the right of every community to its identity, language, traditional arts and sciences for the benefit of all. We enhanced it with the revision in 1997 to preserve, strengthen and promote Aboriginal cultures and acknowledge their historic and current contribution to Saskatchewan. You can find the act at www.qp.gov.sk.ca/documents/English/Statutes/Statutes/M23-01.pdf. The Multicultural Council of Saskatchewan (MCoS) has been instrumental in the development and promotion of these multicultural values.

“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 1957-63



Youth Leadership Workshop

Friday, February 10, 2012

9:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Regina (Location TBA)

FREE! Register by January 12

The Multicultural Council of Saskatchewan (MCoS), with support and cooperation from the Ministry of Education and Saskatchewan Teachers of English as an Additional Language, is offering an opportunity for high school students to participate in an anti-racism leadership workshop. Students will engage with peers from throughout the province as they participate in activities to explore identity, intercultural relationships, power, privilege, racism and discrimination. They will learn to facilitate these activities for use in the local school and community. Lunch Included. Space is limited to a maximum of 15 students per group. This fills quickly - Register early!

What can I do?

1. Say Hello and smile. Talk to people you don't know.
2. Learn to say Hello or "thank you" in another language. Learn a language.
3. Think of no one as "them".
4. Learn about your own ethnic, cultural or religious heritage. Share it, so others understand you.
5. Play games from other cultures. Find out the origins of favourite board games.
6. Have a pen/email pal
7. Ask questions with respect. Choose curiosity over certainty.
8. Seek to understand. Listen before you react.
9. Catch yourself making assumptions. We all do it, so when we are aware of it, we can be open to real people.
10. Learn from new and uncomfortable angles. Go to a place in which you are the minority. Listen to music you don't understand. Dance to it. Imagine other cultures through their art, poetry and novels. Eat adventurously.
11. Notice the workings of power & privilege in your community. Notice who is represented in places of power, media, occupations.
12. Know that no one is silent though many are not heard. Work to change this.
13. Honor everyone's holidays.
14. Practice Saskatchewan's motto: *From Many Peoples Strength*



ACTIVITY: Create-a-Culture

Experience the feelings of being involved with people who are different, while developing cross-cultural education skills to foster positive relationships.

Divide into two or more groups. Each will "create a culture" in 5 minutes, with three characteristics of communication and ways of interacting for your group. Non-verbal as well as verbal can be used. Some examples for characteristics: the way you speak, your volume of speech, gestures, your body boundaries, your directness, your eye contact rules, your emotions, whether you touch people when speaking, asking questions, repeating yourself, the way you laugh or your public persona - serious, light-hearted.

Once your culture's characteristics are agreed upon, practice them as a group. "Act your culture" within your group. Bring groups together for interaction for 5 to 15 minutes.

Debriefing follows:

What did you see/hear?

How did it relate to cross-cultural communication and understanding each other?

What was your personal reaction to this experience?

How might you use this experience in other situations?

How do you deal with misunderstandings?

What did you learn from this?

How can you use this experience back at school?

For even more ideas, or more information, please contact the Multicultural Council of Saskatchewan at: 452 Albert Street North; Regina SK S4R 3C1; Phone: 721-6267; Fax: 721-3342

mcos@mcos.ca; www.mcos.ca

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Multicultural-Council-of-Saskatchewan/127515747302489>

Don't forget to order your **2012 Multifaith Calendar**. The theme for 2012 is *Heart and Soul*. Holiday Greeting Cards also available. Excellent gifts and prizes that promote multicultural values.

Watch for **Multicultural Education Initiative** grants available to schools every October.