

Saskatchewan Multicultural Week

November 16-24, 2013

Ways to Welcome

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 [The 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) has been instrumental in the development and promotion of these multicultural values.

Multicultural Values

Values are foundations of cultural world views and expressions. Our values are influenced by cultural norms, national beliefs, family traditions and individual inclinations. We express them in language, music, dance, art, food, clothing, humour, relationships and choices (see Culture as an Iceberg image).

MCoS has defined a set of Multicultural Values. When we practice these we are creating the foundation for relationships, schools, workplaces, and communities that reflect all of us. Planning and problem-solving at many levels can be effective and supported. These values are equal in the priority placed on them by the Council. You can put them into practice **during Multicultural Week and every day.**

Acceptance

- Remember that there are many ways to do anything and that diversity breeds creativity and innovation.
- Ask questions with respect. Choose curiosity over certainty or judgement.
- Catch yourself making assumptions. We all do it, so when we are aware of it, we can be open to real people.
- Learn about differences by having a pen/email pal, reading, hosting a newcomer family, etc.

Celebration of Diversity

- Honor everyone's holidays.
- Participate in celebrations.



- Play games from other cultures. Find out the origins of favourite board games.
- 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.

Equality

- Know that no one is silent though many are not heard. Work to change this.
- Use your voice to make room for more.
- Remember that we don't all need or want the same things to feel that we are treated equally.

Inclusion

- Think of no one as "them".
- Learn to say Hello or "thank you" in another language. Learn a language.
- Have a pen/email pal.
- Create opportunities to work and play together.
- Notice when and where people feel safe. Create more occasions and spaces like this.

Pride in one's cultural ancestries

- Spend time with grandparents, older relatives or community members. Honour their stories and experience.
- Learn about your own ethnic, cultural or religious heritage.
- Share it, so others understand you.

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 opportunities for active dialogue to build equity and justice in our institutions and communities.
- Consider Peggy McIntosh's work on privilege: <http://www.amptoons.com/blog/files/mcintosh.html>
- 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 >>> [2014 Arrêt/Stop Racism Youth Leadership Workshop Registration Form & Poster](#)**

Respect

- Seek to understand. Listen before you react.
- Consider what your values are. Compare them to others.
- Cultivate empathy.

Welcoming

- Say Hello and smile. Talk to people you don't know
- Watch, listen and ask to learn what feels welcoming to each person.
- Nurture belonging.
- Practice Saskatchewan's motto: *From Many Peoples Strength*



Announcements:

1. For more ideas, or more information, please visit www.mcos.ca.
2. Order your [2013 Multifaith Calendar](#). They make great gifts and prizes that promote multicultural values.
3. [Multicultural Education Initiative](#) grant applications due by October 25th.