



Multicultural  
Council of  
Saskatchewan

*From Many Peoples Strength*

## Saskatchewan Multicultural Week

November 19-27, 2022

***Building Equitable and Inclusive Schools***

### 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. The Act, revised in 1997 states the policy should preserve, strengthen and promote Indigenous cultures and acknowledge their historic and current contribution to the 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) founded on November 22, 1975, 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 during the week that includes November 22.

MCoS has outlined four [multicultural values](#). They are rooted in the provincial motto and the treaty relationships that define our province. The Saskatchewan Multiculturalism Act (1997) and the [Canadian Multiculturalism Act](#) (1985) support these values. They inform our [five streams of multicultural work](#).

### Saskatchewan Multicultural Week Campaign



**TOGETHER WE MAKE SASKATCHEWAN STRONG.**

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Saskatchewan Multicultural Week promotes the advantages of multiculturalism. “Together We Make Saskatchewan Strong” expresses the contributions of many individuals and groups that enrich Saskatchewan communities. Intentional, consistent education and dialogue transform thoughts, feelings, and actions.

Let’s Talk, Listen, And Act to Make #SKStrong #TogetherWeMakeSaskatchewanStrong  
<https://mcos.ca/events/sask-multicultural-week/skstrong/>

## Join the conversation and help us spread the word!

Throughout Multicultural Week we hope to see the message of multiculturalism, strength, and diversity spread far and wide, so we're encouraging you to join us in sharing on social media. Create your own message about the importance of multiculturalism or about what you feel makes #SKStrong or share one of our posts from November 19<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup>, 2022 to be entered to win a beautiful 2023 multifaith calendar!

Be sure to tag us in your post or share and also use the hashtag #SKStrong to have your entry counted! Please note that we're only able to see posts, hashtags and shares from public accounts but if you've created a post or shared one of ours throughout Multicultural Week and wish to be entered, please just message us a screenshot of your post. A draw will take place on November 28<sup>th</sup> and the winner will be contacted via social media.

Share your voice and engage in meaningful conversations that focus on our diversity, collective strength, and contributions, as well as our challenges, because respectful relationships and addressing social justice issues are essential for everyone to be valued for all our identities.

### Take Action on Diversity, Inclusion, Equity, & Integration

Many people are talking about equity, diversity and inclusion. The definitions, explanations, questions and links below are intended to support your conversations and exploration of these concepts. Share your examples of integration in Saskatchewan schools. MCoS offers [education](#) to support your journey. MCoS also offers small grants to schools due October 30 annually [Multicultural Education Initiative Funding](#)

**Diversity** is about recognizing differences. Human diversity encompasses individual and community identities including experiences, abilities, gender, age, perceived race, ethnicity, cultural background, sexual orientation, faith/spirituality etc. Does your school reflect community diversity? At which levels? [Mimi-Language Lessons](#), [Creating deeper learning](#)

**Inclusion** is a qualitative experience of differences. Inclusive spaces are welcoming; respectful relationships create a sense of belonging and value. Are individuals from all identities able to bring their authentic selves to your school and thrive there? [Inclusion Saskatchewan](#), [OTC](#)

**Equity** is about fairness. It requires recognizing historical legacies and current realities experienced by marginalized communities due to systems of supremacy, power, and privilege. Not everyone starts from the same place. Where **equality** offers the same opportunities or resources regardless of circumstances, **equity** intentionally addresses inequalities. How is your school examining policies and processes? What resources are you creating to remove barriers and foster equity? [Inclusion, Diversity and Human Rights](#), [Sasksafe](#), [Creating deeper learning](#)

**Integration**, in contrast to assimilation, is achieved when all members of a community are reflected, are seen and see themselves as belonging to all aspects of their identities, are valued for their contributions, and can appropriately access services. Integration can begin when we have examined and changed power relationships so that the organization reflects the community, people feel a sense of belonging in all their identities, and we are all able to contribute to decisions and shape the future of the organization. This allows new or previously excluded or unconsidered ways of doing things can become part of the "new normal". How do you ensure leadership reflects community diversity so decisions serve all members equitably? How can you reflect the names and stories of people from many cultures (curriculum, resources, speakers, school name/team/mascot)? [Welcoming & Inclusive Communities Toolkit](#), [Inspiring Success](#)

### Multicultural Council of Saskatchewan



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