

BILL

No.39 of 1997

An Act to promote and preserve Multiculturalism

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(Assented to _____, 1997)

HER MAJESTY, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan, enacts as follows:

Short title

1. This Act may be cited as *The Multiculturalism Act*.

Interpretation

2. In this Act:

- (a) “minister” means the member of the executive council to whom for the time being the administration of this Act is assigned;
- (b) “multiculturalism **policy**” means the government policy set out in section 4.

Purposes

3. The following are the purposes of this Act:

- (a) to recognize that the diversity of Saskatchewan people with respect to race, cultural heritage, religion, ethnicity, ancestry and place of origin is a fundamental characteristic of Saskatchewan society that enriches the lives of all Saskatchewan people;
- (b) to encourage respect for the multicultural heritage of Saskatchewan;
- (b) to foster a climate for harmonious relations among people of diverse cultural and ethnic backgrounds without sacrificing their distinctive cultural and ethnic identities;
- (d) to encourage the continuation of a multicultural society.

Multiculturalism policy

4. It is the policy of the Government of Saskatchewan to:

- (a) support the continued development and expression of all cultures within the framework of democratic principles and the laws of Canada;

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- (b) preserve, strengthen and promote Aboriginal cultures and acknowledge their historical and continued contribution to the development of Saskatchewan;
- (c) preserve, strengthen and promote all cultures and acknowledge the role of ethnic communities in building Saskatchewan and shaping its future;
- (d) promote the full, free and equal participation of all individuals in Saskatchewan society;
- (e) act in partnership with community groups and organizations to encourage and enhance co-operation and understanding among cultures;
- (f) promote the official languages of Canada and recognize the many different languages spoken in Saskatchewan;
- (g) promote awareness and understanding of the social, cultural and economic benefits of continuing immigration to Saskatchewan;
- (h) facilitate the settlement of immigrants in Saskatchewan and their adaptation to and integration into Saskatchewan society;
- (i) promote policies, programs and practices that enhance intercultural understanding and respect for the diversity of Saskatchewan people;
- (j) generally, administer services and programs of the Government of Saskatchewan in a manner that is sensitive and responsive to a multicultural society.

Ministerial powers

5. To carry out the purposes of this Act, the minister may:

- (a) review provincial legislation, policies and programs to determine if they reflect the multiculturalism policy;
- (b) monitor the efforts of departments, agencies and Crown corporations of the Government of Saskatchewan in performing their services and developing programs in accordance with the multiculturalism policy;
- (c) collect data, conduct research, and request or prepare and publish reports to support the development of multicultural initiatives;
- (d) work with community groups and organizations to promote multiculturalism throughout Saskatchewan;
- (e) advise the Government of Saskatchewan on issues, policies and programs respecting multiculturalism;
- (f) carry out any other activities relating to multiculturalism that the minister or the Lieutenant Governor in Council considers necessary or desirable.

R.S.S. 1978, c.S-31 repealed

6. *The Saskatchewan Multicultural Act* is repealed.

Coming into force

7. This Act comes into force on assent.