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Ottawa Journal: celebrating Canadian Multiculturalism Day

Canada is known around the world as a diverse and welcoming society that guarantees the fundamental rights of every individual. Indeed, Canada is one of the most ethnically, culturally, and religiously diverse nations in the world. Every day, Canadians of different origins live and work side-by-side, contributing to Canada's legacy of peaceful pluralism and social cohesion. Multiculturalism is a fundamental characteristic of the Canadian heritage and it recognizes the cultural heritage and potential of every individual. Our diversity is truly one of our nation's greatest strengths. The many cultural heritages, ethnic origins, and religious affiliations of Canadians provide us with a greater cross-cultural understanding and enhance our worldview. On June 27th, we celebrate Canadian Multiculturalism Day. Officially established in 2002, Canadian Multiculturalism Day has been celebrated in Canada on the 27th of June since 2003. On this day, we celebrate the incredible diversity that has so enriched the Canadian experience and the contributions that people from all backgrounds have made in shaping our nation. Truly, Canada is a nation of immigrants. For more than 400 years, men and women have come in search of new opportunity and a better life. These newcomers have brought to Canada valuable skills and they have helped build our nation. A nation that is strong and free. To safeguard our peaceful pluralism that is the envy of so many nations, we must remember the shared values that unite us as Canadians. Canada's future depends on our continued unity. So, on this Canadian Multiculturalism Day and every day, we renew our commitment to our shared Canadian values of equality, freedom, democracy and the rule of law. This Canadian Multiculturalism Day, our Government encourages all Canadians to take a moment to reflect on our rich national multicultural heritage and to participate in activities celebrating the wealth of Canada's diversity.

By David Tilson, M.P.