Editorials

Guest Editorial.

We encountered the following in the January 1995 issue of Chakra Lata, a publication of Calgary’s India Canada Association:

In a slightly different form, it appeared in the Globe and Mail in 1994.

The opinions or doubts expressed by Mr. Neil Bissoondath and others have become in reality the tool for others to promote divisiveness amongst Canadians. Their intellectual doubts have become the tool to lash and bash at Canadian Multiculturalism. In fact, the Multiculturalism of Canada is very keenly sought by other countries, like Sweden and Germany, as a response to their own problems. Multiculturalism will make Canada more habitable and comfortable for persons like Mr. Bissoondath.

The Department of Multiculturalism has stopped supporting or subsidizing ethnic festivals for a very, very long time. It works primarily to improve race relations amongst Canadians. The studies and projects that were conducted under multiculturalism helped many immigrants to understand and integrate into the pluralistic Canadian society. The latest studies have shown that Canada reaps an economic benefit from its immigrant population ("Study debunks immigrant myth," The Globe and Mail, Wednesday, July 13, 1994). First and second generation ethnic Canadians helped in the integration of their families into Canadian society. Recognition of the services of these people is a positive step.

Canada has more than 35% ethnic population. Most of them pay taxes, work hard and contribute to the well-being of Canada. The investment of less than one dollar per person to help them integrate into Canadian society is a paltry expenditure and a good investment. A fresh look at ethnic groups will make us realize that they need greater support than just $25.5 million (in 1993-94). A greater investment in the minorities will help to build a strong Canada. Canadians do not want any racial tensions based on false perceptions and the fear of diversity created by a negligible few.

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