

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.

Dr. I.S.S. Lakshminarayana
President, National Indo-Canadian Council

AGM Recap

The Society's Annual General Meeting took place on November 11 and 12 in Toronto, and I was able to attend. This is not a formal report on the meeting, as that will be forthcoming from the President next issue. As well, any member is entitled to receive a copy of the minutes on request from the Secretary (Paula Conlon, 1123 Secord, Ottawa, Ontario K1H 8C9). I'm just going to touch lightly on matters affecting the *Bulletin*. Of which there were happily few. The *Bulletin* enters 1996 without budget cuts in the offing (surprising enough, these days!) and without radical changes in editorial direction—we have a mandate to continue on our current path as finances permit. However, we do have to keep a close eye on those finances; the *Bulletin* ended in the black for the fiscal year 1994-95, but just barely. Without some generous donations and some large single-issue purchases, the story would have been different. (Now that the CSTM/SCTM has regained its charitable status, we hope our readers will remember the Society come income tax time!)

The Society's executive also has undergone little change. Judith Cohen is continuing as President for another year, George Lyon remains as one of our Vice-Presidents; Monique Desroches was unable to serve again due to completion of her third term, and is replaced by Claudette Berthiaume-Zavada as the other Vice-President. Gordon Smith carries on as Treasurer and Paula Conlon as Secretary. There were a few changes to the Board of Directors; a complete listing will be published next issue, as we've been unable to verify addresses, &c., by press time.

(Not unconnected with the foregoing is a notice of motion

for next year's AGM to repeal s. 17 of the Constitution, the one limiting the number of years a person can hold an office.)

One important *Bulletin* matter arising from the session is that we once more have an editor responsible for French Canada. Donald Deschênes has offered to resume the job which he found it necessary to give up in 1987. We are pleased that in future the French-speaking cultures of our country will be represented more fully than George and I have been able to do from Calgary. Donald is Director of the *Centre franco-ontarien de folklore* in Sudbury, Ontario, and has been a regular *Bulletin* contributor over the years. It's good to be able to welcome him back aboard. As well, we once more have a volunteer to help out with translations and résumés, as Sylvie Genest from Université d'Ottawa has responded to our cry for help last issue. (But we hope other volunteers will step forward to help share the load with Sylvie.) So 1996 promises more adequate representation in these pages for our concitoyens francophones. (Bien sûr, une version française de cet éditorial paraîtra dans le prochain numéro.)

Through special circumstances, next year's AGM will also be held in Toronto (see the flyer accompanying this issue), then we'll resume moving around the country once more. For me, it was worth making the effort to attend. Making new friends and renewing old friendships is always an important part of these weekends, in addition to the organized goings-on. My hope is that, despite the meetings being held two years in a row in the same region of the country, members from elsewhere will find ways to get to Toronto in 1996. [JLI]