

**CANADIAN MULTICULTURALISM: Backgrounder**

*In 1971, Canada became the first country in the world to adopt a Multiculturalism Policy. Canada’s diversity has evolved over the years and is embedded within a broad policy and legislative framework.*

**National**

1947 Passage of the first ever Canadian Citizenship Act

1960 Passage of the Canadian Bill of Rights

1963 Establishment of the Royal Commission of Bilingualism and Biculturalism

1969 Book IV of the Bilingualism and Biculturalism Commission Report emphasizes the bilingual and multicultural nature of Canada

1969 Introduction of the Official Languages Act

1971 Introduction of Canada’s Multiculturalism Policy

1977 Passage of the Canadian Human Rights Act.

1982 Adoption of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms

1984 Special Parliamentary Committee Report, *Equality Now*, calls for a Multiculturalism Act and establishment of a national research institute on multiculturalism and race relations issues

1986 Passage of the Employment Equity Act

1988 Passage of the Canadian Multiculturalism Act

1995 Federal Government declares February as National Black History Month in Canada

1996 Government establishes the Canadian Race Relations Foundation

1997 Renewed Multiculturalism Program announced

**International**

1948 The International Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide

1948 The Universal declaration of Human Rights

1958 The International convention on Discrimination in Respect of Employment & Occupation

1965 The International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (Canadian Ratification in 1969)

1966 The International Covenant on Economic, Social & Cultural Rights (Canadian Ratification-1976)

1966 The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Canadian Ratification-1976)

2016 The International Rights for Indigenous People Dec. 2007 (Canadian Ratification May 10, 2016