

QP Note (Arial 14)	
ISSUE: Multiculturalism Program Storyline	
PROPOSED RESPONSE: <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Diversity is one of Canada's greatest strengths – the contributions of Canadians and newcomers of all religions, ethnicities and cultures have made Canada the country that it is today.● Canada recognizes the potential of all Canadians, and helps to foster their social, cultural, and economic integration into Canadian society.● The Multiculturalism Program has new policy objectives which seek to build an integrated, socially-cohesive society, to better assist public institutions to be responsive to our diverse population, and to actively engage in discussions on diversity at the international level.● The Program uses a number of instruments to implement its objectives, including grants and contributions, public education initiatives, partnerships with other levels of government and public institutions, and engaging national and international organizations on issues related to diversity and integration.	
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BACKGROUND:

- The Multiculturalism Program derives its mandate from the *Canadian Multiculturalism Act* of 1988, which embeds and reaffirms the 1971 Multiculturalism Policy of Canada.
- The Multiculturalism Policy and the *Canadian Multiculturalism Act* have proven flexible enough to accommodate policy and program changes over time. However, Canadian society has become more diverse since the 1970s, largely due to shifts in immigration patterns.
- The 2006 Census revealed that Canada is home to people from over 200 ethnic origins, with visible minorities accounting for 16.2% of Canada's total population, up from 11.2% in 1996. Religious diversity has also increased, from 1.5% of Canadians adhering to non-Christian faiths in 1981 to an estimated 7.5% in 2006.
- As a result, Canada is facing challenges and opportunities related to maintaining a well-integrated diverse society as the country undergoes significant growth in cultural and religious diversity.
- In order to respond to these challenges, in 2009 the Department of Citizenship and Immigration Canada was granted the authority to implement new policy objectives for the Multiculturalism Program. The new objectives are to:
 - build an integrated, socially-cohesive society by fostering intercultural understanding, citizenship, civic memory and pride, respect for core democratic values, and by promoting equality of opportunity;
 - improve institutional responsiveness to the needs of a diverse population; and
 - actively engage in discussion on multiculturalism and diversity at the international level.
- The Multiculturalism Program has various tools which help to support these objectives.
- One tool is grants and contributions. Inter-Action, the new Multiculturalism Grants and Contributions Program has a budget of \$10.9M per year and two streams: Projects and Events. The Projects stream provides funding for long term, multi-year projects that support integration. In response to a recent Call for Proposal for the Projects stream, 751 applications for funding were received. The Events stream provides funding for community events that foster intercultural understanding, civic memory and pride, and respect for core democratic values. To date, since the launch of the Events Stream, more than 180 applications have been received and 25 community events have received \$261,167 of funding.

Number of approved projects by region for 2006-2010

Region*	2005-2006** # Approved Applications	2006-2007 # Approved Applications	2007-2008 # Approved Applications	2008-2009 # Approved Applications	2009-2010 # Approved Applications	2010-2011 # Approved Applications
PCH Western	23	20	12	9		
PCH Prairies & Northern	6	3	2	0		
PCH Ontario	17	18	9	9		
PCH Quebec	48	34	10	8		
PCH Atlantic	24	28	18	6		
PCH NHQ	16	10	2	3		
Subtotal	134	113	53	35		
CIC BC & Yukon					5	5
CIC Prairies & Northern Territories					7	12
CIC Ontario					12	13
CIC Quebec					3	4
CIC Atlantic					1	2
PCH NHQ					3	11
Subtotal					31	47
Grand Total	413					

Notes:

** When Multiculturalism joined CIC, the regional configuration changed. Alberta joined PNR.

** Five projects from 2003/4 to 2004/5 are included in the total for 2005/6 because they were approved in that fiscal year.

MULTICULTURALISM PROGRAM - Details of Grants and Contributions

FISCAL YEAR	Year-end authorities	Actual Spending	Spending as % of year end authorities	Unused Funding (Lapse)
1999-00	12,923,856	12,913,787	99.9%	10,069
2000-01	7,381,921	6,525,141	88.4%	856,780
2001-02	7,551,768	7,451,281	98.7%	100,487
2002-03	7,201,500	7,200,158	99.9%	1,342
2003-04	11,291,755	11,208,955	99.3%	82,800
2004-05	12,413,047	12,356,212	99.5%	56,835
2005-06	10,771,573	10,492,122	97.4%	279,451
2006-07	10,111,061	9,255,864	91.5%	855,197
2007-08	8,226,701	7,121,785	86.6%	1,104,916
2008-09	11,053,368	4,147,619	37.5%	6,905,749
2009-10*	11,667,999	4,205,565	36.0%	7,462,434
2010-11* (as of P9)	10,840,766	7,627,569	70.4%	3,513,197

*Does not include the funding provided to ITF under separate Ts&Cs.

Source:

1999-00 to 2008-09: Public Accounts – Canadian Heritage

2009-10: Public Accounts – CIC

2010-11: Supplementary Estimates – CIC and SAP

Note: Detailed information on authorities and spending for 2005-05 through 2008-09 is not available to CIC (as the program was with PCH)

- In addition, the Historical Recognition Program provides funding for initiatives to recognize the impact on affected communities of historical war-time measures such as internment, and restrictive immigration measures such as the imposition of the Chinese Head Tax.
- The Community Historical Recognition Program has a grants and contributions budget of \$25 million over the four- year life of the Program. In addition, \$5 million is available under the National Historical Recognition Program to fund projects with federal institutions. Both programs will sunset at the end of the 2011-2012 fiscal year.
- Public education programs such as the Mathieu da Costa Challenge, March 21 *Racism. Stop It!* National Video Campaign, Black History Month, Asian Heritage Month, and the Paul Yuzyk Award also support the Multiculturalism Program's objectives.
- The Multiculturalism Program also has partnerships with other levels of government through the Federal-Provincial-Territorial Multiculturalism Network. It also promotes Canada's approach to diversity, racism, anti-Semitism, and other forms of discrimination by engaging national and international organizations such as the Canadian Race Relations Foundation (CRRF), the United Nations, the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), and Task force for International Cooperation on Holocaust Education, Remembrance, and Research (ITF).

MULTICULTURALISM PROGRAM - Details of Grants and Contributions

FISCAL YEAR	Actual Spending
2005-06	10,492,122
2006-07	9,255,864
2007-08	7,121,785
2008-09	4,147,619
2009-10**	4,205,565
2010-11** (as of P-9)	7,627,569

** Does not include the funding provided to ITF under separate Ts&Cs.