

Multiculturalism

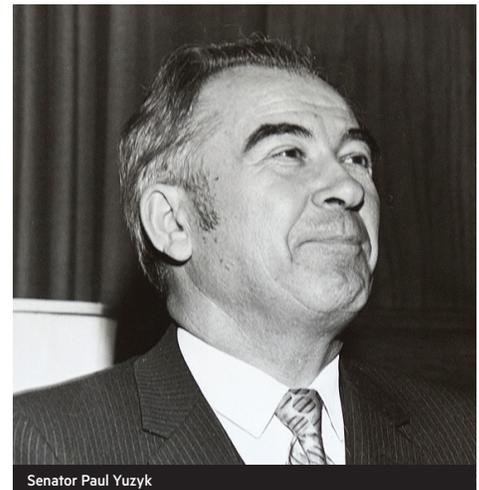
TEACHER GUIDE

Canada is recognized around the world for its multiculturalism policy, which encourages and supports diversity, but this was not always the case. Canadian Press reporter Joanna Smith tells the story of Paul Yuzyk, a schoolteacher of Ukrainian descent who was rejected 77 times because no one wanted a “foreigner” teaching their children, even though he had been born and raised in Saskatchewan.

Years later, as a Progressive Conservative senator for Manitoba, Yuzyk spoke passionately about multiculturalism as he challenged the idea that Canada was shaped by the British and the French. Throughout the 1960s, Ukrainian-Canadians and other ethnic groups campaigned to have their cultures considered part of the Canadian mosaic, leading prime minister Pierre Trudeau to declare in 1971 that while Canada has two official languages, no one culture belonging to its people can be placed above another.

Additional discussion/research points:

- This article includes eight stories about Canadians who immigrated here from around the world. Pick one and learn more about their country of origin and its culture.
- Sen. Yuzyk faced discrimination in his early career as a schoolteacher because of where his family came from. Have you or your family ever experienced prejudice because of your cultural background?
- Research a prominent Canadian (current or historical) who immigrated here from somewhere else in the world.
- Why do you think Indigenous Peoples, who were here long before the British and French settlers arrived, do not like to be considered one of the many cultural groups in Canada?
- Ask a family member, friend or classmate to share their immigration story. Why did they or their family come to Canada? What challenges did they face when they arrived? What do they think about being Canadian now?
- Racial discrimination, prejudice and inequality still exist in Canada today. What are some recent examples from where you live? What could you do to improve the situation?
- What are some things you could do to help a newcomer feel welcome in Canada?



Senator Paul Yuzyk



Family of Paul Yuzyk

