Celebrating Canada's Diversity

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Showcasing the strength and vitality of Canadian linguistic and multicultural diversity.

Again this year, CBC/Radio-Canada contributed to the dialogue between Canadians by offering a window on the lives, concerns, traditions, and creative endeavours of the many different linguistic, ethnic and religious communities that make up contemporary Canada. For example:

CBC Television's *Human Cargo* was a powerful dramatic mini-series that looked at the world of refugees and the people who help or hinder them. *CBC.ca* offered a complementary and extensive website featuring the real life stories of refugees, and lunchtime seminars were organised in 350 communities across Canada.

Télévision de Radio-Canada presented *Le Territoire de l'autre*, 20 portraits of immigrants living across Canada.

In conjunction with CBC Television's premiere of *Cowboys and Indians: The Shooting of J.J. Harper*, CBC Newsworld hosted and broadcast *Crisis Point – Aboriginals and the Law: Justice for All?*, a national forum examining the fractured relationship between Aboriginals and the justice system, and those trying to heal it.

CBC Television presented the 10th annual *National Aboriginal Achievement Awards* which honoured 14 of Canada's most outstanding Aboriginal role models. In honour of National Aboriginal Day, the network also broadcast three half-hour episodes of *Stories of the Seventh Fire* in Cree and English.

Télévision de Radio-Canada presented *L'Acadie sans frontières*, a 14-part series retracing 50 years of Acadian history. Our Radio-Canada services teamed up with CBC Radio and CBC Television on programming related to the 400th Acadian anniversary celebrations.

CBC Television's *The Canadian Experience* was a six-part in-house documentary series that explored who Canadians are as a nation and people. Beginning with *The Queen and Her Skipper* (about the Bluenose), the series examined Canada's contribution to the underground railway, the 1922 making of *Nanook of the North* (the first non-fiction film ever made), Expo '67, and Susanna Moodie and Catharine Parr Traill.

CBC Television presented *Cosmic Current*, an intimate portrait of a unique East Indian family in LaRonge, Saskatchewan.

In *Retour d'un exilé en Afghanistan*, Télévision de Radio-Canada presented the story of a Quebecker of Afghan origin who returned to his native Kabul after 14 years in Canada.

Culture Shock/Culture-choc, on CBC Television and Télévision de Radio-Canada, is a window on Canada's multiculturalism as seen by young bilingual video journalists who travel across the country and share their experiences.

Télévision de Radio-Canada and CBC Television reflected Canada's ethnic diversity in highly popular dramatic series such as *Watatatow*, *Virginie*, *L'Auberge du chien noir*, *Jinnah on Crime*, and *Da Vinci's Inquest*.

CBC Newsworld and *CBC News: Canada Now* examined the clash between immigrant parents and their children, born and raised in a new country in *Caught Between Cultures*. On CBC Newsworld, *Discordia* examined the controversy erupting at Concordia University during former Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's visit.

Télévision de Radio-Canada's *Second regard*, which examines the diverse religious experience of Canadians, presented stories about the lives of Pope John Paul II and Mother Teresa, Jehovah Witness followers in Québec, and Montréal Jewish youth who have re-located to Israel.

Following on the success of the original *Inuit Legends*, CBC North Radio produced and broadcast a second set of five Radio dramatisations of traditional Inuit legends.

CBC Radio Winnipeg and *CBC Radio 3* jointly presented *Original Citizens* on the social changes encountered by Aboriginal people moving to Winnipeg, starting 50 years ago.

By actively participating in Francophone music festivals across Canada and through such programs as *Bachibouzouk*, *Macadam tribus* and *Des airs de toi*, Radio de Radio-Canada highlighted Francophone music from across Canada and around the world.

During Black History Month, CBC Radio One and CBC Radio Two presented special programming such as stories, music, poetry, drama, and conversations with African-Canadian artists, on various programs.

CBC Radio One again presented *Outfront*, a program dedicated to the first-person stories of diverse freelancers from across the country. In honour of reaching the milestone of 1,000 episodes, *Outfront* invited the people of Toronto's Regent Park – Canada's oldest and largest social housing project – to tell their stories.

CBC Radio One's *Metro Morning* became the top-rated morning show in Toronto, a testament to its success in creating an ethnically diverse and multi-perspective program reflective of Toronto's multicultural population.

The international award-winning *Global Village*, a weekly Radio and Internet-based program of audio postcards and music from around the world, is available to Canadians via CBC Radio One and *CBC.ca*, and to the world via RCI.

On the Internet, *bandeapart.fm* continued to promote and broadcast multicultural music ranging from hip-hop to rock, while *rootsmusiccanada.com* treated listeners to a wide range of Aboriginal and world music.

Through CBC North, communities scattered across Canada's vast North can connect to one another and the rest of Canada. We broadcast in English, French and eight Aboriginal languages across the territories and to Northern Québec and Labrador. In the Northwest Territories, we present regional news and current affairs in English, Dogrib, Chipewyan, North Slavey, South Slavey, Gwich'in and Inuvialuktun. In Nunavut, we offer bilingual programming in Inuktitut and English.

Télévision de Radio-Canada is the only French-language broadcaster operating outside the core Francophone markets of Québec, Eastern Ontario and New Brunswick. As such it is the only source of French-language regional

television news in the Atlantic Region, Ontario
and Western Canada. Where Francophones are
in the minority, the network meets a particularly
pressing need for high-quality French-language
programming for younger Canadians.