

Minister's Message



It is a pleasure to present the annual Report on Multiculturalism: Government of British Columbia (2013–2014). For 20 years, each government ministry and corporation has submitted a report to

the Minister Responsible for Multiculturalism that highlights initiatives designed to foster and sustain an internal culture of inclusion throughout the B.C. government and beyond, and ensures that public services are accessible to all British Columbians.

One of B.C.'s greatest strengths is the diversity of the people who call this province home. British Columbia is the most ethnically diverse province in Canada and welcomes nearly 40,000 new immigrants every year.

The Report on Multiculturalism outlines government's commitment to diversify the B.C. Public Service so that it's inclusive of all British Columbians. It also provides many examples of the excellent work being done across government to promote multiculturalism and engender a culture of acceptance, understanding and mutual respect.

Within this report are examples of commitments to both the goals of the Multiculturalism Act — to recognize that diversity enriches the lives of all of us — and the goal of putting families and communities first. Commitments include: attracting, developing and retaining a workforce in the public service that reflects British Columbia's cultural diversity; and, in recognizing B.C.'s expanding diversity, government agencies are increasingly providing translated materials to the public in multiple languages in addition to English.

Many events were held over the course of the year to understand multicultural issues. For example, nearly 250 members of the multicultural community participated in a series of five community engagement meetings that were held with the focus on diversity and inclusion and, in February, Bullying Awareness Day was celebrated on the steps of the legislature by students who have a passion for the arts — with a flash mob and slam poetry.

Our role in government is to create an environment in British Columbia where an inclusive and diverse population supports our shared communities. Multiculturalism is an asset that helps our economy grow and promotes prosperity.

I would like to acknowledge the Multicultural Advisory Council for the hard work they have done this year and thank them for their valuable efforts and contributions to multiculturalism in B.C. over the past 26 years.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Teresa Wat". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Honourable Teresa Wat
Minister

Ministry of International Trade
and Ministry Responsible for Asia Pacific Strategy
and Multiculturalism