

*Uniformity is neither desirable nor possible in a country the size of Canada. We should not even be able to agree upon the kind of Canadian to choose as a model, let alone persuade most people to emulate it. There are few policies potentially more disastrous for Canada than to tell all Canadians that they must be alike. There is no such thing as a model or ideal Canadian. What could be more absurd than the concept of an "all-Canadian" boy or girl? A society which emphasizes uniformity is one which creates intolerance and hate. A society which eulogizes the average citizen is one which breeds mediocrity. What the world should be seeking, and what in Canada we must continue to cherish, are not concepts of uniformity but human values: compassion, love, and understanding.*

*~ Pierre Elliott Trudeau, Remarks at the Ukrainian-Canadian Congress, October 9, 1971.*

*National unity, if it is to mean anything in the deeply personal sense must be founded on confidence in one's own individual identity; out of this can grow respect for that of others and a willingness to share ideas, attitudes, and assumptions. A vigorous policy of multiculturalism will create this initial confidence. It can form the basis of a society which is founded on fair play for all.*

*~ Pierre Elliott Trudeau, in the House of Commons, October 8, 1971*



As cited in *The Essential Trudeau*, ed. Ron Graham, McClelland and Stewart, 1998.