

## What Diversity in Canada Means to Me

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Canada's population has a tremendous amount of cultural diversity, along with an increasing acceptance of race and gender equality. Anywhere in Canada I can see – no I *expect* to see buildings and areas themed with Indigenous or multi-cultural artwork, signs not solely in English and people of all genders, races and cultures living and working together.

Diversity is so much more than just the surface qualities of race or gender. It encompasses all qualities that make us unique, as an individual or as part of a group. And its acceptance, respect, and understanding of those unique qualities that sets Canada apart.

Diversity means that it is okay to be different and in Canada it is strongly encouraged. People no longer have to hide their true colours and compassion, they can now express themselves and be comfortable with each other knowing they are not being judged. It is outstanding that people are bringing their different cultures and races to our communities so we can all experience and appreciate them, all coming together to form one diverse country.

Gender diversity has come a long way in Canada, where I expect to see women in positions of power – six of ten provinces have or have had women as Premiers of their respective Provinces. I feel proud that this does not surprise me. Gay pride parades are held in many communities in Canada, and are more spoken of in the presentation and colourful characters rather than political statements.

We don't have to make this country great, it already is.