

A SENSE OF FAMILY

A History of Indo-Canadians In Canada

An NFB-TVOntario Co-production

55 minutes/color

Documentary

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A Sense of Family is available on videotape from TVOntario,
and on 16mm film from the National Film Board of Canada.

richest individuals, and a geography that encompasses every known range from tropical forest to desert. At the end of this exercise, it should be clearly understood which groups immigrate to Canada from this complex part of the world.

2. What does a sense of family mean to you? Discuss the web of kinship that surrounds and supports each child in a family. What would you most like to see preserved in your own family?

3. Immigration policy in Canada has changed from being openly restrictive to a "points" system with no fixed quotas. Research the various Canadian immigration acts of this century, and discuss why major policy changes have taken place in the last eighty years.

4. Discuss the word "adjustment." Who should adjust to whom? Whose values should be held up as the norm? What should people give up when they come to live in Canada, and what should they retain? While the discussion may tend to focus on East/West differences, also discuss

the question from the point of view of a Canadian Indian or Inuit.

5. "Minority groups" is a topic that often leads to the realization that, in one way or another, everybody belongs to a minority group. Think about minority groups other than the various visible minorities. Do the "English" feel like a minority group anywhere in Canada? Are the handicapped, the mentally retarded and the blind, members of minority groups? Are women a minority group? What about children?

6. Stereotypes could be described as faulty conclusions based on false premises. List all the stereotypes about Canada that you can think of, then think why these stereotypes have been created. Discuss the statement: "Both positive and negative stereotypes are false."

7. Canada's multicultural policy states that each individual has the right to live freely within the heritage of his or her own choice as long as it does not impinge on the rights of others. How close is Canadian reality to this ideal?

Related Books, Pamphlets, Articles, Films and Videotapes

Books, Pamphlets, Articles

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Hardwick, Francis C., ed. *From Beyond the Western Horizon: Canadians from the Indian Subcontinent*. Vancouver: Tantalus Research, 1974.

Hawkins, F. *Canada and Immigration: Public Policy and Public Concern*. Montreal: McGill-Queen's University Press, 1972.

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Mavalwala, J. "The Individual in a Multicultural Society." In *The Canadian Alternative*, edited by H. Bouraoui. Downsview, Ont.: ECW Press, 1980.

Norris, John. *Stranger Entertained: A History of the Ethnic Groups of British Columbia*. Vancouver: Evergreen Press, 1971.

O'Malley, L.S. *Modern India and the West: A Study of the Interaction of their Civilizations*. London: Oxford University Press, 1971.

Palmer, Howard. *Immigration and the Rise of Multiculturalism*. Toronto: Copp Clark, 1975.

Sampat-Mehta, R. *International Barriers*. Ottawa: Harpell's Press, 1973.

Subramaniam, I.A. "East Indians in Canada." In *Papers on the East Indian*.



Community. Toronto: Ontario Ministry of Culture and Recreation, 1976.

Tinker, H. *Separate and Unequal: India and Indians in the British Commonwealth 1920-1950*. Vancouver: University of British Columbia Press, 1976.

Ward, P.W. *White Canada Forever: Popular Attitudes and Public Policy Toward Orientals in British Columbia*. Montreal: McGill-Queen's University Press, 1978.

Films

Gurdeep Singh Bains

Gurdeep is a thirteen-year-old Canadian Sikh whose family runs a dairy farm near Chilliwack, British Columbia. They have retained their language and religion. Attendance at the Sikh temple, playing soccer with his schoolmates and working on the farm are all part of Gurdeep's well-integrated life, but sometimes he feels a little different from other children because he wears a turban. (12 min., color, National Film Board of Canada)

Hinduism

In India, home of most present adherents, this film traces the course of Hinduism. We see observances of this faith, its teaching of nonviolence, its respect for all

living things and the social order created by it. (18 min., b & w, NFB)

Ravinder

In Toronto, where polls have found that over half the white population holds racist attitudes, a South Asian teenager, Ravinder, learns that he must deal with discrimination in the school, and violence in the streets. (30 min., color, NFB)

Videotapes

Couples in India

Martha Stuart talks to a group of Indian couples who, in spite of varied religious backgrounds, are all breaking with traditional family roles. (30 min., color, Aug. 31 '85, BPN 134907)

Images: A Journey Through India

A journey through India with Ontario's Attorney General Roy McMurtry. This program attempts to make Canadians more knowledgeable about the various religions and cultures of India in order to reduce racial prejudice among Canadians of different cultural backgrounds. (20 min., color, Aug. 31 '85, BPN 144065)

Mahatma Gandhi

Mahatma Gandhi is remembered as a saint, a seer. What, however, were his personal visions? What were the goals he set to test his own strength? What were his experiences as an ordinary man before he gained international reverence? Talking to Patrick Watson on the *Witness to Yesterday* series, Gandhi patiently explains his beliefs, both political and spiritual, and the fears he tried to conquer. He also considers the effectiveness of his work in the light of modern-day India. (30 min., color, Unlimited, BPN 123937)

Patal Ganga

The UNICEF well-driving team comes to the village of Maneela in an arid region of India and drills a well to bring the people clean water for the first time. Shown with a background of Indian music and folklore, this program was produced primarily for elementary and junior-school use. (30 min., color, Aug. 31 '85, BPN 102053)



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