



# Minister's Message



It gives me great pleasure to share with you *Nurturing Growth*, the second in a trilogy of activity guides on citizenship. Each guide provides a fun and informative way of learning about the values that we share as Canadians and helps us to explore ways we can all become more active participants in the Canadian community.

Canadian citizenship is valued around the world. Every year, more and more people ask to join our Canadian family. They want to share the rights and privileges we enjoy as a people. They want to adopt our values as a caring and open society. These include respect, freedom, peace and belonging. As many of you discovered in our first activity guide, these values are the seeds that we as a society have planted in this garden we call Canada.

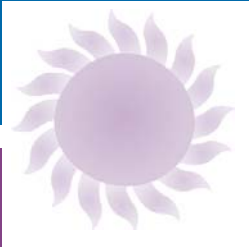
Like any garden, the seeds we sow must develop strong roots in order to produce healthy plants that will ultimately contribute to a vibrant and thriving environment. These are the themes educators might wish to examine with the young people in their classes, all of whom represent tomorrow's leaders.

*Nurturing Growth* gives you the tools to explore who we are as a people and how we came to be the nation we are today. It also places you in a unique position to promote an understanding of how we thrive as a diverse nation, as well as what young people can do to care for and nurture our garden.

I encourage you as educators to build on these ideas and to make learning about active citizenship a core component of your curriculum.

Minister of Citizenship and Immigration

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# Notes for Users



This activity guide and the accompanying posters are products of the Promotion Division of the Integration Branch, Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC).

In 2000, CIC launched Canada's Citizenship Week during the third week of October. To celebrate that important week, we produced a series of activity guides on the theme of "belonging." More than 150,000 copies of the *Belonging* trilogy have been delivered to schools and youth-serving organizations across the country. This series is still available on our Web site at [www.cic.gc.ca/english/citizen/celebrate.html](http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/citizen/celebrate.html).

The present resource, *Nurturing Growth*, is the second in the trilogy on belonging and citizenship, entitled *Cultivate Your Commitment to Canada*.

*Cultivate Your Commitment to Canada* is a series of three activity guides designed for use in schools and community youth groups across Canada. These resources explore the nature of Canadian citizenship, the values that we share as Canadians, and the responsibilities inherent in participating actively in Canadian culture. Citizenship involves much more than having a birth certificate, reciting an oath or learning the national anthem: it includes a commitment to ourselves, our neighbourhoods, our country and our global community. It is an opportunity to share in the rights and benefits intrinsic to living in a peaceful, inclusive and democratic country.

Each guide in *Cultivate Your Commitment to Canada* aims to empower young people with the concepts, understanding and skills they need to be responsible, caring and active citizens.

The resources will encourage young people to do the following:

- respect the rights and opinions of others
- embrace diversity and reject intolerance, exclusion and discrimination
- promote a culture of peace in thoughts, words and actions, and reject violence as a means to resolve conflict
- take care of each other with compassion and empathy
- protect and care for the earth and its resources
- actively participate in the democratic process
- follow and respect the laws of our country.

### **Nurturing Growth—Canadian Citizenship**

This second resource in the series takes a closer look at the vibrant and diverse garden of Canadian citizenship, its roots, its strengths and its future. The material explores the people and forces that have shaped the garden's growth and examines the shared values that create cohesiveness and belonging among the many varieties of plants that co-exist in its soil.

A thriving garden requires the work of many hands and a clear vision for the future. Each of us, as citizens, needs to understand the importance of our actions in shaping the Canada we want to see. We also need to know that our efforts matter and our voices are heard. The activities in this resource will assist youths in understanding the contributions they can make to building a Canada that values diversity, respects differences, and nurtures belonging, peace, justice and a concern for our environment. Investing in the garden of our future begins with encouraging our youngest gardeners to put their hands in the soil and envision what will grow.

This resource is divided into three sections:

**Strong Roots:** The people and forces that have shaped us

**Nurturing Growth:** Diversity, common ground and shared values

**Thriving Gardens:** Taking action for the future we want

### **Who Uses This Guide?**

This guide is a tool to help teachers and community leaders empower Canadians between the ages of 9 and 14. Although the guide often refers to students and teachers, it is intended for use by any organization that works with people in this age group and that wishes to address the rights and responsibilities of citizenship and promote the shared values of peace, belonging and environmental stewardship. Some activities are more appropriate for the younger or older range of young people, and most activities can be adapted to any age group, depending on need.

Many of the topics explored in these activities relate directly to the themes and strands addressed in grades 4 to 8 social science and social studies curriculums across Canada.

The communicative methodology can be particularly useful in helping English-as-a-second-language (ESL) students develop language skills in the classroom. These activities can also be easily adapted to adult education classes.

Although the guide will be launched during Canada's Citizenship Week (October 18–24, 2004), it is designed for use throughout the year.

