



THE
MOSAIC
INSTITUTE

www.mosaicinstitute.ca

The Mosaic Dispatch Fall 2010

Harnessing Canada's Diversity for Peace and Development
Abroad—Starting Right Here at Home

Mosaic Launches Groundbreaking Project on Global Citizenship for South Asian-Canadian Youth

With the strong support of Citizenship and Immigration Canada and the RBC Foundation, the Mosaic Institute launched its "South Asian-Canadian Global Citizenship Project" in June.

Under the leadership of Dr. Herveen Singh, a noted educator and consultant specializing in issues of leadership development and global citizenship, the project will continue until the end of 2011. Hundreds of young people ages 14-25 will take part in workshops, inter-community dialogues and community service projects designed to explore the relationship between the responsibilities of Canadian citizenship and the opportunities of global citizenship. Consultations during the summer with more than 35 community-based organizations serving South Asian youth have identified numerous program delivery partners, including the Peel District School Board, which has invited the Mosaic Institute to develop and deliver global citizenship curriculum for more than 150 Peel students from the South Asian-Canadian community.



Dr. Herveen Singh, Program Manager, South Asian-Canadian Global Citizenship Project

The Mosaic Institute is an action-oriented think tank that harnesses the connections, knowledge and resources of Canada's ethnocultural communities to advance Canadian solutions and promote peace and development in conflict-ridden or under-developed parts of the world.

CONTENTS

Mosaic Launches Groundbreaking Project on Global Citizenship for South Asian-Canadian Youth	1
DIASPORA DIGEST: Charting the Future of Canada's Relationship with Sudan	2
MOSAIC AT WORK: The "UofMosaic" Initiative Goes Back to School	2
The Mosaic Institute at Roadmap 2030	2
"Young Canadians Peace Dialogue on Sri Lanka" Begins	3
The Mosaic Institute Launches its "Patrons' Peace Circle	3
Chairman's Message	4

Charting the Future of Canada's Relationship with Sudan

In January 2011, the people of Southern Sudan will vote on a referendum that may lead to its secession from the rest of the country. There are mounting fears that the inter-tribal violence that has been plaguing Southern Sudan in recent years could, depending on the outcome of the vote and the behaviour of all interested parties, re-ignite the civil war that was brought to an official end by the Comprehensive Peace Agreement of 2005.

Given the strategic importance of Sudan, Canada has been playing close attention to these historical developments. On September 2, 2010, at the request of the Sudan Task Force at the Government of Canada's Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (DFAIT), the Mosaic Institute convened a landmark conference at the University of Winnipeg for leaders from all corners of the Sudanese-Canadian diaspora community. The discussions were constructive, well-informed, and touched upon a wide-range of issues; this further confirms the immense potential vested in the diversity of Canada's global citizenry to influence and enhance our peacebuilding efforts abroad. A full conference report can be downloaded from the Mosaic Institute website at www.mosaicinstitute.ca/publications.html.

MOSAIC AT WORK

The "UofMosaic" Initiative Goes Back to School

Bolstered by the success of its inaugural chapter at the University of Toronto in 2009-2010, and with the strong financial support of the **BMO Financial Group** and the **Aurea Foundation**, the Mosaic Institute is expanding its network of campus-based, student-led chapters to promote peacebuilding and constructive dialogue among students of different ethnocultural communities on Canadian university campuses. Mike Morden, a former Mosaic intern, was recently hired as the coordinator of the "UofMosaic" programme. Over the next 3 years, Mosaic plans to establish chapters at multiple universities across Canada, as well as launch an innovative online peacebuilding resource. The ultimate goal is to turn inter-community conflicts into opportunities for forward-looking, constructive conversations by young Canadians.



UofMOSAIC
TORONTO 

The Mosaic Institute at Roadmap 2030

On September 21 and 22, the Mosaic Institute was a part of a landmark two-day conference on diversity and democratic engagement. After serving on the advisory committee for the **Roadmap 2030 Conference**, John Monahan of the Mosaic Institute was invited to participate in a panel entitled "*Global Positioning*" that examined how Canada's diversity can better be used to further its global aims and objectives. Chaired by Tom Axworthy of the Walter & Duncan Gordon Foundation, other panelists included former Liberal MP and Immigration Critic Omar Alghabra, Professor Vic Satzewich of McMaster University, and Gerard Etienne of Health Canada. John's presentation focused on how diaspora communities in Canada can enrich Canadian public policy decisions involving Canada's relationship to countries, people and issues around the world.

The Mosaic Dispatch Fall 2010

"Young Canadians' Peace Dialogue on Sri Lanka" Begins

On September 8, 2010, the Mosaic Institute and the Trudeau Centre for Peace & Conflict Studies at the University of Toronto together welcomed close to 100 young Canadians of Tamil, Sinhalese and Muslim Sri Lankan background to the Munk School for Global Affairs for the inaugural session of their "Young Canadians' Peace Dialogue on Sri Lanka". The CBC's Carol Off moderated a panel of world-renowned experts from Sri Lankan civil society and the International Crisis Group, including Dr. Paikiasothy Saravanamuttu, Dr. Jehan Perera, and Dr. Alan Keenan. The Peace Dialogue seeks to build bridges of mutual understanding and engagement between youth from various ethnocultural and religious backgrounds within the Sri Lankan-Canadian diaspora community. A video of the session can be viewed at www.mosaicinstitute.ca/video.html.



"Young Canadians' Peace Dialogue on Sri Lanka: What's Next for Sri Lanka?" on September 8



V.V. Ganeshanathan at the "Young Canadians' Peace Dialogue on Sri Lanka" on October 25

On October 25, 2010, the "Young Canadians' Peace Dialogue on Sri Lanka" continued at the Munk School for Global Affairs, when the Mosaic Institute and the Trudeau Centre for Peace & Conflict Studies welcomed a panel of media experts to engage the topic, "The Media and the Future of Sri Lanka: Roles, Responsibilities and Challenges". Special guests Nigel Nugawela of Sri Lanka's "Groundviews.org" citizen journalism website, V.V. ("Sugi") Ganeshanathan of the University of Michigan (**pictured left**), and Arjuna Ranawana of OMNI TV Alberta were joined by host/moderator Martin Regg Cohn, Deputy Editorial Page Editor of The Toronto Star. As Sri Lanka seeks to rebuild from its 30-year civil war, the evening's proceedings emphasized the importance of strengthening the role of independent media outlets and the practice of investigative journalism in both Sri Lanka and North America. The panelists spoke of some of the challenges facing domestic print-media and saw "new media," particularly online resources, as a promising wave of both the present and the future. . A video of the session can be viewed at www.mosaicinstitute.ca/video.html.

The Mosaic Institute Launches its "Patrons' Peace Circle"

On June 16th, Mosaic supporters Paul Oberman and Eve Lewis hosted a special reception for friends and supporters of The Mosaic Institute to inaugurate the institute's Patrons' Peace Circle. This circle - the members of which wear a unique, circular silver pin specially designed by award-winning designer Tamara Kronis - includes a number of generous individuals who have made a commitment to the Mosaic Institute of at least \$2500 in 2010. Approximately 75 people gathered to learn about and celebrate the Institute's work. For more information about joining the Mosaic Institute's Patrons' Peace Circle, please contact John Monahan at jm@mosaicinstitute.ca.

Multiculturalism vs. "Multikulti"

By Vahan Kololian

Canada stands apart as not only being multicultural, but as a country that has actively encouraged multiculturalism through its laws and policies for decades.

Rejecting a sad history of discriminatory immigration and citizenship laws that had at times actively prevented the entry or assimilation of Chinese, South Asian and Jewish immigrants, among others, and turning its back on the attitudes that had led to the internment of Canadians of Japanese descent during the Second World War, the Canadian government first began actively promoting the integration of immigrants through its multiculturalism policy in the early 1970s. Such policies have been pursued by both Liberal and Conservative governments ever since.

And, *eureka*, it is working!

Notwithstanding the presence of some critics who continue to question the merits of multiculturalism, our cities now vibrate with colourful cultural influences from all around the world, our private and public sectors are increasingly committed to promoting greater diversity in our boardrooms and legislatures, and most new immigrants to Canada tend to become Canadian in lifestyle and identity in fairly short order, becoming citizens in due course.

In stark contrast to Canada's successful experience with multiculturalism, we have heard Germany's Chancellor Angela Merkel

recently state that "the Multikulti concept where people of different backgrounds would live together happily – does not work in Germany."

At a recent Christian Democratic Party Youth Conference, Merkel went on to say of the foreign workers who came in the early 60's: "We thought they would not stay. Now we have tried living side by side and tried to build a multicultural society. It has utterly failed."

Granted, Germany's history and geography are very different from those of Canada. It does not see itself as a nation built by immigration. Having multiple ethnicities is not a fundamental trait of its identity as it is in Canada, where, as someone once said, the only thing we have in common is that we are all different.

One can point out, however, that Germany needs to recognize that a successful policy of "multikulti" needs to be more than just good intentions. Treating foreign workers as temporary "guests" rather than offering them the prospect of citizenship and fulsome participation in Germany's vibrant public life is a sure way to undermine the purported intentions of a national policy of multikulti.

Let's invite Chancellor Merkel and the members of her government to Canada. We can take her to visit the site of the Aga Khan's new Centre for Global Pluralism in Ottawa, visit the Michael Lee Chin Crystal at the ROM, and take tea with Adrienne Clarkson or Michaëlle Jean. In other words, let's invite our German friends to discover the benefits of a "real"

multiculturalism policy.

Have we got multiculturalism all figured out, and ironed out all its wrinkles? Perhaps not, but we are certainly developing into a respectful society. And that is a great start.

In fact, Canada's multiculturalism is such a "fact of life" that, for the most part, we are long past debating its merits. We are now at the stage of seeking new and innovative ways of ensuring that its full benefits are enjoyed and applied in all aspects of Canadian public life.

To that end, the Mosaic Institute brings together ethnic Canadians whose homelands are connected to longstanding conflicts. We seek to harness their insights, their connections, and their shared attachment to Canada to help confront and resolve those conflicts. It is the very fact of Canada's diversity that uniquely positions Canadians to do this work.



Vahan Kololian
Chairman,
The Mosaic Institute

www.mosaicinstitute.ca

2 Bloor Street West
Suite 3400
Toronto ON M4W 3E2
CANADA
Phone: 416.644.6000
Fax: 416.644.6001
E-mail:
info@mosaicinstitute.ca
Charitable # 85627-9617
RR0001

Chairman

Vahan Kololian

Executive Director

John Monahan

Advisory Council

Mohammad Al Zaibak

Debra Grobstein Campbell

The Hon. Baljit S. Chadha, P.C.

Charles S. Coffey, O.C.

Blake C. Goldring

Margaret O. MacMillan, O.C.

Don Morrison

Gordon M. Nixon

Raheel Raza

Edward Safarian, C.M.

Yuen Pau Woo

Board of Directors

Edward Safarian, C.M.

Charles S. Coffey, O.C.

Zabeen Hirji

Vahan Kololian

Dundee Staunton