

10th

News in Review

April 2000

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Ujjal Dosanjh: B.C.'s Indian-Born Premier

In an attempt to hang onto power and to stage a comeback in the court of public opinion after the resignation of Glen Clark, the beleaguered NDP government of British Columbia picks Ujjal Dosanjh as party leader and premier. The former attorney general of the province was selected following a process that itself was not without controversy. As a Canadian pioneer, Dosanjh becomes the first Indian-born head of government in Canada. A role model as well, the new premier has traveled far to a nation that early in the 1900s restricted Indian immigration by an order-in-council. Ironically, Dosanjh, no stranger to controversy and personal struggle, is the grandson of a revolutionary who was jailed by the British during India's fight for independence.

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News in Review

April 2000

Introduction

Ujjal Dosanjh: B.C.'s Indian-Born Premier

On February 19, 2000, political history was made in British Columbia when the New Democratic Party chose Ujjal Dosanjh to be its new leader, and as a result, for the first time in Canada, an Indo-Canadian became head of government in a provincial legislature. In fact, Ujjal Dosanjh is the first premier in Canadian history who comes from a visible minority group. In many ways, Dosanjh's story is similar to that of many people from Canada's immigrant population who arrive in Canada after a long and difficult journey, and through hard work, persistence, and determination achieve a level of success unlikely in their homeland. First elected to office in 1991 and then again in 1996, Dosanjh eventually was appointed to the high-profile office of Attorney General under Premier Glen Clark. In that position he proved to be tough on crime while still maintaining a strong position for civil and women's rights. He continued to build a reputation for being a strong, outspoken leader with integrity and a politician able to avoid the kind of scandals that have been plaguing the NDP in recent years.

Since the party came to power nine years ago, it has had two premiers who have resigned under a cloud of controversy. The first of these controversies was the so-called Bingogate that led to the resignation of Mike Harcourt, although he was subsequently vindicated of any wrong-doing. Then Glen Clark was forced to step down when it was revealed that he was under criminal investigation by the RCMP for his alleged role in trying to influence the granting of a casino license to his neighbour.

Prior to the recent leadership convention at which Dosanjh was chosen, a poll suggested that the NDP had only an 18 per cent approval rating with B.C. voters, and many delegates considered Dosanjh the only hope to raise the NDP's lagging popularity and to hang onto power.

Inheriting the political burden of his predecessors, especially that of Glen Clark, Dosanjh is faced with a daunting task. However, he is no stranger to challenges and adversity. As an outspoken critic of Sikh separatist extremists, Dosanjh was the victim of a brutal attack in 1985, and more recently, his constituency office was fire-bombed. He has acknowledged the failings of the NDP but has appealed to party members to convince voters of the merit of the health-care and education policies of the NDP. He has also committed himself to cooling down the hot politics of British Columbia, admitting to B.C. voters, "You want less conflict and more co-operation in the Legislature." According to one political analyst, Dosanjh inherits the leadership of a party that under Glen Clark lost its core support, especially that of environmentalists and social activists. And so as the new premier, Ujjal Dosanjh must be accountable on many levels. But for him, being the first Indo-Canadian premier is not enough. As he responded with some exasperation to one reporter in 1995 after being appointed to the B.C. cabinet as government services minister, "Can we get beyond colour to the real issues? The real issues for Dosanjh involve pulling his battered party together before he must call an election."

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News in Review

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The Ethnic Question

Ujjal Dosanjh: B.C.'s Indian-Born Premier

Ethnicity: This noun and its adjective ethnic suggest a distinct, shared cultural and historical background. It is a term that is usually associated with people who are connected by common descent, by place of birth or nationality, or by religion. Because Canada was built on immigration, Canadians represent many ethnic groups and collectively make up a nation of diverse ethnicity.

The leadership convention of the New Democratic Party of British Columbia held in Vancouver in February 2000 was a landmark event in the history of Canada. For the first time in Canada, a member of a visible minority became a provincial premier. Ujjal Dosanjh, British Columbia's latest premier, is a Sikh of Indian descent born in India. For many Canadians this was a moment for celebration, an affirmation for many that Canadians of colour can achieve the highest positions within Canada politics.

A Pre-viewing Question

Do you think that the ethnicity of a political leader is or should be important in Canadian politics today? Bear this question in mind as you watch this News in Review report.

A Preliminary Viewing Task

During viewing, note references to Ujjal Dosanjh's ethnic background and his origins. Note also facts and issues that

relate to the political aspects of this story. In your opinion, how appropriate or relevant is coverage of the ethnicity of Ujjal Dosanjh? How might the political issues be separate from or related to his ethnicity?

A Second Viewing Task

During a second viewing of the report, note the different segments that make up the report. In your own words, summarize the key information from the following:

- events and information relating to the Sikh community in Canada and India

- Ujjal Dosanjh's personal life experiences

- the role and history of the New Democratic Party in British Columbia

- leadership and power issues

A Post-viewing Question

While still the Attorney General of British Columbia, Dosanjh told *The Toronto Star*, "It's difficult now for me to say at any given time whether I'm functioning as an Indo-Canadian with a hyphen or a Canadian without a hyphen. I hope nobody looks at me as a role model because that puts a lot of pressure on me. What pressures do you think Dosanjh was alluding to? Why would such pressures exist?"

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News in Review

April 2000

A Troublesome Inheritance

Ujjal Dosanjh: B.C.'s Indian-Born Premier

When Ujjal Dosanjh won the leadership of the B.C. New Democratic Party he inherited a political mandate that would test his ability to refocus the party, restore its reputation, and maintain power. How did the party end up in such a position? Consider how the information below suggests that political power is a tenuous concept? In your opinion, what has Ujjal Dosanjh inherited?

Dosanjh is the fourth premier of British Columbia in the last five years. He replaces Dan Miller, the interim leader who stepped into office when the former premier, Glen Clark, resigned under a cloud of controversy. Clark is currently under criminal investigation for his alleged role in trying to influence the granting of a casino licence to his neighbour Dimitrios Pilarinos. Two other scandals also plagued then-premier Clark. First was what critics called the fudge-it budget. Clark won the last election by claiming that the last two budgets were balanced. After the election, it was discovered that in fact, both budgets had run a deficit. The NDP government's credibility was seriously questioned, and some believe it has not recovered. Then came the fast ferry fiasco. The NDP government commissioned a new fast ferry to run between the mainland and Vancouver Island. The ferry was supposed to cost the province \$210-million but ended up costing close to \$500-million. And then on the evening of March 2, 1999, BCTV filmed the RCMP searching Clark's house; the public saw a nervous Glen Clark pacing in his

kitchen. The party rallied around him, until Ujjal Dosanjh, then the attorney general, announced to the press that Clark was the focus of an RCMP criminal investigation. Clark then stepped down as leader of the NDP and premier of the province.

The credibility problems did not start with Glen Clark. The previous premier, Mike Harcourt, also had to step down following the Bingogate controversy in which it was alleged that monies from charity bingos were funnelled into the New Democratic Party's coffers. Although Harcourt was not personally involved, as leader of the party he felt that he should take responsibility and therefore decided to step down. He was eventually completely vindicated, but not until 1999.

While the NDP has been in power, the economy of British Columbia has faltered. Between 1992 and 1999, B.C. was the only province that had a reduction in real per capital gross domestic product of 0.7 per cent, compared with an increase of 15.6 per cent in the rest of Canada. With their confidence in the government shaken, British Columbians began looking for change. A poll released just prior to the recent leadership convention showed that the NDP had only 18 per cent of public support, while the Liberals had 55 per cent. Another poll, conducted by the Vancouver firm of McIntyre & Mustel Research for Global News, suggested that 39 per cent of B.C. voters would support the NDP if Dosanjh was the leader.

Follow-up Task

Obtain a copy of the video and resource guide for the October 1999 issue of News in Review (Glen Clark: Mandate Squandered?). After studying this issue, write a one-page opinion piece titled Ujjal Dosanjh's Political Inheritance.

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News in Review

April 2000

An Experiential Education

Ujjal Dosanjh: B.C.'s Indian-Born Premier

Although Ujjal Dosanjh has been a prominent politician in British Columbia for almost 10 years, he was relatively unknown outside British Columbia before he won the leadership of the provincial New Democratic Party. Because Glen Clark had resigned and the NDP was still the government, Dosanjh as leader automatically became the newest premier of the province.

Although this latest stage of his career thrust him very quickly into the national limelight, Dosanjh had been on a journey that many say would have inevitably led him to a position of prominence. While reading the biography of Dosanjh, answer in point form the following questions:

What life experiences helped shape Ujjal Dosanjh's career, bringing him eventually to the office of premier? What, in your opinion, was the impact of the hardships he underwent in terms of his political career?

Ujjal Dosanjh was born 52 years ago in a small village in the Northern Indian state of Punjab. When he was 17 years old he left India for England, not knowing a word of English. When he was 21 he moved to Canada. In Vancouver he worked at a physically very demanding job in a sawmill and attended Simon Fraser University in the evenings. After breaking his spine in a work-related accident, he started going to university full-time and graduated with a law degree from the University of British Columbia. He was called to the bar in 1977. After graduating, he

started a labour advocacy group that advised and helped organize Indo-Canadian farm workers in the lower mainland. At that time, Punjabi migrant farm workers were not covered by provincial health or employment standards and did not qualify for workers compensation. He also worked on behalf of poorly paid domestic workers and janitorial staff.

Dosanjh joined the NDP soon after he arrived in Canada. He was excited by the fact that the NDP embraced visible minorities and had two black members, Emery Barnes and Rosemary Brown, in the B.C. legislature. He was also inspired by the leftist politics of his grandfather in India, a Sikh preacher who was interested in the teachings of Karl Marx and Mao Zedong. He ran for office unsuccessfully for the NDP in 1979 and again in 1983. In 1991, he finally won a seat in a South Vancouver riding. In each campaign, he noticed fewer and fewer remarks about his ethnic background, until finally they stopped altogether. As Dosanjh has pointed out, This is a tribute to the entire B.C. community that they have embraced diversity with the passion they have. It would have been unthinkable 30 years ago. In 1995, he was appointed Attorney General of British Columbia. Within days of his appointment, he had to deal with an armed stand-off between the police and a native group at a central B.C. ranch on the shores of Gustafsen Lake. The stand-off lasted a month until the native group surrendered. Thirteen members of the group were subsequently convicted.

As Attorney General, Dosanjh proved to be tough on crime, a position some found surprising for a social democrat and a human-rights activist. Although Dosanjh was tough on crime, this is not how he would like to be remembered. As the Attorney General he also enforced child maintenance payments, improved police accountability, and acted as an advocate for gay rights and anti-hate legislation. While he was attorney general, two women, one openly gay man, and a native chief were all appointed as provincial judges. It is these achievements of which Dosanjh is especially proud.

Dosanjh's strong anti-violence stance is consistent with his life experiences. In the mid-1980s, Sikh extremists in India were fighting for independence for the Punjab. In India, thousands of Sikhs lost their lives. The violence spread to Canada when a bomb, allegedly planted by a Sikh extremist in Canada, exploded on an Air India flight off the coast of Ireland. All 329 people on board were killed. Dosanjh, a moderate secular Sikh who cuts his hair, is clean-shaven and has not adopted other symbols of the Sikh religion, became an outspoken critic of the violent tactics used by extremist factions and raised the ire of many of

the more militant in the community. In 1985, in the parking lot of his law office he was physically attacked by an assailant with a lead pipe. He required 80 stitches to the head and suffered a broken hand. Charges were laid, but no one was convicted of the attack, which just strengthened Dosanjh's resolve to continue to speak out. It was the very thing I was fighting against in the first place. It was proof that I was right in what I was doing. The animosity of some toward Dosanjh has continued. On December 26, 1999, his constituency office was fire-bombed. Luckily no one was hurt in the early morning attack. Although sources have said that Sikh militant factions consider him an enemy and that they did not want to see him win the leadership, no one has claimed responsibility for the attack and no charges have been laid.

Follow-up Discussion

1. Critics argue that a tough stance on crime is inconsistent with social democratic ideals. Do you agree or disagree with this position?
2. What do you think is the importance and significance of Ujjal Dosanjh's rise to the office of premier in the political history of British Columbia or Canada?
3. In an article in *The Globe and Mail* on February 19, 2000, political commentator John Gray states, "If society were really reluctant to embrace diversity, members of visible minorities would not have been able to succeed to the extent they have. The progress made is not a tribute to minority communities, but to the whole society." Discuss the implications of this statement.

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The Visible Majority

Ujjal Dosanjh: B.C.'s Indian-Born Premier

The Statue of Liberty towering over the New York City harbour has always been a symbolic beacon for new immigrants to the North America. The inscription on its pedestal attests to the spirit of freedom and acceptance:

Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free,
The wretched refuse of your teeming shore,
Send these, the homeless, tempest-tossed, to me: I lift my lamp beside the golden door.

Ujjal Dosanjh's appointment as premier of British Columbia was cause for celebration for Canadians across Canada of Indian descent as it was for other minority ethnic groups who see appointments like this as proof that Canada too follows through on its promise of hope to new Canadians. The growth of multiculturalism in Canada, however, has not always been an easy process, especially in large urban centres like Vancouver, New York, and Toronto.

While reading the following information, think about the role of large urban centres in terms of multiculturalism and why Dosanjh's appointment might be considered very significant in British Columbia and in Canada as a whole.

For many in the world, New York City has become the symbolic

embodiment of a policy of openness and welcoming for new immigrants. Yet, it is not the most multicultural city in the world. That honour goes to Toronto. While only 28 per cent of the population of New York City is foreign-born, visible minorities now make up 54 per cent of Toronto's population. In fact there are 11 communities in the Greater Toronto Area that have immigrant populations larger than that of New York City. The increase in the non-white population in recent years in Toronto has been astronomical. In 1961, only three per cent of the total population was non-white; by 1991 that number increased to 30 per cent. In the last 10 years the number of non-white residents has increased dramatically to 48 per cent in 1996 and 54 per cent in 2000. Toronto is the home of 42 per cent of the total non-white population in Canada, including almost half the South-Asian and black population and two-fifths of the Chinese, Korean, and Filipino populations. One-third of all Toronto residents speak neither English nor French at home. Chinese (in all the different dialects), Italian, and Portuguese are the most prevalent foreign languages spoken in the home.

For many in the city, this diversity is both welcomed and considered one of Toronto's major assets. Mayor Mel Lastman credits the city's polyglot workforce for the more than 3000 call centres found in the Greater Toronto area. Companies such as American Express and IBM have placed their call centres in Ontario because customer queries can be handled from around the world due to the 169 different nationalities represented in the Toronto population and the 100 different languages currently spoken there. In addition, Mayor Lastman feels that the ethnic diversity of Toronto is one of the major reasons Toronto should be allowed to host the 2008 Summer Olympics. But what are the financial costs connected with the increase in the immigrant population? In the short-term, the government has to subsidize many of the costs associated with getting immigrants settled and learning English. Currently, half of all pupils in the Toronto School Board speak a first language other than English. The costs of English Language training is expensive, especially at a time when the provincial government is cutting funds to education. However, many of these costs are only short-term. According to Ather Akbari, an academic from St. Mary's University in Halifax, the average foreign-born household will make a net contribution to the economy that is 45 per cent higher than Canadian-born households. In the long-run immigrant-headed households tend to save more and earn more than Canadian-born households, not by taking away jobs but by creating new ones. Each of these immigrant households effectively transfers about \$210 annually to the Canadian-born population.

Unfortunately, not all Canadians welcome the increase in immigration. Although in a recent poll 59 per cent of Canadians believe that cultural diversity tends to enhance the Canadian identity, 41 per cent want to see less immigration in the future, while only 14 per cent would like to see more. In 1998, 92 hate-related crimes were reported in Toronto. It is unknown how many more went unreported. Many of the incidents reported are often within, rather than between, ethnic groups. Although even one hate-related crime is one too many, the number when compared with other cities of Toronto's size in the United States and Europe is very low, especially considering the large immigrant population in the city. The number is also down from previous years; in 1995, for example, 302 hate-related crimes were reported. Yet despite the problems, Mayor Lastman believes, There is nowhere in the world where diversity works as well as it does here. The more we talk about it, the better it will be for everyone.

Discussion

1. Tim Reese, co-ordinator of Toronto's Access and Equity Centre, wrote in a report to Toronto City Council that Toronto's immigrant communities . . . continue to be under-represented in important positions of influence and on issues and policies that have an impact on their lives. Ninety per cent of Toronto's uniformed police force is white. A quick review of one Toronto area high school's yearbook shows that while 87 per cent of the 1999 graduating class were non-white, only 17 per cent of the staff belonged to visible minorities. What, if any, effect might this have on students and others in society? Do you think this trend will naturally change as non-white immigrants become established or do you think that affirmative action programs should be put into place? What are the benefits and costs associated with affirmative action programs?
2. How do the immigration statistics of Toronto compare with those of your community? Brainstorm with your class on the positive contributions immigrants have made to your community. How has multiculturalism made Canada a stronger nation?
3. While watching television or reading a magazine, scan the advertisements. To what extent do the ads reflect the multicultural makeup of Canada? Do the shows on television reflect Canada's multiculturalism?
4. Why is it important to assess whether Ujjal Dosanjh was chosen premier because of the individual he is or because of his ethnic background? Why might this be a problematic consideration?
5. Take a second look at the inscription found on the Statue of Liberty. In your own words, explain the principles and thoughts in these poetic lines. This inscription is an invitation extended to the

world community. Now create a similar inscription to be inscribed on a monument to Canadian multiculturalism.

6. If you were to hear someone question the validity of allowing people to continue to immigrate to Canada or to restrict immigration to Canada, what information from the above passage might you make reference to in order to give that individual a broader perspective?

7. Discuss the meaning of the sentence Cultural diversity tends to enhance the Canadian identity. Consider the words carefully. Why did the polling organization that created this question use the verb enhance? Why did they say tends to as opposed to enhances? What does enhancement have to do with the Canadian identity?

8. Why do you think Mel Lastman suggests that we should be talking more about diversity working? What has talking got to do with it?

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News in Review

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Multiculturalism in Canada

Ujjal Dosanjh: B.C.'s Indian-Born Premier

Canada officially embraced multiculturalism in the Canadian Multiculturalism Act of 1988. Furthermore, there is a perception among Canadians and other nations which many social scientists believe for the most part to be correct that Canada is an open and tolerant society that has adapted well to the major population changes it has experienced since Confederation in 1867. There are, however, some dissenting voices to this viewpoint.

Working in small groups, examine the quotes below. Which statements do you think reflect positively on multiculturalism? Which ones do not? Do you agree that the statements accurately reflect Canadian society? What problems or issues, if any, do they raise?

We do not simply recognize and tolerate this diversity, but respect, value and nurture it as an exciting and integral part of our collective experience and identity — Tim Reese, co-ordinator of Toronto's Access and Equity Centre, in a report to Toronto City Council

Canada is a peculiar country. We are a nation full of immigrants that hates immigrants.

Irving Abella, author and history professor at York University in Toronto

[Toronto's population is] a mixed race, neither amalgamated in manners, customs nor habits. Toronto Mayor William Lyon Mackenzie, 1828

Immigration goes to the core of our values and aspirations. . . . It speaks to who we are as Canadians, and what sort of society our children will inherit. Lucienne Robillard, Minister of Citizenship and Immigration

The diversity is driven by a powerful demographic reality. Canada's birth rate declined 25 per cent from 1980 to 1998, to 11.5 births per thousand. By 2020, so-called natural-population growth will reach zero. Time magazine, May 31, 1999

There is a difference between the American and the Canadian views of immigration. The Americans talk of the melting pot; the Canadians of the mosaic. America's newcomers are supposed, despite all the evidence to the contrary, to dissolve their differences into a common set of values: democracy, individual liberty, equity under the law, the American dream of advancement through merit, and so on. By contrast, Canada's newcomers are told to celebrate their diversity. from Welcome to the World: Making a virtue of diversity in the July 24, 1999, issue of The Economist magazine

Someone recently called me a banana, yellow on the outside, white on the inside. I told him I'm Canadian on the outside and Canadian on the inside. I'm just one piece of the mosaic. In this country, we don't all look alike. a second-generation Chinese-Canadian

It has been pointed out that a curious presumption of multiculturalism is that ethnic groups are outside the mainstream of society, whereas they can be more accurately described as cultural fractions that integrate . . . to form Canadian society. The Canadian Encyclopaedia

You see it when you walk into stores, you see that the security is heightened. You see it on the subway. When I get on in the morning to go to work, there aren't too many people. Gradually, the car fills up, but often nobody sits next to me. Jules Elder, managing editor of the weekly West Indian newspaper Share

Canada is not a melting pot in which the individuality of each element is destroyed in order to produce a new and totally different element. It is rather a garden into which have been

transplanted the hardiest and brightest flowers from many lands, each retaining in its new environment the best of the qualities for which it was loved and prized in its native land.

John Diefenbaker, prime minister of Canada, 1957-1963

In the face of claims of accelerated racism, my research shows that, since the 1970s, there has been a decrease in prejudice in all regions of the country. Reginald Bibby, sociology professor at the University of Lethbridge

We re living side by side but not together. Tim Reese, co-ordinator of Toronto s Access and Equity Centre

Canada s bilingual and multicultural heritage represents an asset, offering a capacity to relate naturally and with understanding to almost every country in the world. It can be especially valuable in developing trade links. from a Canadian parliamentary committee report

Multiculturalism is more than giving children the opportunity to learn Ukrainian or Yiddish or Finnish or Vietnamese. It means to make them into secure citizens, knowing that the traditions of everyone, including their own, are to be respected and cherished; that Canada is a nation that accords dignity to everyone, rather than suppressing people s identities and thereby detracting from their full sense of humanity. Rabbi W. Gunther Plaut

People from ethnic minorities can be themselves. They don t have to live by other people s values, because they have strength in numbers. The others have to pay attention to them.

Don Miller, head of a company that surveys minorities in Canada.

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Racial History in Canada

Ujjal Dosanjh: B.C.'s Indian-Born Premier

In a 1994 survey, conducted by the Canadian Civil Liberties Association, it was found that 91 per cent of high school students were unaware that in the past the Canadian government had refused entry to black immigrants. The same survey showed that 68 per cent of high school students did not know that the government had denied voting rights to aboriginal Canadians. Although Canada has a reputation for being a tolerant open country with little or no racial hatred, a review of the history of Canadian government policies shows otherwise.

Working in groups of four, study the following information. One person in each group will then suggest why each situation described is considered significant and important. Suggest also what this information has to do with this news story. Finally, as a group, discuss answers to the Follow-up Discussion questions.

Chinese Immigration

In the early 1900s, the Canadian government forced all Chinese immigrants to pay a head tax of \$500 to enter Canada. This special tax did not apply to any other immigrant group. The \$500 tax amounted to approximately two years wages at that time and was prohibitive to many of those coming from China. This is something that Gary Yee's family knows all too well. In 1917, Yee's grandfather came to Canada. Because he could only afford to pay \$500, he left his family behind in China, planning to send for them when he could afford the additional head tax. Seven

years later, before he could send for his wife, the Canadian government passed a law banning any further Chinese immigration. This law remained in place until 1947. It took an additional five years for Yee to get his wife into Canada (35 years after he arrived) and another 17 years before the last of his children was allowed to immigrate.

East Indian Immigration

In 1914, an Indian businessman, Gurdit Singh, chartered the freighter Komagata Maru and brought 376 Indian passengers from Calcutta to Canada. When they arrived in Victoria, all of the passengers were vaccinated, and the ship continued on to Vancouver. When it arrived in the Vancouver harbour many angry residents were there to meet it. They were afraid that the ship would be the first of many to arrive from India, and in order to avoid future Indian immigration, the Canadian government refused to allow the immigrants to disembark. The ship sat in the harbour for two months before the government called in the warship Rainbow to end the stand-off and escort the ship back to sea. The Komagata Maru left Vancouver and returned to Calcutta. In Calcutta, the police, suspicious of the organizers politics, met the ship, and on disembarkation 20 passengers were killed in a gunfire exchange.

Japanese Immigration

Perhaps no other group in Canada has been subject to the level of discrimination by government as that experienced by immigrants from Japan. The first settlers from Japan came in the late 1800s, and by 1914 there were 10 000 people of Japanese descent settled permanently in Canada. To stop the wave of immigrants, in 1907 the Canadian federal government limited the number of Japanese entering Canada to 400 a year. By 1940, Japanese immigration was stopped altogether and was not allowed to begin again until 1967. Until the late 1940s, the B.C. government excluded Japanese-Canadians from most professions, including the civil service and teaching. The Second World War only solidified government policy against them. Twelve weeks after the bombing of Pearl Harbour by Japanese forces, the Canadian government instigated the War Measures Act in order to remove all Japanese-Canadians residing within 60 kilometres of the Pacific coast. These Canadians, many of whom had fought for Canada in the First World War, were forced to live in hastily built internment camps in the interior of British Columbia. In 1943, all Japanese-Canadian businesses, farms or personal property that had been left in the care of the government were sold without the owners consent. By 1945, the government was forcing all Japanese-Canadians, even those born in Canada, to choose between moving east of the Rocky

Mountains or being deported to Japan. It was not until 1949, four years after the dropping of the atomic bomb on Hiroshima, Japan, that Japanese-Canadians were allowed to return to the Pacific coast.

Black Immigration

Many of the first black immigrants in Canada came in the 1800s to escape slavery in the United States. However, they found that life in Canada was not free of racism. Most Canadians think that segregation only occurred in the American south. However, it also happened in Canada. In the 1830s, black worshippers had to sit in the back gallery of many churches. In the 1850s, blacks were prohibited from staying at many hotels in Southern Ontario, and the Separate School Act made it possible to force black students into all-black schools. In Victoria in the 1860s, a theatre banned black Canadians from sitting in the good seats. In 1947, a black woman was arrested in New Glasgow, Nova Scotia, for sitting in the white section of a movie theatre.

Follow-up Discussion

To what extent do you think current governments are obligated to make amends, both financially and through public apology, for the hardships experienced by Canadian visible minorities at the hands of discriminatory government policies of the past?

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10th

News in Review

April 2000

Discussion, Research, and Essay Questions

Ujjal Dosanjh: B.C.'s Indian-Born Premier

1. The federal government's Web site lists all members of Parliament that have been born outside of Canada. Find these statistics. Begin at the government Web site www.parl.gc.ca/. Calculate the percentage of MPs who arrived here as immigrants. How does this figure compare with the overall percentage of immigrants in Canada? You can find the 1996 Canadian Census immigration figures at the Statistic Canada Web page at www.statcan.ca. Do the same calculations using the provincial government Web sites.
2. Sri Lanka's government appoints, rather than elects, some members to its legislature in order to ensure that the parliament reflects minority interests. In a class discussion, discuss the merits and drawbacks of such a system. Do you think that a similar system should be instituted in Canada?
3. The book *Obasan* by Joy Kogawa tells the moving story of a Japanese-Canadian family interned in British Columbia during the Second World War. Read this Canadian classic and write a book report on it.
4. The Multiculturalism Program of the Department of Canadian Heritage put together *The Evidence Series*, a series of four reports, to highlight selected research findings relating to multiculturalism in Canada. These reports can be found on the Department of Canadian Heritage Web page at www.pch.gc.ca/multi. Write a precis of one of the four following reports and present it to the class:
Volume 1: Ethnic Identity Reinforces Attachment to Canada

Volume 2: Visible Minority Workers are at Greater Economic Risk

Volume 3: Multiculturalism Promotes Integration and Citizenship

Volume 4: Hate and Bias Activity in Canada.

5. Interview a member of your community who immigrated to Canada. Share his or her experiences with your class. What contributions has the individual made to your community since coming to Canada?

6. What do you think was the importance of the family history and traditions of Ujjal Dosanjh in terms of his rise to power? How do you think family history can affect any individual's career? To what extent do you think an individual may succeed despite family history?

7. Ujjal Dosanjh is a politician who has committed himself publicly to social harmony. Investigate this concept by examining the Web site of The Harmony Movement at www.harmony.ca or contact The Harmony Movement at 255 Duncan Mill Road, Suite 707, North York, Ontario M3B 3H9 Tel: (416) 385-2660 Fax: (416) 385-2644. Prepare a presentation on this organization and its principles and activities and present it to your class.

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