Understanding Nationalism

Chapter Highlights

Chapter 14: Canadian Identity

This chapter investigates the symbols, myths, and national institutions that have been used to promote the national identity of Canada.

Chapter Issue: Have attempts to promote national identity been successful?

In this chapter you will learn about the following concepts:

• That people and governments often use symbols to portray what they think is important about their country’s history, nationhood, and role in the world;
• That federal government programs are often used to promote national unity and a sense of Canadian identity; and,

Topics covered in this chapter include:

1. How symbols and myths have been used to promote a national identity.
2. How have institutions been used to promote a national identity in Canada?
3. How can government programs be used to promote a national identity?
4. How can individuals promote a national identity?

You will apply these skills to your understanding of Canadian identity:

1. Express your current view if Canadian identity should be promoted.
2. Choose different animals and birds to represent Canada’s national identity.
3. List images, symbols and stories that create group identity and belonging in your school.
4. Create an outline for a documentary film that focusses on your community’s identity.
5. Develop a survey to find out what people think about a specific aspect of Canadian identity.