

Understanding Nationalism

Chapter Highlights

Chapter 16: Visions of National Identity

This concluding chapter explores possible visions of nation including the concepts of pluralism and diversity.

Chapter Issue: *Should I embrace a national identity?*

In this chapter you will learn about the following concepts:

- That national identity is a collective or group identity;
- That even before Confederation, Canada was visualized as a country that embraced a degree of pluralism; and,
- That many people base their vision on understandings that include religion, language, geography, ethnicity, spirituality, and civic ideals.

Topics covered in this chapter include:

1. What are some visions of nation?
2. Some possible visions of Canada.
3. What is your vision of national identity?

You will apply these skills to your understanding of visions of national identity:

1. **Examine** survey results of the important factors of choosing a spouse.
2. **Create** one scenario for a TV series about national identity that could become the basis of an episode.
3. **Roleplay** a discussion that might have occurred between two Parti Québécois members on the party's referendum pledge.
4. **Discuss** who should be responsible for bridging the trust gap in ethnically diverse neighbourhoods.
5. **Read** the excerpt from the poem "I Am a Canadian" to determine its expression of national identity.