Multiculturalism and the Canadian Identity: Where are we Going

Canadian Identity

What is identity?
1. The condition or fact of being some specific person or thing; individuality.
2. The condition of being the same as something or someone assumed, described, or claimed.
3. The distinctive character belonging to an individual; personality; individuality.
4. The state of what is asserted or described.
5. The state of being a specific person or thing and no other.

Are “hyphenated identities” a threat to Canadian identity and cohesion?
Why do Canadians not know who they are, but know who they are not?
Who shaped the Canadian identity, such as it is?
Do we need to be more patriotic and proud of Canada?
Are symbols of national identity obsolete in a global world?
Are we simply a nation of contradictions, adrift in a sea of contradictions?
Why do the Americans, French, and British not have an identity problem?
Could having an identity crisis be a positive thing, in assimilating into a global world?
Do we need an identity in a global world?
Did the Scottish Presbyterian Church and its influence on government policy well into the 19th century inadvertently fan the identity crisis flame?
What actually constitutes an identity crisis?
Do poor and middle-income people suffer from identity crisis more than the wealthy?
Why not just embrace our multicultural identity, as the Canadian identity?
Is the identity crisis simply the psychological rejection of our colonial masters?
Does our identity crisis tell us the country is too big, and the different regions have nothing in common with each other?
Does religion threaten strong secular values?
Canada has been debating the identity problem for decades, could this mean that identity is much ado about nothing?
**Interculturalism**

"Interculturalism" defined as "learning and sharing across difference where no one culture dominates."

**Interculturalism Modus Operandi:**
The intercultural approach is commonly marked by three stages:

1. **Decentralization:** Taking a more distant view of oneself, trying to define one's frames of reference as an individual with a culture and sub-cultures blended together in one's personal development. Through this reflection on oneself, realizing what is relative about one's observations and making sense of one's reading references.

2. **Penetration of the other's system:** Getting out of oneself to see things from the other's perspective. It is an attitude of opening up, a personal effort of inquiry.

3. **Negotiation:** Finding the necessary minimum compromise and understanding to avoid confrontation.

How do cities transformed by the social, cultural, and economic diversity of newcomers differ from cities that have no newcomers?

Can we bridge our differences in increasingly multicultural cities?

Should we rethink multicultural philosophy and policies?

What is the role of public policy in sustaining multicultural cities?

Should multiculturalism be based on intercultural exchange and shared political community?

Can the mongrel cities of the 21st century survive?

What really happens when different cultures become neighbours?

Can we continue as the most progressive and inclusive of all the immigrant countries?

Is multiculturalism an illusion, built on nothing more than ethnic restaurants’ and citizenship legislation?

City of Vancouver reports 51% population Non-English-Speaking, should English only white Canadians be worried?

Why has the federal government never discussed their philosophy re multiculturalism with Canadians?

Are non-profit organizations doing enough to foster multiculturalism?

Does diversity training really work, or is it a waste of tax dollars?

Should we shy away from national identity, and foster global citizenship instead?

Are singular identities obsolete in a global world?

Does our identity problem exist, just because the media says we have one?

Is interculturalism and questions of identity facilitated by the trend towards globalisation?

Globally, is cultural pluralism truly a critical issue?

Is building a nation state based on cultural pluralism possible?

Is culture just a ploy to produce difference for difference’s sake?

Is a Canadian identity possible, in a multicultural society?

Is interculturality supposed to bring multiculturalism to the next stage?

Has multiculturalism failed in making real bridges between Canada’s culture, and the
new cultures brought in by new citizens?
Is multiculturalism, which was born in the 19th century, still an appropriate model?
What precipitated the shift in terminology from multiculturalism to interculturalism?
Does multiculturalism make a Canadian identity an unrealistic goal?
Will interculturalism allow one to continue in the religion of their choice?
How does interculturalism accommodate the secular self-interested individualist?
Is interculturalism a ploy for free trade, as the solution to global economic problems?
Is interculturalism the final step to the homogenization and centralization of society?
Should religious pluralism, precede cultural pluralism?
How do you sell religious pluralism that implies no single religion can claim absolute authority to teach absolute truth?
Will pluralism force humanity to rethink its understanding of truth?
Is it feasible to expect monotheist religions to modify some of their religious positions?
What are the current foundations for intercultural communication?

**UNESCO Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity**

To the full implementation of the human rights and fundamental freedoms proclaimed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other universally recognized legal instruments, such as the two International Covenants of 1966 relating respectively to civil and political rights and to economic, social and cultural rights.

**Cultural:** Of, pertaining to, or developing cultural.
What is the definition of “cultural” in the context of interculturalism?
Is there a limit of inclusion to cultural pluralism?
Will cultural pluralism replace cultural diversity?
Does the process of globalization threaten cultural diversity?
Will cultural pluralism accelerate First Nations People acquiring self-government?
Did cultural pluralism have a role in Scotland voting for devolution?
Is the cultural diversity we want, that of assimilation into the dominant Anglo culture?
How do you assimilate Moslems into a culture they perceive as decadent?
Can there be sufficient unity without eradication of the diversity of cultures?
Is it possible to maintain cultural connections and still assimilate Canada’s core values?
Can the present economic order dictate assimilation to the exclusion of cultural diversity?
How do we know when pluralism in general is working in societies favour?
Is pluralism simply something that is good for global capitalism?
Is cultural pluralism just another name for multiculturalism?
Can cultural diversity and national pride be compatible with each other?
Is diversity a potential source of social and political tension?

**Immigration**

Why do we have immigration to this country?
Why is Canada bringing in so many people?
Is this unrelenting inflow having any negative effects on the economic, environmental and cultural well-being of Canada?
Should immigration policy be based solely on absorptive capacity?
Is immigration geared towards building a future for Canada?
Is immigration a stimulus to the economy and a powerful tool in nation building?
Should Canada Harmonize Immigration Policies with the US?
Why do we allow militant groups safe haven in Canada?
Can our national security afford unconditional entry for refugees?

Is immigration a net benefit or a net cost for Canada?
Should immigration to Canada be based on availability of inhabitable land?
Does immigration reduce wages, or increase unemployment?
Should immigrants be required to settle in second tier cities?
Does immigration erode the liveability of cities such as Toronto and Vancouver?
Has growth in Vancouver, Toronto, and Montreal, compromised public services?
What is the economic rationale for large-scale immigration?
Should we rely on immigration to solve the issues of skills shortages and population aging?
What are the moral ramifications of Canada reducing its skills shortage at the expense of developing countries that lose their highly qualified workers?
Is immigration really the panacea to population aging and skills shortages?
Is maintaining a high rate of population and economic growth justification for immigration?
Should the Immigration Appeal Act (1967) the source of so many problems be repealed?
Why is immigration a subject that one rarely hears discussed by government?
Have accusations of racism suppressed legitimate debate on immigration?
How are Canadians culturally enriched by immigrants that prefer their own districts?
Is the reported decline in wages of unskilled workers because of competition from unskilled immigrants?
Large-scale immigration without integration causes social fragmentation. How does promoting multiculturalism mitigate this?
Does Canadian immigration policy explicitly identify its aims?
Are most refugee claimants’ just trying to circumvent regular immigration procedures?
Why does Canada not have a pre-screening system for refugees?
Can Canada afford the 2 to 3 billion dollars per year in social benefits that refugees cost the system as they wait years for their hearing?
Why do refugees not have to meet normal immigration requirements such as medical, criminal and security checks?
Most refugee claimants in Canada come from countries that send the highest number of immigrants to Canada. China, India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.
Do whites claim racism if they lose a job to a minority candidate?
Whites make up less than 17% of the World’s population; should present-day minorities
in Canada accord them minority status in a global world?
Are Canada’s liberal policies on immigration importing terrorism unwittingly?
Should immigrants take an oath to commit to Canadian core values?

Regards
Roger