

CANADA DAY

Essay contest winner Proud to be Canadian

Surayya Khan was a recent winner in the East Scarborough Boys and Girls Clubs Proud to be Canadian essay contest.

In honour of the Canada Day long weekend, her essay is printed below:

John Diefenbaker, Canada's thirteenth Prime Minister once said: "I am a Canadian, free to speak without fear, free to worship in my own way, free to stand for what I think right, free to oppose what I believe wrong, or free to choose those who shall govern my country. This heritage of freedom I pledge to uphold for myself and all mankind."

Now, half a century later, these words are just as true. And this is primarily why I am proud to be Canadian.

While other countries struggle to establish rights, the fundamental rights and freedoms in this country are enshrined in the Bill of Rights.

Many people from various places in the world come to seek refuge in Canada, because of these prominent rights. Moreover, I am a proud Canadian because of the rights that I am entitled and guaranteed to.

In many other countries, it is a struggle to establish fundamental rights alone, yet in Canada, the fundamental freedoms are just the foundation of the constitution that this country has.

BEACON OF FREEDOM

According to the Charter of Rights and Freedoms, everyone has these fundamental freedoms: freedom of conscience and religion; freedom of thought, belief, opinion and expression, including freedom of the press and other media of communication; freedom of peaceful assembly; and freedom of association.

Around the world Canada is renowned as a beacon of freedom and democracy.

Throughout the world, Canada's identity is synonymous to multiculturalism. Our multicultural mosaic known across the globe is our strength.

As an ethnic individual in this country, I am immensely proud to say that my country

does not attempt to assimilate me, rather it allows me to cherish my ethnicity, embrace my culture, and yet be a citizen of this great country. For that reason, this country is unique and special, and is a shining example of how people of the world can live with harmony and respect for one another.

One of Canada's greatest virtues is its quest for social justice and its compassion for the less privileged members of society.

This nation truly strives to provide and protect for the vulnerable. Social justice is paramount in this country, and it can be found by many means. Canadians receive substantial welfare, adequate healthcare, and more. As a Canadian I am entitled to live a high standard of living, because of all the prodigious benefits this country has to offer, not only to me, but the underprivileged as well. I am most proud to be part of a country that works towards bestowing its citizens with an empowered and just life.

According to Time Magazine, Canada is one of the world's most comfortable and caring societies today.

A few years ago, the United Nations Human Index cited this country as the number one most desired place to live. Is it any wonder then, that I would be proud to be Canadian? I am proud of our diversity, I am proud of our freedom, I am proud of the social justice, I am proud to be Canadian. This is our creed.



Surayya Khan recently wrote this winning essay for the East Scarborough Boys and Girls Clubs Proud to Be Canadian essay contest.