

# Citizenship & Engagement

## Pathways to Partnership

Citizenship Branch  
November 16 – 17, 2017



Immigration, Refugees  
and Citizenship Canada

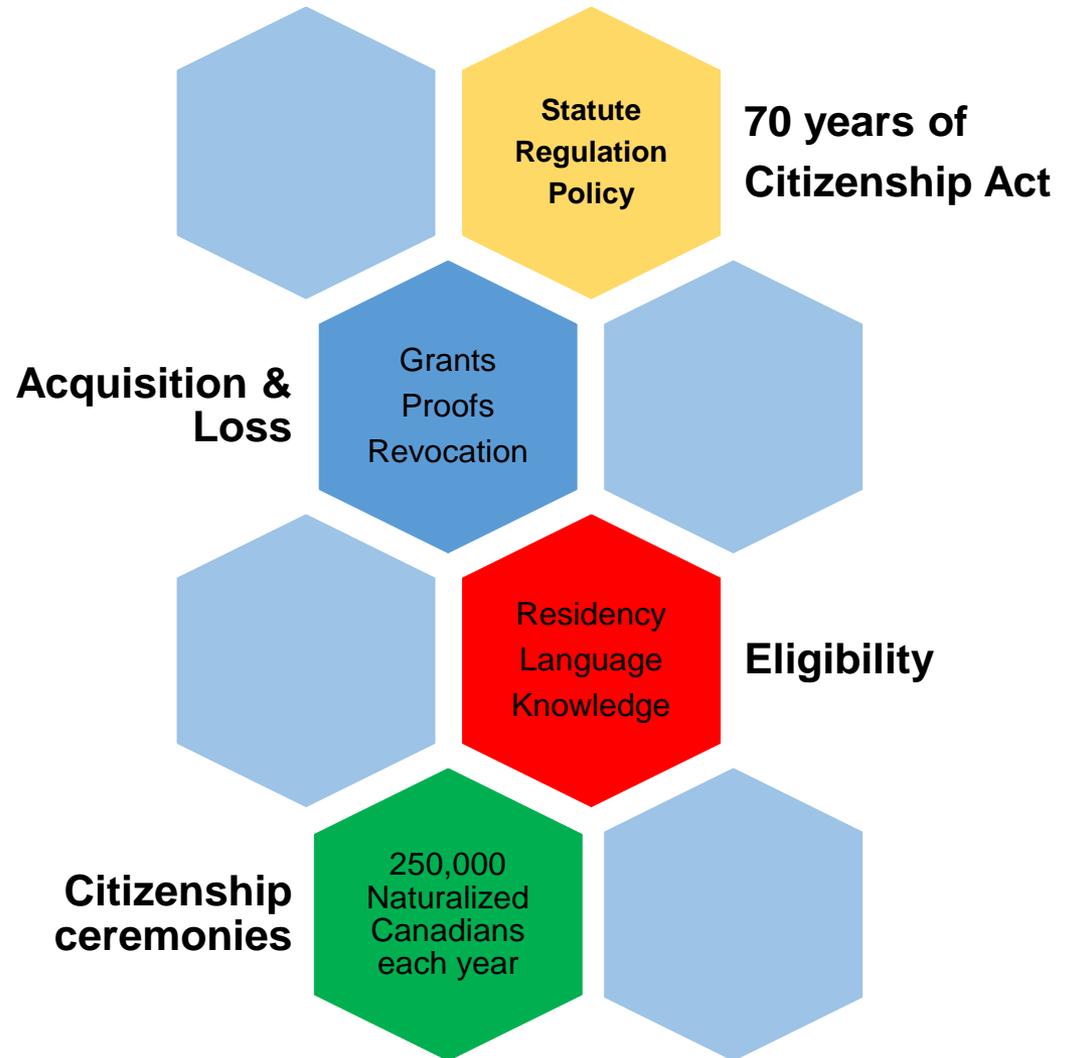
Immigration, Réfugiés  
et Citoyenneté Canada



# Nature of Citizenship

“WE BELIEVE VERY STRONGLY THAT THERE SHOULD BE ONLY ONE CLASS OF CANADIANS, THAT ALL CANADIANS ARE EQUAL, THAT A CANADIAN IS A CANADIAN FROM COAST TO COAST TO COAST,”

Honourable John McCallum, February 2016



# Oath of citizenship

A need to better reflect in the Oath of Citizenship the responsibility and commitment of new citizens to live together in respectful coexistence with Canada's First Nations, Métis, and Inuit peoples

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## Truth and Reconciliation call to action #94

We call upon the Government of Canada to replace the Oath of Citizenship with the following:

I swear (or affirm) that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, Queen of Canada, Her Heirs and Successors, and that I will faithfully observe the laws of Canada **including Treaties with Indigenous Peoples**, and fulfill my duties as a Canadian citizen.



# Knowledge of citizenship

A need to better educate newcomers, and all Canadians, on the significant contributions of First Nations, Métis, and Inuit peoples in Canada's past, present, and future

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## Truth and Reconciliation call to action #93

We call upon the federal government, in collaboration with the national Indigenous organizations, to revise the information kit for newcomers to Canada and its citizenship test to reflect **a more inclusive history of the diverse Aboriginal peoples of Canada, including information about the Treaties and the history of residential schools.**



# Other drivers of change



To showcase Canada's cultural diversity and add greater emphasis on the importance of official languages

To present the social evolution of civic rights & freedoms (e.g. LGBTQ2+, women, persons with disabilities)

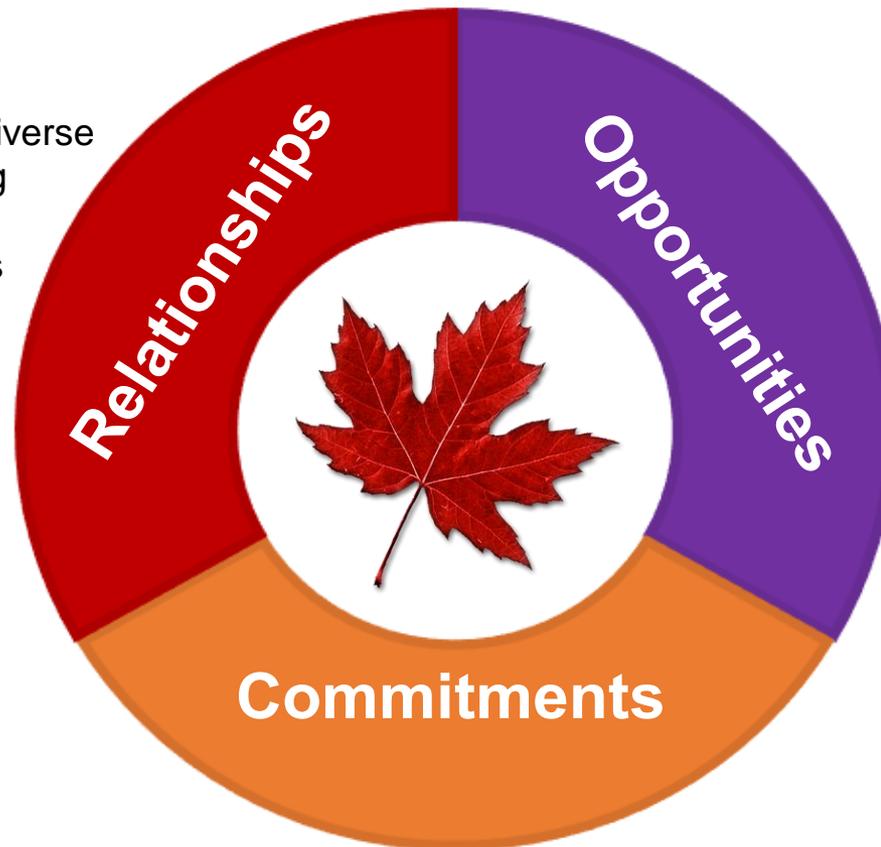


To enhance accessibility through technology, language level, format of text, and support tools

# Adapting the narrative

*Candid dialogue with stakeholders laid the foundation for a thematic narrative. This allows for a more inclusive telling of Canada's past, present, and future.*

(1) This is a story of how Canada was forged by diverse groups of people working together and forming relationships (sometimes positive, sometimes negative)...



(2) ...to build a country of opportunity that continues to evolve and endeavors to find its strength through diversity...

(3)...yet is bonded by a shared sense of belonging and commitment, unifying us all as Canadians. 6

# Broad and diverse engagement

To date, over 70 stakeholders have been engaged on the guide. This includes:



First Nations, Métis, and Inuit organizations

Key citizenship partners, such as the Institute for Canadian Citizenship, Historica Canada, and service provider organizations, second language teachers



Academics in many subjects, including Indigenous and Francophone history

Communities such as LGBTQ2SI+ and persons with disabilities, etc.



Key government departments, including Indigenous and Northern Affairs and Canadian Heritage

# Building relationships with First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Stakeholders

- Strong working-level relationships developed with Assembly of First Nations, Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami, and Métis National Council since the beginning of the project
- All organizations have been continually involved in the engagement process and have provided feedback on an ongoing basis
- Dedicated roundtable was held in October with the Assembly of First Nations, Indigenous and Northern Affairs, and First Nations experts to discuss content, tone, and precision of language of the study guide



# Creating an environment for meaningful engagement



Active, honest, and respectful collaboration among diverse communities of interests; participants see impact of their and others' contributions and are engaged throughout

The Department provides direct and meaningful feedback in a democratic and transparent manner by explicitly interacting with stakeholders on content suggestions



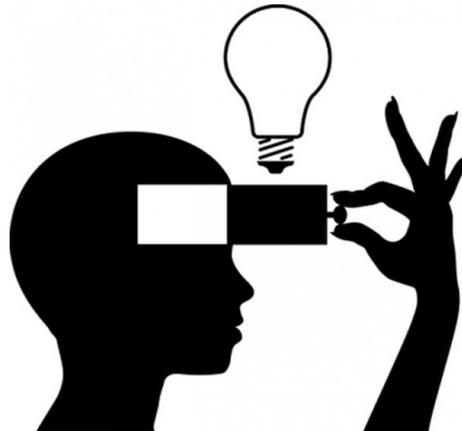
Adaptive and respectful to various needs, flexible arrangements ensure everyone contributes

Access to the draft is limited to stakeholders that have accepted non-disclosure provisions in the Terms of Reference



# What we have learned

- Meaningfulness of engagement means not shutting the door, bring contributors along from start to finish
- Method of engagement is dependent on partners and subject matter, flexibility is essential
- Requires a great deal of adaptation as discussions evolve, willingness to explore areas previously not considered
- Great complexity and balance between representing various perspectives and staying true to the guide's intended audience and purpose



# Fostering reconciliation

- **The Guide to Citizenship** → contextualizes the importance of indigenous perspectives and history to newcomers and all Canadians
- **The Citizenship Test** → new citizens must demonstrate an understanding of First Nations, Métis, and Inuit history
- **The Oath of Citizenship** → establishes a commitment between citizens and Indigenous peoples

Opportunity to increase the presence of Indigenous peoples and perspectives in Citizenship policy and programming to better cultivate awareness and respect