

Being Canadian

The Globe and Mail (Canada)

February 15, 2007 Thursday

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Section: LETTER TO THE EDITOR; Pg. A16

Length: 164 words

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Dateline: Guelph, Ont.

Body

So "being Canadian" means having a harried culture and spending less time with loved ones because we're working more, watching TV alone and eating alone (For Today's Family, Time's Not On Their Side - front page, Feb. 14).

Yet, for many oldcomers, the question remains: How do we turn newcomers into Canadians (The Lesson From Hérouxville - Feb. 8)? I suggest the key question is: How do we oldcomers and newcomers adopt the best of the value systems that each brings from our respective cultures? In our family and those of many new immigrants, having at least one daily meal together is paramount. Respect for elders is ingrained, and quoting poetry is second nature.

So, as newcomers arrive, do oldcomers have the humility to ask: What is the best in your value system that we must adopt? The wisdom to recognize that at least some of "being Canadian" is not worth being. And the courage to act on what we learn from our newcomers to nurture the best that this country can be.

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Subject:

Geographic: CANADA (90%); Canada

Load-Date: February 15, 2007