

Happy Canadian Multiculturalism Day on June 27
Shared by Celine Ahodekon,
National Equity Representative for Racialized Workers,
UNE of PSAC

June 27 is Canadian Multiculturalism Day. In fact, Canada was built and continued to be built upon immigration. Each year, thousands of immigrants from around the globe land in Canada in search for better life. They come with their beliefs, religions and cultures- and their traditions and cultures enrich the mosaic of Canadian society. June 27 is for us a special day to recognize the rich diversity of Canadian population as well as the important contributions of the ethno cultural communities to the development of our country, Canada and to our workplaces.

For more detail on Canadian multiculturalism, please go to <https://anydayguide.com/calendar/2978>

Please read the article below taken from Toastmaster International: the Magazine for Communicators & Leaders.

International Cross-cultural Dining Étiquette

Have you ever “licked your plate clean?” It may have been because your mother encouraged you to finish every last bit of food on your plate or else there’d be no dessert. However, in countries such as Russia, and in some parts of Africa, just to name these two, it is rude to finish every bit of your food because it signals to your host that he did not provide you enough food. For example, in my country, Benin, if you finish everything in your plate, the host will keep bringing you more until you have some food left in your plate! But in India, finishing everything on the plate is considered a sign of respect; wasting food can be insulting to the host and to the food.

Your parents may have also told you that belching at the dinner table is discourteous, right? But if you are from China, it is a sign of appreciation and satisfaction. In some African cultures, rubbing your belly and belching after a good meal is a sign of satisfaction and appreciation to the cook.

We all agree that even the pickiest eaters probably enjoy some form of noodles or soup. Many Asian noodles, such as pho, ramen, udon and soba, are made for slurping. In some cultures in Asia such as Japan, you may be the odd man out if you don’t set down

your chopsticks and slurp your noodles up. In fact, slurping noodles is considered to be a sign that you are enjoying your meal.

In Canada and United States we have a variety of “finger foods” such as chicken wings, chips and dip which require the use of our fingers. In the same way, in countries such as Ethiopia and Benin where I came from, people use communal plates without cutlery. Imagine 2 or 4 people eating from the same plates without cutlery – In my African dialect, we call it “family connection time”! On the other hand, in Chile, it is inappropriate to pick up any food with your hands.

In a nutshell, different culture implies different beliefs and different ways of doing things. What is acceptable in one culture might not be acceptable in another culture - Let's simply encourage acceptance and tolerance and be willing to learn as well from each other. Canada's cultural diversity is what makes us strong as Canadians. So, the next time you see your co-workers or friends slurping their noodles or eating without cutlery, please join in. It doesn't matter what kind of food you have, it takes practice and dexterity!

Source: Toastmaster International: the Magazine for Communicators & Leaders – May 2015, p. 8