

Citizenship Statement

Maryann Ayim
University of Western Ontario

We are the peoples of a many faceted land, a land big enough to contain contradictions but small enough to make us neighbours and sometimes even friends. The contradictions may be as deep-rooted as the willow or as close to the surface as mist rising from a lake in the cold.

Our pasts are as varied as the fabrics of a patchwork quilt, recalling to us both happier and sadder times. We are a people of many colours and many cultures; we bring with us our own faith and our own separate histories, which we guard jealously as precious heirlooms bequeathed us by our ancestors. We are a mosaic of contrasting threads, loosely woven into imaginative designs and great splashes of colour.

We are the separate pieces of this land, coming to it with our own memories and our own ideals, held together by hope, by love, by desperation. Many of us bring only our memories, all else left behind in a homeland of old. But we are a stubborn, determined people. We begin anew, seeding different crops and wresting a living off the land. Even when the land gives stintingly for our toil and life is hard, we are sustained by our vision of a better future. Like the mountain wild flower growing out of pure rock, we are nourished by a dream and a miracle.

