

**Access English Centre**  
**Immigrant Centre Manitoba**  
**Conversation Circle**  
**Group Activity: A Canadian Way?**

**Intermediate Level**

**Facilitator Notes:**

Some newcomers sometimes feel strange or confused by some of Canadian culture at work. This activity is to help new comers to understand the important role that cultural diversity plays at the workplace. This activity also brings up the beauty of Canadian multiculturalism. This is a 60 minute activity. There are four steps to conduct this group activity.

(Canadian multiculturalism: The Government of Canada is committed to reaching out to Canadians and newcomers and is developing lasting relationships with ethnic and religious communities in Canada. It encourages these communities to participate fully in society by enhancing their level of economic, social, and cultural integration.)

**Step one:** Briefly introduce Canadian multiculturalism to the group. Ask the learners where they are from, and write the names of their countries on the board.

Suggestion: Use the map of the world to pin point where the learners are from. (10 min)

**Step two:** Place 3 or 4 learners into a group and encourage them to ask each other questions on cultural diversity (15 min, see attached questionnaire)

Suggestion: See the attached questionnaire

**Step three:** Have one learner from each individual group report to the whole group about their findings on cultural diversity. (10 min)

Step four: Group discussion on “Leo’s First Job in Canada”. Read the story and discuss “Why was Leo fired by his boss?” after reading the story. (15 min, see attached questions)

**Suggestion:** Facilitator reads the story in a normal speed and asks the group if there are some words that they don’t know. If there are some, please write them on the flip chart under New Words of the Day. (For reviewing in the next session)

### Questions for Step two:

1. Do you greet people by shaking hands in your country? If no, how do you greet people?
2. Do you hug people when you first meet in your country? If no, how do you greet people?
3. Do you say “Hi” to strangers on the street? If no, what do you say to strangers?
4. Do you speak loudly while you are dinning in a restaurant? If no, how do you speak in the restaurant?
5. Do you pay for your own meal in the restaurant when you go out with a group of your friends? If no, what do you do?
6. Do you listen to the music at work in your country? If no, what do you do?

7. Do you have to be on time for your class in your country? If no, what do you have to do?
8. Do you have to ask for permission to be absent if you can't make it to work? If no, what do you do?
9. What do you have to do when you are stopped by the police on the street?
10. What do you have to do when you see someone pass out on the street?

### Story: Leo's First Job

Leo was so happy to start his first job as a delivery boy in a Pizza restaurant. Leo liked his job and his boss. The day before he started his new job, his boss told him to be at work at 4:30 pm. He told his boss he would be there.

The next day, Leo arrived at work at 5:30. His boss asked him, "Why are you late?" Leo was confused as he thought he was there earlier. So, the next day, he arrived at work at 5:00pm. His boss was very angry. Leo thought he was at work much earlier than yesterday. He didn't know why his boss was so angry.

The very next day, Leo was late again and he was fired. Leo was very sad. He thought he had been at work earlier than he had to be. In his country, being on time is not important. People are late all the time.

### Step Four questions: "Why was Leo fired?"

1. If you were the boss, what would you do?
2. If you were Leo, what would you do on the first day?
3. If you were Leo, what would you do after you were fired?

4. What should you do on your first day at work in your country?
5. What do you think you should do in Canada?