

Prejudice by Political Misnomer



A misnomer is a misapplied or inappropriate name or designation. When politicians use misnomers, they can inadvertently foster prejudice in a society. A legal system must not differentiate between people; so, the law may be applied equally to everyone. However, politicians and news media, sometimes, differentiate between people by referring to them with inappropriate names. The use of these improper names tends to foster discrimination in a society; even, when systematic (systemic) discrimination has been virtually eliminated. (systematic or systemic means "pertaining to a system")

The Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms states, "Every individual is equal before and under the law". When all laws in a legal system are equally applicable to every individual; then, social equality is achieved. When all laws in a legal system are not equally applicable to every individual; then, systematic discrimination occurs.

Preceding the Charter of Rights and Freedoms, the Canadian Bill of Rights was enacted in 1960. Since that time, politicians have been eliminating the discriminatory laws found in Canada's legal system. After 60 years of removing unjust laws from the legal system, systemic discrimination has been virtually eliminated; so,

Why do politicians still claim that discrimination is systemic?

Eliminating systemic discrimination does not eliminate discrimination in a society. Attitudes of individuals cannot be controlled by a legal system. Politicians should not place blame on the legal system when it's their own political rhetoric that is fostering discrimination.

Biologically, there is no such thing as race. Race is a politically derived term. It is improper to say that another human being is of a different race. It is also inappropriate to say a person is black or white. There is no definition of how dark or light a person's skin must be to call that individual black or white. The Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms does not allow the legal system to distinguish people by the shade of their skin; so,

Why do politicians still refer to people by the shade of their skin?

There is not any major group of people in Canada; therefore, it is inappropriate to refer to any person as a minority. The term "minority" implies "less value"; therefore, referring to someone as a minority provides an impression of "less value" with respect to that person. Referring to a person with an inappropriate name that implies "less value", can inadvertently foster discrimination in a society. Canadian politicians should never refer to Canadians as French-Canadians, English-Canadians, Chinese-Canadians, African-Canadians, etc. Canadians should just be called Canadians.