



I am very pleased to extend my best wishes in celebration of the third annual Mosaic Festival. I understand that last year, almost 18,000 people came together to celebrate South Asian heritage, arts, culture and cuisine. This is a wonderful accomplishment.

Mosaic 2008 provides us with an opportunity to celebrate South Asian heritage through a fabulous multidisciplinary arts festival. As Canada's Minister of Citizenship and Immigration, I believe that this becomes even more significant when considering that South Asians form the largest population group of newcomers to the Greater Toronto Area, including, of course, Mississauga. An integral part of community-building is to ensure, through occasions such as these, that we are given the opportunity to share and appreciate the diverse traditions of our families, friends and neighbours.

I congratulate Mosaic 2008 for helping to foster a genuine appreciation of cultural diversity. Also, for those who will become Canadian citizens during a very special citizenship ceremony at the festival, I want to thank you all for choosing Canada. Finally, I would like to thank the organizers and volunteers of Mosaic 2008 for their dedication and commitment in bringing this annual festival to life in the city of Mississauga.

Enjoy the day's festivities!

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Diane Finley".

The Honourable Diane Finley, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Citizenship and Immigration Canada