

Bed: guitar music in back ground

Fade: bed fades out to super low volume

Ambiance: background music

Hi, and Welcome to POV.

I'm your host Holly Robinson.

This will be the first episode in a year long series.

Where we'll go over as many possible topics under the sun, and see just how much culture and ethnicity impacts your point of view.

In this episode we've got a big question, who is the greatest Canadian?

However I know I have an answer to this question, and it happens to be Michelle Jean, however before I explain my answer

I'm way more interested in others opinions, and more specifically, how their opinions are influenced by culture and ethnicity.

So that's why today, I'll be talking to several people about their opinions on who the greatest Canadian is. To compare and contrast their answers, and see what happens.

Fade: of bed music

Hit warm: bed music

Bed: new music base guitar

Ambiance: background music

Hello my name is Megumi Birrell (in Japanese)

That was my guest Megumi Birrell

Along with

Avery Elton

And

*Hi my name is Asha Calaminus*

I asked all of these people the same questions to see the range in their answers

What's your culture or , like where's your family from

*I was actually born in Vancouver, but my mom is from a place called Gifuken, Gifu Japan and my dad's from Ontario*

*I was born and raised in Vancouver B.C Canada*

*My family was born in Canada, and I was born in Canada, so I don't really have like a specific culture, it more just what I grew up with*

Who do you think is the greatest Canadian?

*I would have to say either Terry Fox or Martha Walden, just because she was my person*

*Greatest Canadian ever is Avril Lavigne, because Avril Lavigne has made so many songs that I really love and cherish*

*I would say the greatest Canadian is Terry Fox, because he's a huge part of Canada's history, and he's just a really good person*

When I ask you that question, do you think how you see that question or how you answer it, is impacted by your culture or ethnicity?

*Definitely in some shape or form, like a lot of what my mom has taught me is etiquette, and what's it called, manners and stuff. So I find that if people don't follow that, it seems kind of rude and off putting for me, even though it's not a Canadian taught thing.*

*Not really necessarily really I feel like just, really just my personal preference impacts that question in a way.*

*I definitely think I'm impacted by that culture from where I live, because I've grown up doing the terry fox run and stuff like that.*

As you just heard, people's opinions have a wide range. People from different circumstances with similar opinions, and people from the same circumstances with different opinions. It's so incredible to me how people can have such different points of view. And hopefully it's something I'll get to look at more as I go through this podcast, but as I said earlier I have an opinion on the greatest Canadian too, and it's one you'll hear right now.

**Sneak: of the previous bed**

*She strikes me as a person who had that, that vision, that warmth extended and wasn't defined by barriers.*

That was my main guest on the show today, Patricia Gall. She's my neighbor, and longtime Canadian, who remembers my greatest Canadian, Michaëlle Jean, when she was in her highest position of power. I've asked her to come on the show today to see what wisdom I can gain from her, and see how Michaëlle Jean affected the Canadians who knew her when she was in power.

**Hit warm: bed**

**Ambiance: background music**

**Bed: Strings music**

Michaëlle Jean was born in Haiti in 1957. Shortly afterwards in 1968 she immigrated to Canada, where she grew up in Montreal with her mom and sisters. After that she went to the university of Montreal along with several other European universities, to study in literature and languages.

After moving back to Canada she worked with an organization that helped immigrants move to Canada, and set up their lives and integrate themselves into Canadian society. However this was just the start of Michaëlle Jean's career. After this she became a journalist for radio Canada and CBC, where she was the first person of Haitian descent to appear on North American television. Still this would not be the first time Michaëlle Jean made history, because in 2005 the then prime minister nominated her to become the first black Governor General of Canada.

*I think in some respects she was considered quite a novelty, because she was also of, had been born i believe in Haiti and brought here as a child, and was the first person in that position to be of a different race, other then white. Traditionally the Governor General has been a white man, and even when I was growing up, nearly always of British background in some way, or English speaking.*

She served in the Governor General position for the traditional five years. Before going on to work for various other organizations until about 2019, when she semi-formally retired, now she lives with her husband and works with her charity, the Michaëlle Jean Foundation.

Michaëlle Jean's greatness impacted so many people, and i think that's part of what makes her so great. There were small groups of people, like the immigrants who she helped move to Canada. Or the woman she saw while volunteering in women's shelters. But there were bigger groups of people too, like the people in northern Canada who she raised awareness for, because of the poverty they were experiencing. Or the woman of Canada who had experienced abuse, because she raised awareness for them too.

But Michaëlle Jean also impacted the whole of Canada, you have to remember her appointment as Governor General was pretty revolutionary for Canadian politics. And she was a beacon of diversity in Canada.

I certainly remember her as Governor General and she received a lot of press coverage, positive press coverage i might add.

However Michaëlle Jean's greatness was not in the fact that she got the position, it was in the fact about how she used the position, because being Governor General allowed her to bring awareness to not just her culture but other cultures in Canada. And she tried her very hardest to unite everyone. She had not lived an easy life she'd moved from a different country, she'd experienced divorced parents, and she'd grown up in a society that was not all that welcoming of other cultures. But she never let that stop her.

In fact she even had a website that let Canadians all around the country discuss topics and share their opinions on different things to promote Canadian unity.

Still even after after all of that I still don't think that's what makes her greatest to me. Michaëlle Jean was an immigrant like myself. My whole family is from England and Ireland, I'm from Ireland myself. And I always found it incredible how she managed to

not be from her, she might not have been born here, but she was Canadian as anyone else. She shared the values of Canada and showed how much she loved this place and that's something I strive to do every day. Besides that I think she is also a primary example of how people should be as a human. She was kind, caring, empathetic, and smart. And she loved everyone else and that's something I really hope I can be. I think those are the most important reasons why I believe she is the greatest Canadian, because after all, shouldn't that greatest Canadian be someone you can look up to?

*Michaëlle Jean was seen as being, she was interviewed a lot, she was found to be charming, and remember for the west she was really an unknown, she was engaging, warm, had all the qualities of someone you want to represent Canada.*

With both her massive list of accomplishments and warm, kind, and genuine character. I truly believe she is a great representative of Canada and Canada's greatest Canadian. But as you leave this podcast episode today I want you to think about your opinion on the greatest Canadian. And what might be influencing your opinion, because maybe you'll be a little bit surprised about what you find out.

Sneak: bed fades out

Hit warm: bed music

I want to thank all of my wonderful guests for agreeing to appear on the show today and all of you out there for listening. If you liked what you heard, make sure you subscribe wherever you get your podcasts and stay tuned for next month's episode sneak peek, it's about WW2. Alright thank you everyone and goodbye...

Sneak: bed fades