In this dissertation, the development of a multicultural population in Canada is traced from early European settlement in up through the 20th century. The implementation of official Canadian multicultural policy as a response to demographic concerns and the expanding demands of human rights in a liberal state is then examined through historical and philosophical perspectives. An analysis of present challenges to the policies of Canadian multiculturalism is situated in an argument that suggests continued and expanding tensions to current framework. An argument for a future of rooted cosmopolitanism in Canada is presented as a way to address the concerns raised regarding multicultural policy. Based on the philosophy of Kwame Anthony Appiah, rooted cosmopolitanism is presented as a philosophical and policy perspective that could be implemented in Canadian public education and shape a successful future for the Canadian state.