It is a well-known and documented phenomenon that different races and cultures have different body odours. This can be attributed to a variety of factors peculiar to each race and culture: body chemistry, hormonal balances, pheromones and diet etc. Early European explorers found that Orientals, e.g. Chinese and Japanese, didn’t like the way those explorers smelled. This was not entirely due to the lack of personal hygiene common amongst the Europeans of the time. No matter how well scrubbed, the Oriental still found the odour of Occidentals offensive. We now know that Europeans eat comparatively much more meat, especially red meat, than Orientals. This causes a distinct body odour compared to the primarily vegetarian Oriental. There are also spices and cooking odours, incenses, use of distinctive perfumes and colognes that permeates clothing etc. and otherwise further serves to distinguish, by odour, various races and cultures.
It is, of course, impolitic of me to point out that this odour phenomenon is a two way street. If they can smell us and not like it, we can smell them and not like it. Indeed, there are now so many minorities in this city that Vancouver doesn’t smell like Vancouver any more.

One can hop on a bus in Vancouver and discover that, although crowded, you’re the only Caucasian passenger. This can be verified even with your eyes closed, despite the babble of foreign tongues, simply by using one’s nose. Go by any of the burgeoning ethnic neighbourhoods (others may call them ghettos) and the olfactory stimuli from ethnic restaurants, other cultural institutions, and even the people themselves, overwhelms one with a malodorous miasma pervading the very air we breathe. These pervasive and persistent aromas are changing the very nature of our personal relationship to our urban environment, our places of employment, our public areas and wafting on the breeze, from our ‘multicultural neighbours’ into our very homes.

Ecology lobbyists, “tree huggers”, etc. and others of that ilk are forever promoting clean air legislation. Perhaps they should also consider and promote traditional Canadian air quality and character, thereby saving us from that odorous miasma infecting our cities with the stench of unwelcome cultures.