

“ There is a similar enthusiasm on both sides for improving India-Canada relationship ”

By: Vipul Jani

First of all, let me thank you for doing this interview for the This is the first time I see such a humongous Indian community

Interview of the Month



Mr. Dinesh Bhatia
Consul General of India, Toronto

inaugural newsletter of CIF. It's been a wonderful experience to be in Toronto.

so concentrated in one place. GTA holds more Indians than any other

city. It is a blessing as well as a challenge at the same time.

What will be your priorities?

My first priority is to provide the best services to the Indian and Indo Canadian community in terms of Consular, Passport, Visa and also OCI. I want to bring these services at the best possible level through the Consulate as well as through our outsourced service provider. We are in the process of selecting new service providers in the next 3-4 months.

The second priority is to work on the economic issues. Bilateral trade has now gone up to over \$ 8 billion and it can be enhanced further to realize its true potential. Canada, being a developed G-7 country, it has a great potential to invest in India.

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Happenings



Modi's US visit : less hype, more substance



Prime minister Narendra Modi's 4th visit to the US in 2 years last week paid rich dividends. Not only he addressed a joint session of US

Congress, there were significant take aways from his visit this time. President Obama supported India's bid to be a member of the elite Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG), both countries agreed to start the preparatory work on building six nuclear reactors in India, the US recognized India as a " major defense partner ".

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Happenings



Canada India Parliamentary Friendship Group Revived



Chandra Arya

Canadian Members of Parliament and Senators gathered in Ottawa

last month to mark the re-birth of Canada India Parliamentary Friendship Group. The Group, with more than 80 members now, elected Mr. Chandra Arya, member of Parliament for Nepean (Ottawa) as the new Chair. Mr. Arya is a Kannada speaking Bengaluru (Bangalore) native.

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Interview from Page 1

There is a lot of enthusiasm for Prime Minister Modi's "Make in India" campaign. We need to focus on that. On the other hand, India's investment in Canada is substantially more. We provide a large number of jobs and contribute to Canada's economy, certainly more than Canada does in India.

My 3rd priority is to reach out to the Indian as well as the first and second generation Indo Canadian students. To me, they are the future ambassadors of India. They need to know more about India and their own roots. While Government of India has a program called "Know India Programme" for NRI children, it cannot reach everyone. I intend to reach out to Universities and talk to students. I look forward to working with the Indian community and the Canadian authorities.

Will we see any significant changes or improvements in the day to day functioning of the CG office?

The services provided by the Consulate have significantly improved over several years.

My predecessors have contributed to the strengthening of this consulate. I have, since my arrival about 2 ½ months ago, taken some new initiatives.

We have now provided an emergency number on



our website. If anyone has a genuine emergency, we can be approached in the middle of the night. Our website is also being constantly updated. The Consulate General of India in Toronto is the only office or a consular mission of any country anywhere in the world which opens every Saturday from 10.00 to 2.00 pm. No Consular office or Embassy around the world opens regularly every Saturday.

I am now personally available every Friday from 10.00 am to 12.00 noon. Anyone can meet me without any appointment.

People call it a political initiative, but it will go a long way to dispel

this notion that Consulate or the Consul General is not accessible.

That's very good for the common man. What about Businesses that need your assistance for trade and investment etc?

I have informed my people here that all the e-mails we receive here (I personally get about 100 e-mails a day) should be responded to. If you don't get a response within 2 days, please write back to me so I can follow it up. Prime Minister Modi last year announced 10 year visas for Canadians. I have also started directly meeting with large conglomerates in Canada to promote trade and investments.

Your views about Canada-India relations today & where do you see them 5 years from now?

India-Canada relations have been transformed by Prime Minister Modi's visit here last year. Everything seems to be on upswing now. The trade data, with major increase in 2015, is showing a very positive picture. I see a similar enthusiasm on

both sides for improving this relationship.

Former Prime minister Harper helped strengthen the relationship. What about the new, liberal Prime minister Justin Trudeau?

I see the same zeal and same policies being followed. Prime Minister Trudeau was elected only a few months ago. So, it will all pick up now. The question of slowing down does not arise.

Any plans for Prime minister Trudeau's visit to India?

We are in discussion about a reciprocal visit by Prime Minister Trudeau to India, but the dates are yet to be finalized.

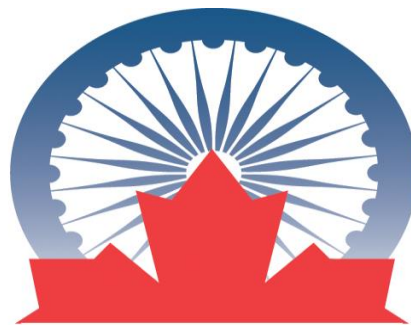
What role can organizations like CIF play to further strengthen bilateral relations?

CIF is doing good work in Toronto since last 9 years. I hope to continue to do the good work earlier consul generals have been doing with CIF.

Anything else you wish to add?

A large number of Indians have taken Canadian nationality, but they are still maintaining their emotional, familial and cultural links with India. We need to ensure that this linkage with India continues and they are able to get the best of both worlds.





Premier of Ontario - Première ministre de l'Ontario

June 7, 2016

A PERSONAL MESSAGE FROM THE PREMIER

On behalf of the Government of Ontario, I am delighted to extend warm greetings to the readers of the inaugural edition of the Canada India Foundation E-Newsletter, and to the foundation itself on the launch of this monthly publication.

Ontario's tremendous cultural diversity is what gives our province its strength and vitality — and also ensures our success. I commend the Canada India Foundation for its continuing commitment to strengthening Canada-India relations.

I would also like to express my gratitude to all those who have contributed to the creation of this valuable resource. Know that your hard work will help to foster a stronger community, and make Ontario a more connected place.

Kathleen Wynne

Kathleen Wynne
Premier



Greetings Message from Minister of
Innovation, Science & Economic Development

Congratulations to the Canada India Foundation on the inaugural issue of their monthly e-newsletter.

For nearly a decade, the Canada India Foundation has fostered strong ties between the two countries. With more than one million Indo-Canadians, the Foundation has successfully promoted the profile of the community, strengthened key relationships, and brought people from diverse backgrounds closer together.

Through significant advances in academics, business and politics, the Indo-Canadian community continues to enrich our country's cultural landscape and contribute to our economic prosperity.

The Canada India Foundation has played an important role in establishing the human and cultural links that bind the two countries together and strengthen bilateral relations. I am thankful to the Foundation for their work in moving the Canada-India partnership forward and I wish them the very best with this e-newsletter.

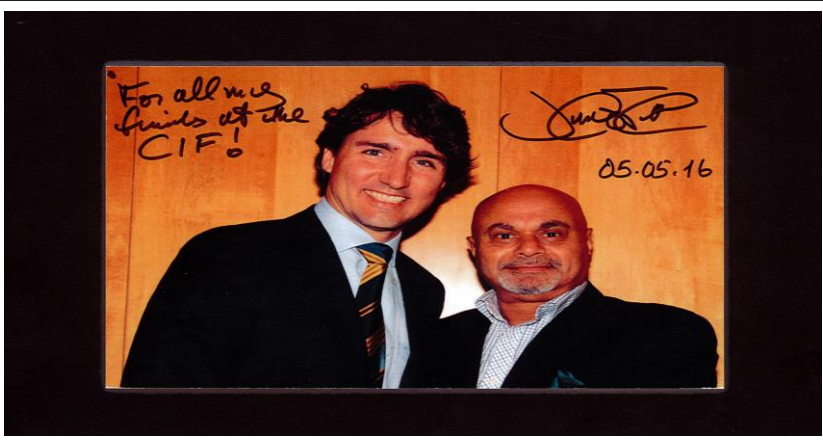
Navdeep Bains

Hon. Navdeep Bains, PC, MP
Mississauga-Malton



Message from the National Convenor

Dear Friends,
It is indeed very exciting to launch the first ever, e-newsletter for Canada India
we had our Premier Hon. Kathleen Wynne as our Chief Guest and Hon Navdeep Bains, Minister of Innovation, Science and Economic Development

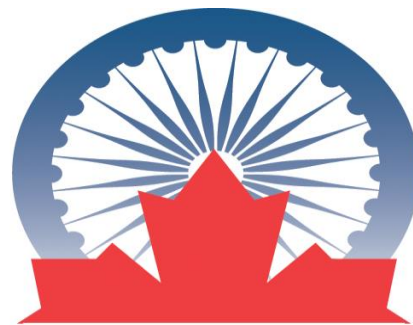


Foundation. We can all now keep in touch more regularly as well as share ideas and important developments. Let me begin by thanking everyone for a super successful Gala this year. As you all know,
as our Guest of Honour and then our award recipient Dr. Subhash Chandra. With just over 500 people the gala was an immense success and I am indebted to all the individuals who helped and made it such a success.

We are also in the process of launching an India chapter for CIF and Dr. Chandra has graciously accepted our invitation to be the Chair of CIF, India. So wonderful. Isn't it? Well the work is now in progress and I hope by the time we write in our next month's e-newsletter – I hope I can provide you some more information on that. I recently met with Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, who was thrilled to know about Canada India Foundation and the work we have been doing since 2007. Prime minister Trudeau was full of praises for CIF

and I am very hopeful to see him at our Gala next year. I also want to reach out to youngsters who are interested in a career in politics. One of our key objectives is to identify and promote qualified Indo Canadians in the political processes of Canada. Please feel free to connect with us. Canada India Foundation will be happy to assist you in achieving your goals. So, that's it for now, but we have lots more coming up. 2016-17 is going to be very busy and exciting for all of us. Let us come together, to grow together.

- Anil Shah



Building Up and Moving Forward Ontario

I am delighted to contribute this message to the inaugural edition of the Canada India Foundation (CIF) newsletter. The CIF plays an important role in strengthening the relations between India and Canada through its various initiatives and activities. Its high profile policy forums on Energy, Mining & Metals, Agriculture & Food Processing, Infrastructure, and Healthcare have been helpful in enabling greater trade between the two countries. I am hopeful that the newsletter will keep the membership informed and engaged. These are interesting and exciting times for Ontario. The government of Ontario's top priority remains to grow the province's economy and create more jobs. The multi-pronged strategic plan includes investments in talent and skills

of the province's population, public infrastructure, low carbon economy, and a secure retirement for working Ontarians.

modernization ever of student financial assistance.

As part of its plan to build up Ontario, the government is making

communities and boost economic growth. Investments like these support over 110,000 jobs each year. The Government of Ontario is keen on attracting new investments to the province and has undertaken several missions to accomplish this goal. I was honored to be a part of the successful Trade Mission to India headed by our Premier Kathleen Wynne. Sixty five new agreements, valued at over \$240 million, were signed as part of the mission. The mission has taken Ontario's historic ties with India to a new level and will be of mutual advantage to both jurisdictions. I was happy to note that many members of the CIF were part of the mission and am hopeful that they will continue to play an important role in enhancing cultural and trade ties between Canada and India.

Guest Column



Dipika Damerla

Associate Minister of Health & Long Term Care, Ontario

Today's knowledge economy requires a highly skilled and competitive workforce. The government is cognizant of this fact and is making post-secondary education more affordable and accessible for low and middle income students. The government has launched the single largest

the largest infrastructure investment in the province's history —about \$160 billion over 12 years. This will go towards the construction of new hospitals, schools, transit and roads to strengthen our

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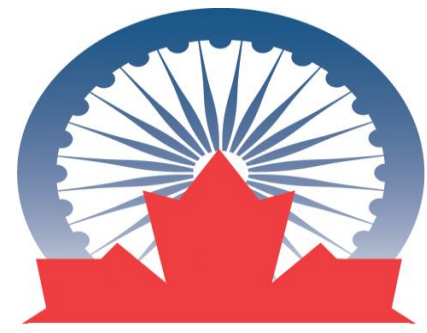
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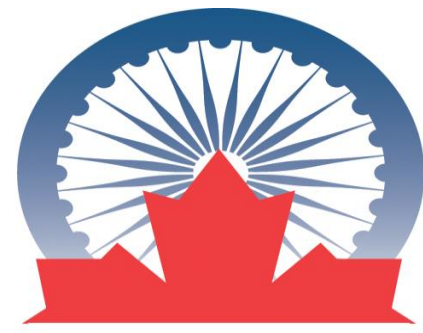


Deepak Ruparell



Amrik Sangha

See their detailed profiles on www.canadaindiafoundation.com



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Hema Bhatt

See their detailed profiles on www.canadaindiafoundation.com

Announcements

After a very successful Award Gala in April, Canada India Foundation is now working on several new projects and initiatives.

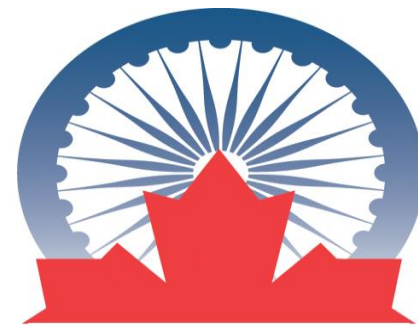
Here is a brief summary of what's coming in the near future:

- CIF's First ever, Golf Tournament (in August 2016) More details will be announced in the July edition.
- A Manufacturing Forum.
- Health Care Summit in New Delhi (January 2017)
- Speaker Series
- CIF India Chapter
- Membership Expansion
- Internship Program

CIF Sponsors for 2016



AIR CANADA



Canada India Foundation (CIF) in Western Canada

The Western Canada contingent of CIF took roots in the beautiful city of Vancouver, Canada's Gateway to the Pacific, back in 2008, shortly after CIF was established in Toronto in 2007. The founding members of Western Canada's CIF were Barj Dhahan and Sarup Mann, both of whom held the strong belief that the community needed a pan-Canada non-profit and non-partisan organization to advocate closer ties between Canada and India. They also felt that greater engagement of Indo-Canadians in the political process in Canada will help to serve the best interests of both countries leading to improved prosperity for Canadians and Indians.

Today the Western Canada contingent of CIF consists of 8 passionate members seeking to engage governments and the Indo-Canadian community in matters of public policy, industry & bi-lateral relations between the people and government of Canada and India.

- Barj Dhahan, a successful business leader, community builder, entrepreneur and visionary

- Sarup Mann, a leader in the communication & technology industry.
- Amrik Sangha, a successful businessman & passionate community supporter.



- Jay Minhas, a well-known real estate developer.
- Anita Dalakoti, a professional in the insurance and financial industry.
- Ram Gopal, one of BC's top 10 employers in the security industry.
- Hema Bhatt, an extremely successful entrepreneur and co-owner of Nautili.
- Amandeep Singh, a successful lawyer practicing in the field of criminal, immigration & business law.

Numerous events have been organized & hosted in Vancouver since 2008 to bring together like minded individuals in promoting bilateral collaboration.

Most notable among them was the 2010 Canada India Foundation Award & Gala Dinner bringing together high profile government, business and community leaders from Canada and India who joined in honoring Mr. Ratan Tata, the winner of the 2010 CIF Chanchlani Global Indian Award. The event provided a platform to connect with one another and learn more about Canada India Foundation and find creative ways of engaging with Canada and India. In 2012, Vancouver and Saskatoon hosted the Canada India Agriculture & Food Processing Forum, a high-profile public policy forum aimed at developing a policy and strategy framework for enhancing two-way trade and investment between Canada and India in the Agriculture and Food Processing sector.

These past years, CIF in Western Canada, through the efforts of its founding members and the rest of the team has been working tirelessly

behind the scene with the BC Provincial Government to support its India engagement strategy, providing advice & guidance when sought and needed.

We will continue to seek new and innovative ways to promote greater engagement among the youth of the community in the political and business relations between Canada and India.

Disclaimer :

This monthly, free, e-newsletter is produced by Canada India Foundation (CIF), a registered Non Profit Organization with an aim to provide meaningful communication between it's own board of governors as well as with a larger audience of policy makers and industry leaders. Views expressed by Guest writers are their own and CIF does not necessarily agree with them. We do not claim to provide any advice on any subject. Similarly, we are not liable for any misrepresentation or misleading claims made by an advertiser. Content provided in this newsletter is for general information purpose only.

- Editor



Exciting opportunity for young Indian Diaspora to know New India

The OIFC-ISB India Fellows Program (IFP) is a collaborative effort of the government of India through the Overseas Indian Facilitation Centre (OIFC) and the Indian School of Business (ISB) Centre for Executive Education.

Especially designed for the young overseas Indian entrepreneurs and professionals, the program's objective is to showcase the economic opportunities in India and provide connections with India based entrepreneurs to explore potential partnerships.

The IFP is designed to offer an insider's view to the dynamic markets of India, it's business environment, it's socio-cultural norms and emerging opportunities therein. Here are the program highlights :

12 Day India Residency :

Experience Indian business environment first hand at the ISB campuses at Hyderabad and Mohali.

Experiential Approach : Engage in immersive, practical and hands-on learning.

Networking : A curated networking session with Central and State Govt. officials and Industry.

Faculty : World class faculty & guest speakers from Industry & Govt.

Year long engagement : Monthly Webinars and Google Hangouts.

Benefits for Participants:

- Meet senior policy makers from Central & State Govt. and Captains of Indian Industry.

- Build & grow a network of potential business partners.
- Get first hand understanding of Indian business scenario., regulatory norms & consumer mindsets.

Participants who complete the program successfully will form a part of the elite All Fellows, will also be a part of an elite OIFC India Entrepreneurship Fellow (OIEF) Club and will receive ongoing support through mentorship and guidance as well as assistance in setting up businesses in India, etc.

Program Roll Out Dates :

Application Deadline :

June 30, 2016

First Webinar : July, 2016

India Residency :

September, 2016.

Who can Apply :

Overseas Indians, Age : 21-39 years, Business owners or Professionals in decision making capacity with a minimum of 3 years of entrepreneurial experience., potential investors, Business Consultants based outside India.

The program, scheduled to start in July 2016 will have two components : Webinar Series and India Residency. The program is being offered at a special introductory fee of US\$ 5000. The Overseas Indian Facilitation Centre (OIFC) (www.oifc.in) is a joint venture between the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), Government of India and the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) for enhancing economic & knowledge engagement of Overseas Indians with India.

For more information, please contact :



Mr. Sabyasachi Dasgupta. CEO, Overseas Indian Facilitation Centre. (E-mail)

s.dasmohapatra@cii.in (or) (E-mail) ceo.oifc@cii.in



Happenings from Page 1

Both leaders also emphasized the need to promote a healthy lifestyle, control salt & sugar intake and promote the benefits of synergizing modern and traditional systems of medicine, including Yoga.



Happenings from Page 1

Other members of the Executive Committee include : Vice Presidents Salma Zahid, Ruby Sahota, Bob Saroya, Senator Pana Merchant and Senator Daniel Lang, Secretary-Treasurer Sonia Sidhu and Directors Amarjeet Sohi, Anju Dhillon, Deb Schulte, Kamal Khera, Shaun Chen, Terry Duguid, Randeep Sarai, Ramesh Sangha, David McGuinty, Borys Wrzesnewskyj and Senator Reynal Andreychuck.