



New Team to give new direction to Canada India Foundation

Toronto September 4, 2018: At its recently-concluded Annual General Meeting, Canada India Foundation ushered in a new team of leadership, comprising Mr. Anil Shah, Mr. Satish Thakkar and Mr. Pankaj Dave.

Mr. Shah, who was the National Convener for the last two years, has now taken charge as the Chair. A Chemical Engineer by profession and a metal trader at heart, Mr. Shah is the President of Ni-Met Metals Inc., which was incorporated in Toronto in 1990 to trade in metals and allied industrial raw materials. Ni-Met's highly diversified activities have given it a unique market position largely due to the business acumen, entrepreneurial vision and unending energy of its founder and head, Mr. Shah. He is involved with many charitable causes and organizations.

Mr. Satish Thakkar has been appointed as the National Convener. Satish is a Canadian entrepreneur, a renowned professional, a committed community leader and a passionate philanthropist, with several accomplishments to his credit in a short span of time.

Satish is a Canadian entrepreneur, a renowned professional, a committed and passionate community leader, with several accomplishments to his credit in a short span of time. He is the President of Excelsior Financial Group, a boutique group that focuses on corporate finance, land development, construction and investment. He is a CA from India and a FCGA and FCPA from Ontario. He has been the President of Indo-Canada Chamber of Commerce and the Chair of International Yoga Day Canada. Satish, a yoga and wellness enthusiast, recently spearheaded the drive to raise \$1 million for William Osler Foundation.

The Co-convener, Mr. Pankaj Dave founded Manas International Inc with rich experience of over 20 years in steel industry. He has worked and lived in three continents and has dealt with wide range of steel products like Pig Iron, Scrap, Ferro Alloys. Semi finished steel products like Billets, Slabs etc. Pankaj is also actively involved with community affairs and is an office bearer of the Hindu Swayamsevak Sangh Canada.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Anil Shah said, "Canada India Foundation has chalked an ambitious outreach program to enhance its influence among Canadians of Indian origin. We are also contemplating new membership levels so that we can effectively represent a wider cross-section of Canadian entrepreneurs of Indian origin."

Mr. Satish Thakkar, the new National Convener, said, "We are planning to augment our programming by introducing theme-based speaker series. It'll be in continuation of our 2018 series on health and wellness which featured lectures by eminent medical practitioners such as Dr. Sumit Jhas, Neurosurgeon; Dr. Taran Sheth, Cardiac

Radiologist; Dr. Anil Gupta, Cardiologist – all of which were connected to the concept of wellness.”

He added, CIF will continue with this by getting experts in alternative medicine to talk about health challenges that Canadians of Indian origin face.

Mr. Pankaj Dave, Co-Convener, said that CIF would actively work towards creating and utilizing opportunities in public policy spheres by promoting qualified Canadians of Indian origin to occupy positions of influence in mainstream organisations.

Canada India Foundation (CIF) is Canada’s premier national, not for profit, nonpartisan, non-governmental organization established with the objectives of fostering stronger bilateral relations between Canada and India and enhancing the participation by Indo-Canadians in the Canadian public affairs.

Established in 2007, CIF has played a pivotal role in transforming Canada’s relations with India by emphasizing India’s criticality to Canada’s future. Annually, the CIF recognizes and honors a prominent achiever who has championed the transformation of developing economies, including those who have enhanced India’s presence and prestige on the world stage. The annual award recognizes excellence and includes \$50,000.00, given to a charity of the award recipient's choice.

In addition, it organizes periodic Canada-India themed forums that focus on sectors of cooperation. Past forums include Energy (2009), Mining and Metals (2010), Agriculture and Food Processing (2012), Infrastructure (2014) and Healthcare (2015 and 2017), and Higher Education (2018). CIF also organizes Speaker Series, where eminent personalities are invited to share their expertise with community members. Roundtable discussions and seminars on subject of significance are also organized.

CIF members are among Canada’s top industrialists, entrepreneurs, corporate executives, and professionals. The combined revenue of the businesses owned by CIF members is estimated to be over \$1 billion. Together, CIF members provide employment to a few thousand Canadians, and they are key influencers of Canadian public policy enjoying tremendous self and prestige in Canada.

CIF has assisted in shaping a definitive pro-India policy framework in Canada by working with decision makers in the federal and provincial Canadian governments. Policy analysts following the amazing progress of Canada – India relations concur that substantial improvements have occurred in the last ten years – coinciding with the formation and growth of CIF.

Pertinently, the emerging geopolitical and economic scenario globally indicates that the time is ripe for Canada and India to develop robust relations that reflect their shared democratic values.