



Canada India Foundation: 2019 in review

CIF continued enriching public policy in Indo-Canadian affairs in 2019

Friends and supporters of CIF,

2019 has been a significant year in India and Canada. As the year draws to a close, we take this opportunity to reflect on the year that was.

CIF began the year with a Higher Education Forum in India. The Forum was a gathering of individuals and organizations who offered insights into the transformation of the relationship between the two countries in the field of higher education.

Over the year, we presented opportunities for our supporters and friends to listen to and engage with eminent individuals - Pierre Cleroux of BDC, Anuradha Bhosale of AVANI, a panel on good governance and public policy, and Dr. Manish Shah (head and neck surgeon).

CIF hosted a Women's Entrepreneurship Festival in May. Thanks to excellent support and overwhelming interest, the event was held at no cost to attendees. The event saw many successful businesswomen who shared their experiences and insights, and encouraged entrepreneurship. The event was graced by the presence of the federal Minister for Small Business, Mary Ng.

CIF also supported a series of health seminars held at the Sringeri Vidya Bharati Foundation. The seminars covered a wide range of topics and were kept free to ensure maximum participation.

CIF hosted a visiting delegation from the Federation of Indian Exporting Organizations. The visitors were greeted by a full roundtable of interested individuals and organizations leading to an excellent afternoon of interaction and exchange.

The year also saw elections in India (May) and Canada (October), with both countries returning the Prime Ministers with renewed mandates. CIF looks forward to help bring together policymakers in India and Canada in 2020 and beyond.

The annual CIF Gala was a resounding success. The 2019 Global Indian Award was presented to former Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper. The former PM was a tireless champion of greater ties between Canada and India, and CIF is proud to recognize him for it. Key speakers at the gala were the Premier of Ontario, the High Commissioner of India to Canada, and the federal Minister for Immigration.

The fourth annual CIF Golf Tournament saw CIF donating \$20,000 to men and women in uniform and their families in India and Canada. CIF salutes those who serve in uniform in both countries, and is proud to donate to such a worthy cause.

This fall, CIF bid fond farewell to the High Commissioner of India to Canada, Mr. Vikas Swarup. Over his tenure, Mr. Swarup and CIF had an excellent working relationship. CIF wishes Mr. Swarup all the very best in his next post.

CIF also welcomed the new Consul-General of India in Toronto, Ms. Apoorva Srivastava. CIF met with the Consul-General and briefed her on CIF's activities. We wish her all the best as she settles into her job, and look forward to working with her.

The year also saw the sudden demise of Calgary MP Deepak Obhrai. Deepak was an ardent supporter of CIF and a member of our Advisory Board. We are grateful for his support.

November saw CIF at the Diwali celebration on Parliament Hill. The celebration was continuation of a tradition started by Deepak Obhrai, and CIF is proud to support it.

As the year draws to a close, we end on a pleasant and high note. The External Affairs Minister of India, Dr. S. Jaishankar, is in Canada for his official visit. In an [excellent article in the newspaper "National Post"](#), the Minister highlighted the shared values of Canada and India: democracy, unity in diversity, and freedom of expression. CIF issued a press release commending the visit and encouraging both countries to build on our common and shared values. CIF Chair Anil Shah said "Dr. Jaishankar's visit is a welcome first step in strengthening the increasing connections between Canada and India. CIF stands ready to help in every which way possible to make this visit a success." CIF National Convener Satish Thakkar added "I wish the governments of Canada and India all the very best as they take the next step in this relationship. CIF is committed to ensuring that the two countries continue to form a solid bond that will endure well into the future."

We believe we have had an excellent year implementing our mandate of contributing to public policy, and strengthening ties between the peoples and governments of Canada and India. Your continued support through attendance at our events is most appreciated.

CIF wishes everyone happy holidays. See you in the new year.

Canada India Foundation: 2019 in pictures





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