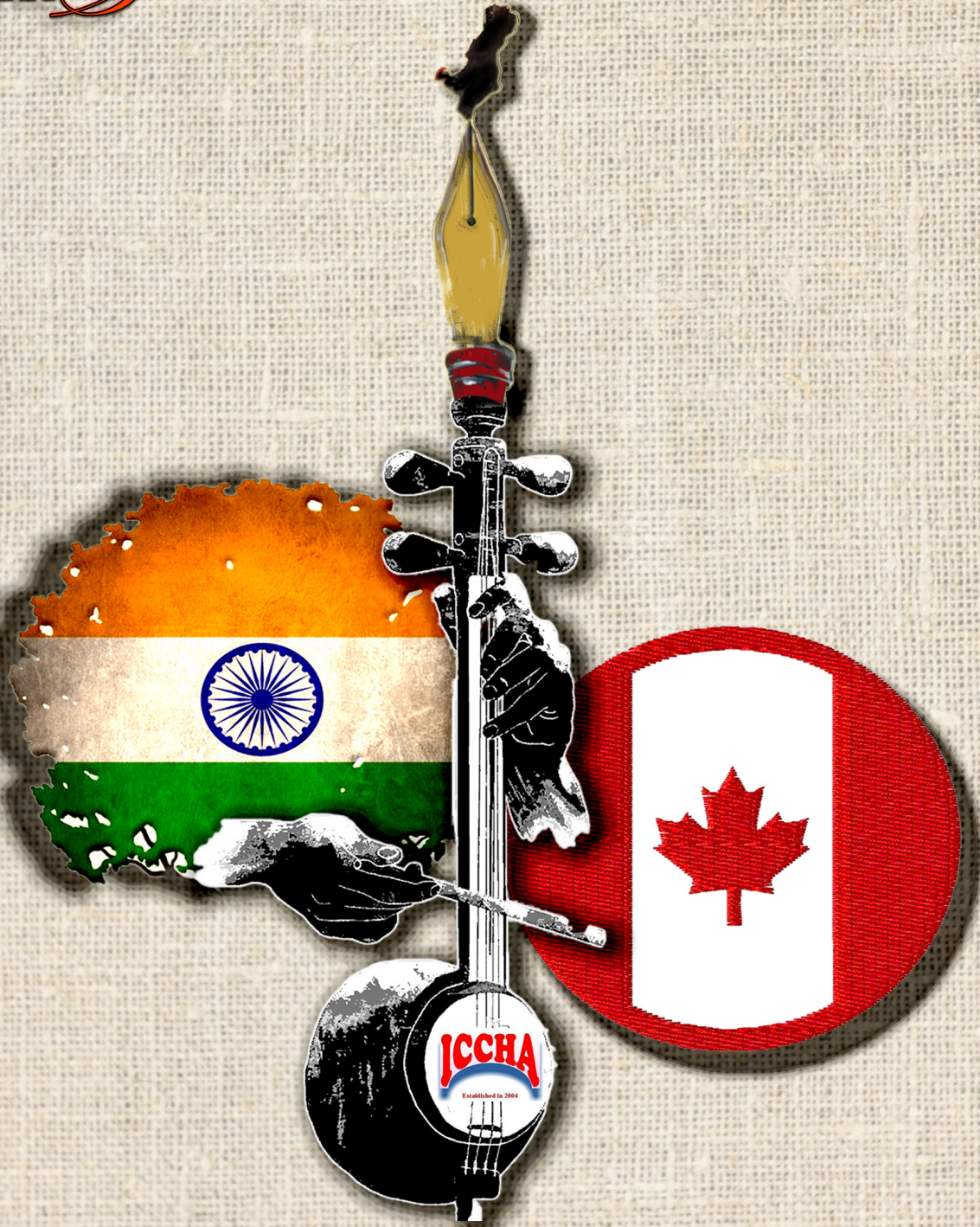


2010 ICCHA

YEAR

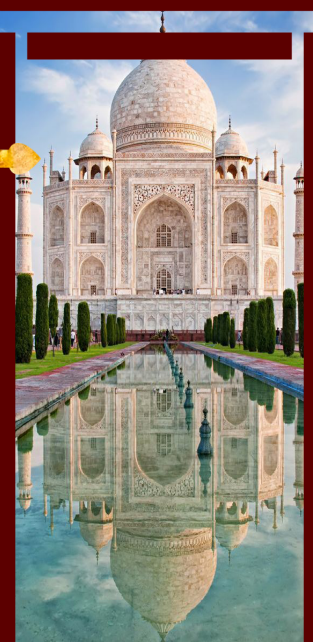


**INDIA CANADA CULTURE & HERITAGE
ASSOCIATION INC.**

ICCHA acknowledges that we are gathered on ancestral lands, Treaty 1 territory, traditional territory of the Anishinaabeg, Cree, Oji-Cree, Dakota, and Dene Peoples, and on the National Homeland of the Red River Métis. We are committed to work with our indigenous community towards a shared goal of reconciliation.

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PRIME MINISTER • PREMIER MINISTRE

Message from the Prime Minister of Canada

It is with great honour that I send my warmest greetings for the India Canada Culture and Heritage Association Inc.'s (ICCHA) 20th Anniversary Dinner and Special Edition Magazine.

In Canada, where our diversity is our greatest strength, the contributions that Canadians of Indian origin have made – and continue to make every day – to our beloved country, are indeed invaluable. This includes the four community leaders and nine scholarship recipients who are being honoured by the ICCHA today.



Canada is deeply proud to be home to a strong 1,856,000 Canadians of Indian origin. Their rich culture, customs, and traditions, enhances and makes the fabric of our society more vibrant. A spirit of inclusivity unites us as Canadian, and we are unique in the world in that we realize how different cultures, perspectives, and ways of life, give us strength, as they enrich our society and our understanding of the world.

I would like to recognize the ICCHA for the great work that they do foster this spirit and to preserve and promote Indian culture and heritage in Canada. I would also like to congratulate today's and past recipients, on being recognized by the ICCHA and on their excellent achievements.

Today's event lets us celebrate our Indian community, and some remarkable individuals who have stepped up within it. Canada is deeply proud to be home to a strong Indian community, and when we promote Indian culture here, the hearts of all Canadians are fuller, and our country is stronger, for it.

Wish my best wishes to the ICCHA on 20 years of incredible impact.

Ottawa
2024



A Message from the Lieutenant-Governor of Manitoba.

As the King's representative in Canada, I am pleased to extend vice-regal greetings to the honoured guests, board of directors, volunteers, staff and supporters of the India Canada Culture and Heritage Association Inc. (ICCHA) as you come together on your organization's 20th anniversary for this year's community awards presentation.

ICCHA has a long and admirable history of dedication to the preservation and promotion of Indian arts, language, culture and heritage in our province. The shared commitment and outstanding voluntarism of your members have been keys to your organization's success, ensuring Indian culture thrives in Manitoba, not only today, and for generations to come.

By honouring outstanding citizens, and accomplished students, you are not only shining a deserving light on the good work of Manitobans, and the community leaders of the future, but inspiring others to follow their lead.

Congratulations to this evening's honoured citizens and scholarship recipients for a job well done and for reminding us all of the value of education and the power of the individual to make a difference in the world. I also commend everyone whose hard work and dedication has helped make ICCHA's milestone anniversary and this celebratory evening possible. I wish you continued success.



Her Honour the Honourable
Anita R. Neville, P.C. O.M.
Lieutenant-Governor of Manitoba

The Honourable Anita R. Neville, P.C. O.M.
Lieutenant-Governor of Manitoba



PREMIER
OF MANITOBA
Legislative Building
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3C 0V8
CANADA

A MESSAGE FROM THE PREMIER

On behalf of the Government of Manitoba, I want to congratulate the India Canada Culture & Heritage Association Inc. on your 20th anniversary.

The Indian community in Manitoba is a deeply valued part of our social, economic, political and cultural fabric. Organizations like the India Canada Culture & Heritage Association do important work to preserve and promote the human rights, language, culture, and heritage of the Indian community.

Congratulations to the community leaders and students being recognized for your achievements and contributions to our province. I wish you a wonderful evening of celebration.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Wah Kinew', written over a white rectangular background.

***The Honourable Wah Kinew
Premier of Manitoba***



Minister of Sport, Culture, Heritage and Tourism

Minister responsible for Francophone Affairs

Minister responsible for the Manitoba Liquor and Lotteries Corporation

Legislative Building, Winnipeg, Manitoba R3C 0V8 CANADA

Message from the Minister

This year marks the 20th anniversary of the India Canada Culture & Heritage Association Inc.

Since 2004, your organization has provided support to other organizations and individuals committed to this province, while celebrating and promoting the languages, cultures and traditions of Manitobans of Indian origin. The organization's scholarships and charitable fundraisers have helped people of all ages and from many communities.

As we commemorate this anniversary, we celebrate the many ways that the Indian community has impacted the province's arts and cultural industries, businesses, health and social services. Together, these efforts have shaped Manitoba's beautifully unique multicultural tapestry.

As you celebrate this momentous occasion, Manitobans of all backgrounds celebrate your commitment to preserve time-honoured traditions and hard work. These efforts bring all Manitobans closer together as we continue to uphold the values that make this province a great place to live - such as friendship, community, and culture.

I would like to congratulate the many volunteers, organizers and sponsors, for outstanding contributions over the past 20 years. Your dedication and passion are vital to the organization's continued success. My best wishes to the India Canada Culture & Heritage Association and its supporters on this wonderful achievement. I wish you many more years of successful programs and events.

Honourable Glen Simard
Minister of Sport, Culture, Heritage and Tourism



Manitoba 



Mayor's Message

On behalf of the City of Winnipeg, it is my pleasure to extend best wishes and congratulations to the India Canada Culture & Heritage Association (ICCHA) on your 20th anniversary celebration.

This year, Winnipeg also celebrates an important milestone - 150 years as a city. For 150 years, Winnipeg has been a city that has welcomed people from around the world, creating a rich tapestry of cultures and traditions that make our city vibrant and strong.

This anniversary is an opportunity for us to reflect on our past, and look ahead to our future. And an important part of our city's story is the generous organizations and individuals who work hard to build a better Winnipeg.

To everyone involved with ICCHA, congratulations on this incredible milestone. For two decades, ICCHA has been a vital part of our community, preserving and promoting the rich heritage, language, and culture of people of Indian origin.

Thank you for all that you do to strengthen our city, and I wish you continued success.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "S. Gillingham", written on a white background.

Scott Gillingham
Mayor
City of Winnipeg





Message from Jessie Pannu, President

As we celebrate the 20th anniversary of the India Canada Culture & Heritage Association Inc.(ICCHA),I am filled with gratitude and pride in what we have achieved together. Over these past two decades, ICCHA has worked to honour and preserve the heritage, culture, language, and rights of people of Indian origin in Canada.It has been a journey defined by dedication, community, and a shared vision for the future.

Our mission has always extended beyond advocacy alone. Through mentorship and our commitment to recognizing academic and athletic excellence, we've been privileged to support young people as they pursue their dreams. Watching them grow and achieve has been one of the most rewarding aspects of our work.

Equally important has been recognizing the community leaders whose achievements uplift us all. Their contributions are a source of inspiration, and we are proud to honour them with awards that reflect their lasting impact and dedication.

In times that can feel increasingly divided, our commitment to fostering harmony across cultures, religions, and backgrounds feels more important than ever.Our efforts demonstrate that unity in diversity is both - vital and achievable.

As we reflect on the past, I am filled with optimism about what lies ahead.Let us continue to strengthen our community, honour our heritage, and champion the values that unite us.

Here's to the next 20 years and beyond!

With heartfelt appreciation,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Jessie Pannu'.

JessiePannu President

India Canada Culture & Heritage Association Inc.

Birth of India Canada Culture & Heritage Association (ICCHA)

India Canada Culture and Heritage Association (ICCHA) Inc. was established in 2004 by Dr. Naranjan S. Dhalla as a non-profit, non-political, non-religious organization with unique aims and objectives concerning human rights and education. Our mission is to promote racial, religious, cultural harmony and equal rights for all in Canada. We celebrate the history of settlement of people of Indian origin in Canada and their contributions to Canada.

Objectives and Values of the Association

The India Canada Cultural & Heritage Association serves people of Indian origin that have settled in Canada.

Education

We strive for promoting and mentoring education; recognizing academic excellence of young people; promoting racial, religious and cultural harmony of people of Indian origin.

Research

We prioritize engaging in research and collection of historical documents, publications, and artifacts depicting the culture and heritage of people of Indian origin in Canada.

Achievement

We recognize accomplishments of people and serve to highlight their contributions to Canada; encouraging people to participate in sports and health related activities.



ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE OF ICCHA

Board of Trustees



Dr. Naranjan S. Dhalla (Chair)	Dr. Amarjit S. Arneja	Dr. Mohinder S. Dhillon	Dr. Vijayan Elimban	Dr. Lalitha Raman-Wilms
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Executive Members

PRESIDENT: Ms. Jessie Pannu	PAST PRESIDENT: Dr. Digvir Jayas
VICE PRESIDENT: Mr. Manu Batish	TREASURER: Mr. Ken Eapen
SECRETARY: Dr. Paramjit S. Tappia	JOINT TREASURER: Mr. Narinder Kalkat

Board of Directors

Dr. Permvir Chohan	Dr. Gurinder Randhawa
Dr. Sanjiv Dhingra	Dr. Meenu Sharma
Dr. Rupinder Diocee	Mr. Raj Sharma
Mr. Jaideep Johar	Dr. George Thomas
Ms. Nupur Kumari	

Special Appointment

Public Relations: Mrs. Narinder Johar (Chair)

LEGACY OF ICCHA...

Contribution to Canadian Museum of Human Rights and Statue of Mahatma Gandhi

On August 27, 2004, the Canadian Museum for Human Rights (CMHR) received a significant gift—a 500-kilogram bronze statue of Mahatma Gandhi, symbolizing peace, non-violence, and human rights. The statue was gifted by Her Excellency Shashi Tripathi, then High Commissioner of India to Canada, representing the Government of India and the Indian Council for Cultural Relations. This effort was spearheaded by Dr. Naranjan S. Dhalla, founder of the India Canada Culture and Heritage Association (ICCHA), in collaboration with Tripathi. Dr. Dhalla, inspired by a conversation with CMHR visionary Israel Asper, believed Gandhi's presence would resonate with the museum's dedication to human rights and inclusivity.

The statue, crafted by renowned sculptor Ram Vanji Sutar, who has created Gandhi statues displayed worldwide. The unveiling ceremony of the Mahatma Gandhi statue at the Canadian Museum for Human Rights was a significant moment, marked by contributions from prominent figures in both Canada and

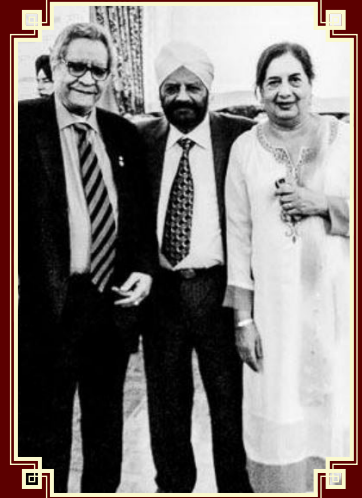
India. This ceremony highlighted Canada's recognition of Gandhi's global impact on human rights, placing him symbolically as a beacon within the museum's exhibits. While initially displayed in Forks, the statue was later moved to the museum itself when it opened to the public, where it stands as a lasting symbol of peace and inspiration for visitors from around the world. The exhibit highlights Gandhi's global influence on human rights and his philosophy of peaceful resistance.

In the same year, ICCHA raised \$125,000 for the museum, reinforcing their commitment to promoting racial harmony and equal rights in Canada. Additionally, Tripathi was honored with ICCHA's inaugural Lifetime Achievement Award for her contributions to cultural diplomacy and human rights advocacy in Canada. Link & picture of CMHR & Gandhi can be found at the Manitoba historical site - <http://www.mhs.mb.ca/docs/sites/gandhi.shtml>



Statue of Mahatma Gandhi to CMHR by Government of India

ACTIVITIES & PROO



GRAMS OF ICCHA





ICCHA LIFETIME RECIPIENTS

Lifetime Achievement Award

For a Lifetime Achievement Award, the criteria emphasize an individual's longstanding contributions, significant impact, and enduring legacy.

A recipient of a Lifetime Achievement Award has dedicated many years to their field or cause, consistently contributing expertise, leadership, and passion. Their achievements have not only advanced their area of work but have also created lasting benefits for others, demonstrating a significant, positive impact on their community, industry, or society as a whole. This individual exemplifies resilience and adaptability, evolving over time to address new challenges while maintaining a deep commitment to their mission. Their work often inspires future generations, with a legacy marked by mentorship, guidance, and the encouragement of others to follow in their footsteps. Recognized for their integrity and pioneering contributions, a Lifetime Achievement Award recipient leaves an indelible mark that will influence their field or community for years to come.

This award honors not just a career, but a lifetime dedicated to meaningful work and sustained impact.



2004- Her Excellency Shashi U. Tripathi

High Commissioner of India to Canada and Indian Council for Cultural Relations played a great role in bringing a statue of Mahatma Gandhi to Canadian Museum of Human Rights. These efforts were spearheaded by Dr. Naranjan S. Dhalla, founder of the India Canada Culture and Heritage Association (ICCHA), in collaboration with Tripathi. Her Excellency Shashi Tripathi, was honored with ICCHA's inaugural Lifetime Achievement Award for her contributions to cultural diplomacy and human rights advocacy in Canada.



2005- Dr. Eموke Szathmary

President & Vice Chancellor, University of Manitoba: Dr. Szathmáry is a distinguished biological anthropologist with an illustrious career in academic leadership. She served as President and Vice-Chancellor of the University of Manitoba from 1996 to 2008, a role in which she significantly advanced the institution's profile and academic programs. Prior to this, she held prominent positions including Provost and Vice-President (Academic) at McMaster University (1994-1996), Dean of Social Science at Western University (1989-

1994), and Chairman of the Department of Anthropology at McMaster University (1985-1988). Dr. Szathmáry began her academic career at McMaster University in 1975 as a probationary Assistant Professor, following a term appointment at Trent University. She is currently recognized as President Emeritus, Professor Emeritus, and Senior Scholar in the Department of Anthropology, having also retired from the Department of Biochemistry and Medical Genetics.

Her numerous accolades reflect her significant contributions to the field and the community. In 2003, she was appointed a member of the Order of Canada, recognizing her outstanding service to the nation. In 2004, she was named one of Canada's Top 100 Most Powerful Women by the Women's Executive Network and the Richard Ivey School of Business. Further solidifying her standing in the academic community, she became a Fellow of the

ACHIEVEMENT AWARD (2004-2024)



Royal Society of Canada in 2005 and was honored as a Distinguished Lecturer by the American Anthropological Association, the highest recognition awarded for a lifetime of exemplary scholarship in the field of anthropology.



2006- Dr. Naranjan S. Dhalla

Distinguished Professor, University of Manitoba: Dr. Naranjan S. Dhalla is a highly esteemed academic and researcher, having published over 664 full-length papers in peer-reviewed journals and contributed 198 papers to books and monographs. His groundbreaking research has garnered more than 31,886 citations, reflected in an impressive h-index of 83. Additionally, Dr. Dhalla has edited 65 influential books focused on various aspects of the cardiovascular system.

An accomplished speaker, he has delivered presentations at over 385 national and international conferences and at 150 institutions worldwide. He has also dedicated his expertise to training more than 166 graduate students, postdoctoral fellows, and visiting scientists. As both Secretary General and President of the International Society for Heart Research,

Dr. Dhalla has played a pivotal role in advancing the scientific foundation of cardiovascular medicine for 25 years.

Since 1988, he has served as the Editor-in-Chief of the esteemed journal "Molecular and Cellular Biochemistry" and has been the Executive Director of the International Academy of Cardiovascular Sciences since 1996. His contributions to the field have been recognized globally, earning him 209 honors and awards, including MD/DSc honorary degrees from six institutions and honorary professorships from four universities. Dr. Dhalla is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada and has been inducted into both the Canadian Medical Hall of Fame and the Winnipeg Citizen Hall of Fame. Currently, he holds the title of Honorary Life President of the International Academy of Cardiovascular Sciences, serves as a Distinguished Professor at the University of Manitoba, and is the Director of Cardiovascular Developments at the St. Boniface Hospital Albrechtsen Centre in Winnipeg, Manitoba.



2006- H.H. Sri Swami Adhyatmanandaji Maharaj

Pranams at the lotus feet of Swami Adhyatmanandaji

Maharaj. Revered as Pujya Swami Adhyatmananda Saraswatiji, he is the esteemed President of Sivananda Ashram in Ahmedabad and a devoted disciple of Pujya Swami Chidanandaji Maharaj. As his Guru aptly described him, "he is a great son (sun) of India, an Adhyatma-jyoti, an aadarsh yati and saint." Swami Adhyatmanandaji stands as the pinnacle of the Divine Life Society, serving as a beacon of hope for the spiritually starved in contemporary society. A reservoir of spiritual knowledge, Swami Adhyatmanandaji possesses a remarkable ability to distill profound truths into practical guidance for daily life. He exemplifies unwavering devotion to God and Guru, embodying the ideals of karma yoga by dedicating every moment to the highest service of humanity. An internationally recognized Yogacharya, he has conducted over 650 yoga training camps worldwide, seamlessly integrating the principles of Jnana, Bhakti, Karma, and Yoga, and embodying the teachings of Gurudev Swami Sivananda. For those of us who have not had the privilege to witness Swami Sivananda in physical form, the opportunity to have darshan of his illustrious disciple, Swami Adhyatmananda, is a profound blessing.

Swamiji is not only a dynamic speaker but also a melodious singer, with his spiritual essence drawing devotees wherever he goes. Despite his towering spiritual presence, he remains approachable and down-to-earth. For over 25 years, Swami Adhyatmanandaji has tirelessly spread the message of divine life, enriching the spiritual landscape with his wisdom and compassion.



ICCHA LIFETIME RECIPIENTS



2007- Dr. Lloyd Axworthy

President & Vice Chancellor, University of Winnipeg: Lloyd Norman Axworthy, PC, CC, OM, is a distinguished Canadian politician, elder statesman, and academic. He notably served as Minister of Foreign Affairs in the Cabinet under Prime Minister Jean Chrétien. Following his retirement from Parliament, Axworthy held the position of President and Vice-Chancellor of the University of Winnipeg from 2004 to 2014, and he also served as Chancellor of St. Paul's University College, a constituent institution of the University of Waterloo. Currently, he chairs the World Refugee & Migration Council, where he continues to advocate for pressing global issues.

Born in North Battleford, Saskatchewan, Axworthy is the son of Norman and Gwen Axworthy and grew up in a family with deep roots in the United Church. He earned his Bachelor of Arts from United College, a Winnipeg-based Bible school, in 1961. Axworthy is also the older brother of Tom Axworthy and Robert Axworthy, the latter having previously run for the leadership of the Manitoba

Liberal Party. In 1972, he received his Ph.D. in Politics from Princeton University, where he authored a doctoral dissertation titled "The Task Force on Housing and Urban Development: A Study of Democratic Decision Making in Canada." After completing his studies, he returned to Canada to teach at both the University of Manitoba and the University of Winnipeg, where he became the Director of the Institute of Urban Affairs.

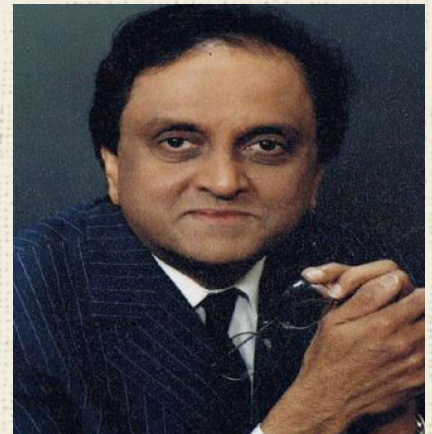
Axworthy's extensive contributions to public service and academia underscore his commitment to social justice and progressive policies in Canada and beyond.



2008- Hon. Gary Doer

OM, Premier, Province of Manitoba: Gary Albert Doer is a prominent Canadian politician and diplomat from Winnipeg, Manitoba, known for his extensive service in both political and diplomatic arenas. Doer served as the 20th Premier of Manitoba from 1999 to 2009, leading a New Democratic Party (NDP) government. Under his leadership, the province experienced strong economic growth and improvements in social services.

His tenure was marked by a pragmatic approach to governance, which earned him broad support from a diverse electorate. Following his premiership, Doer was appointed as Canada's Ambassador to the United States, a position he held from October 19, 2009, to March 3, 2016. In this role, he worked to strengthen Canada-U.S. relations, particularly in areas of trade and energy cooperation. After his diplomatic service, Doer transitioned into business and advisory roles. He became a Senior Business Advisor at Dentons, a global law firm, and was engaged by the Government of Alberta to lobby the U.S. on issues like the softwood lumber dispute. Doer also remains active as a member of the Inter-American Dialogue, focusing on Western Hemisphere issues.



2009- Mr. Shan Chandrasekar

President & CEO ATN International, Toronto: Shan Chandrasekar is the President and CEO of ATN--Asian Television Network International Limited, a long-established television broadcast company serving multicultural communities across Canada.

ACHIEVEMENT AWARD (2004-2024)



Dr. Chandrasekar started his broadcast career in Canada after graduating from McGill University in Montreal with a Master's degree in 1971. ATN is listed on The Canadian Exchange TSX under the symbol SAT. It operates 54 Specialty Television Channels across Canada. It also operates ATN-Asian Radio the first and only South Asian radio service all across Canada and the USA on ATN Asian Radio -Channel 165 on Sirius.

ATN has been awarded more Digital Television Licenses by the CRTC. ATN has strategic alliances with Leading International Broadcasters and is Canada's pioneer in broadcasting of world class cricket including the recent World Cup and IPL across Canada. ATN received the Best Business Excellence Award from the Newmarket Chamber of Commerce in October 2008. Dr. Chandrasekar was inducted into the "Canadian Broadcast Hall of Fame" The highest honor in private broadcasting in November 2004. He was on the Board of Directors and Vice-Chairman of the Specialty and Pay Television Section of the Canadian Association of Broadcasters (CAB).

He is on The Board of Directors of The Royal Conservatory of Music, the Advisory Council of The Faculty Of Fine Arts at York University and on the Board of Directors of The South Lake Regional Health Centre, the

largest hospital in the region. He was on the Campaign Cabinet of the Board of Directors for The Scarborough Hospital Foundation. He was a member of The TELUS Toronto Community Board. He was on the Board of Directors of the Hummingbird Center, The Board of "Canadian Women in Communications" (CWC) and the Board of The Canadian Club. Shan was Conferred an Honorary Doctorate (Doctor Of Laws Degree) by York University in Toronto in June of 2010. Shan is an Ernst & Young Entrepreneur Of The Year 2010 award finalist in Ontario.



2010-Dr. Gail Asper

President, CanWest Foundation & The Asper Foundation: Gail Asper, a distinguished leader in community service and philanthropy, was born in Winnipeg, Manitoba. She earned her Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Laws degrees from the University of Manitoba in 1981 and 1984, respectively. After being called to the Bar of Nova Scotia, she practiced corporate and commercial law

with Goldberg & Thompson in Halifax before joining CanWest Global Communications Corp. in 1989 as Corporate Secretary and Legal Counsel. In 2002, she became the Managing Director of The Asper Foundation, and following the passing of her father, Israel Asper, in 2003, she took on the role of President. Under her leadership, The Asper Foundation has supported numerous Jewish and community initiatives while also spearheading the creation of the Canadian Museum for Human Rights, a project she dedicated herself to from 2003 to 2014.

Ms. Asper has served on several boards, including CanWest Global Communications Corp. and Great-West Lifeco Inc., and she remains an Honorary Board Member of the Canadian Museum for Human Rights. Her extensive community involvement includes co-chairing the Royal Manitoba Theatre Centre Endowment Campaign and serving as past President of the United Way of Winnipeg. For her exceptional contributions, Ms. Asper has received numerous accolades, including the YMCA/YWCA Women of Distinction Award, the Governor-General's Ramon John Hnatyshyn Award, and the Order of Manitoba. She has also been inducted as an Officer of the Order of Canada and holds honorary doctorates from multiple universities.



ICCHA LIFETIME RECIPIENTS



2011- Rt. Hon. Edward Schreyer

Former Governor General of Canada: Edward Richard Schreyer PC CC CMM OM CD is a Canadian politician, diplomat, and statesman who served as the 22nd governor general of Canada from 1979 to 1984. He previously served as the 16th premier of Manitoba from 1969 to 1977. Schreyer was born and educated in Manitoba, and was first elected to the province's legislative assembly in 1958. He later moved into federal politics, winning a seat in the House of Commons, but returned to Manitoba in 1969 to become leader of the provincial New Democratic Party (NDP).

The party then won that year's provincial election and Schreyer became the 16th premier of Manitoba, aged 33. In 1978 he was appointed Governor General by Queen Elizabeth II on the recommendation of Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau, to replace Jules Léger, and he occupied the post until succeeded by Jeanne Sauvé in 1984. As the Queen's representative, he was praised for raising the stature of Ukrainian Canadians. Later, he served as Canada's High Commissioner to Australia,

Papua New Guinea, the Solomon Islands, and Vanuatu. He then attempted, without success, to get elected to the House of Commons; he was the first person to run for election in Canada after serving as Governor General.



2012- Dr. Sarabjit Marwah

Vice-Chairman & COO, Scotiabank, Toronto: Dr. Marwah joined Scotiabank in Toronto as a financial analyst in the Bank's Finance Division in 1979. Over the years, he held successively more senior positions within the Finance Department, including Deputy Comptroller, Senior Vice-President and Comptroller, and Executive Vice-President. He was appointed CFO in 1998 and Senior Executive Vice-President & CFO in 2002. During his tenure in Finance, he was also responsible for several functions outside the Finance Division, and was actively involved in many of the Bank's strategic decisions, including mergers and acquisitions both in Canada and internationally.

He became Vice-Chairman and Chief Administrative Officer in 2005. Dr. Marwah is a member of the Board of Directors of several Scotiabank subsidiaries

including Chair, Bank of Nova Scotia International, Scotia Insurance Barbados and BNS Investments.



2013- His Worship Sam Katz

President & CEO ATN I Mayor City of Winnipeg: His Worship Mayor Sam Katz emigrated to Winnipeg in 1951 as an infant with his parents. After graduating with a BA in Economics from the University of Manitoba, he opened a retail clothing store in Brandon. Throughout his career he continued his entrepreneurial ventures in real estate and entertainment.

In 1994, he brought professional baseball back to Winnipeg. Through this franchise, he arranged for the construction and success of Shaw Park. Katz was also founder of the Winnipeg Goldeyes Field of Dreams Foundation. In 2004, Katz was elected as mayor of Winnipeg. He was re-elected to a second term in 2006 and a third term 2010. In 2002, Katz was presented with the Queen's Golden Jubilee Medal. In 2003 he received the University of Manitoba Distinguished Alumnus Award. In 2004, he was given

ACHIEVEMENT AWARD (2004-2024)



the province's highest honour, the Order of Manitoba for demonstrating an ability to improve the social, cultural and economic well-being of Manitoba and its residents.



2014- Dr. David Barnard

President & Vice Chancellor, University of Manitoba: Dr. David Barnard became President and Vice-Chancellor of the University of Manitoba on July 1, 2008. His career includes serving at the University of Regina as President and Vice-Chancellor (1998-2005) after being Vice-President (Administration) and Controller (1996-1998). Dr. Barnard holds B.Sc., M.Sc. and Ph.D. degrees in computer science from the University of Toronto and a Dip.C.S. in theological studies from Regent College, University of British Columbia. His research has been supported by the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council, the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council, international agencies and industry.



2015- Hon. Gary Filmon

Former Premier, Province of Manitoba: Born and raised in Winnipeg's North End, a graduate of Sisler High School and the University of Manitoba, Gary Filmon is a dedicated, life-long Manitoban, a recipient of the Order of Manitoba and the Order of Canada. He was the Premier of the Province of Manitoba from May 1988 to October 1999. Hon.

Filmon is an individual who has provided not only elected leadership in service to the public, but also public and private leadership in business and in the community at large. The Hon. Filmon holds a Bachelors of Science, Degree in Engineering and M.S. in Civil Engineering from the University of Manitoba. He is a Registered Professional Engineer and a Member of the Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of the Province of Manitoba.



2016- Hon. Ujjal Dosanjh

Former Premier, Province of British Columbia: Hon. Ujjal Dosanjh served as the 33rd Premier of BC becoming Canada's first Indo-Canadian provincial leader. He was also the Attorney General of BC from 1995 to 2000. He became a Member of Parliament from 2004 to 2011 including a period as Minister of Health from 2004 until 2006 and as a member of the Official Opposition from January 2006.

He retired from a distinguished political career in 2011 and is known for his courage and ideals, throughout his career as a lawyer, community leader and politician. Dosanjh has been an advocate for social justice, human dignity and the peaceful resolution of conflicts, and has recently revealed new and intimate details about his life in his memoir Journey After Midnight.



ICCHA LIFETIME RECIPIENTS



2017- Hon. Baljit S. Chadha

President and Founder, Balcorp Limited - Hon. Baljit Chadha is a highly respected and successful entrepreneur, philanthropist and engaged citizen. Born in Mumbai, Mr. Chadha obtained his B.Sc from the University of Bombay before immigrating to Canada. He obtained a Diploma in Business Administration at the Richard Ivey School of Business at the University of Western Ontario and a Master of Business Administration from Concordia University in Montreal. He also holds corporate director certification from the Institute of Corporate. Mr. Chadha founded his own enterprise, Balcorp Limited, in Montreal in 1976, later opening offices in Bombay and New Delhi. Balcorp is now an international marketer of a broad range of products and services.

Mr. Chadha and his spouse, Roshi, also engage in philanthropic activity through the Chadha Family Foundation, which is known for its support in the areas of arts, heritage, culture, education and social well-being. In all his activities. In Canada, at the highest levels, he has made valued contributions to International

Trade Missions led by the Prime Minister of Canada and the Premier of Quebec, as well as a CEO delegation from India, and the opening of the Canadian Consulate General in Chandigarh, India. In 2003 the Right Honourable Jean Chrétien, Prime Minister of Canada named Mr. Chadha to the Canadian Security and Intelligence Service Committee, as well as to the Queen's Privy Council of Canada.

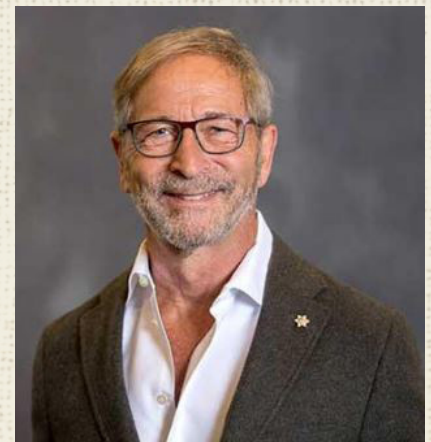


2018- Hon: Vim Kochhar

Former Senator, Toronto: Vim Kochhar is a prominent Canadian businessman and former Senator, recognized as the first individual of Indo-Canadian heritage appointed to the Senate of Canada on January 29, 2010. Born in India, he obtained an engineering degree from the University of Texas before moving to Canada in 1967, where he became a Canadian citizen in 1974. Kochhar served in the Senate until his mandatory retirement on September 21, 2011, when he reached the age of 75. In addition to his political career, Kochhar is known for his philanthropic efforts, particularly in supporting individuals with disabilities. In the early 1980s, he co-founded Rotary Cheshire Homes (RCH)

with Joyce Thompson, an initiative dedicated to providing housing for persons who are deaf-blind. Recognizing the need for accessible housing for individuals with physical disabilities, Kochhar spearheaded discussions among the Cheshire Homes Foundation directors in October 1983 on how to expand their efforts.

As a member of the Toronto-Don Valley Rotary Club, he organized the first Great Valentine Gala in February 1984, which drew over 1,200 attendees and raised more than \$239,000. The success of this event led to the establishment of the Canadian Foundation for Physically Disabled Persons (CFPDP), which continues to host annual events aimed at supporting individuals with disabilities. A portion of the funds raised is allocated to the Rotary Club for the development of Rotary (Don Valley) Cheshire Homes, ensuring ongoing support for this vital cause.



2019- Dr. Bob Silver

President and Co-Owner of Western Glove Works, Co-Owner of Winnipeg Free Press, Winnipeg.

ACHIEVEMENT AWARD (2004-2024)



For more than 40 years, Robert (Bob) Silver has contributed to the business and community sectors locally, nationally and internationally. He is President and Co-Owner of Western Glove Works (Silver Jeans) and Co-Owner of Urban Barn and Comark retail chains. He is also Co-Owner of The Brandon Sun, Winnipeg Free Press, CanStar Weekly, and Derksen Printers. Bob has served as Co-Chair of the Premier's Economic Advisory Council; Board Member of the Business Council of Manitoba and the Canadian Apparel Federation; and Chair of Destination Winnipeg (now Economic Development Winnipeg) and United Way Winnipeg, amongst others. He is committed to making Manitoba more inclusive, and champions accessible higher education for all. He served as Chancellor of the University of Winnipeg from 2009 to 2020. He is a recipient of the Duff Roblin Award, an Honourary Doctorate from the University of Manitoba, and the Order of Manitoba.



2022- Dr. David Chartrand

President, Manitoba Metis Federation, Winnipeg: President David Chartrand has been as a political leader for over 35 years and President and CEO of the Manitoba Metis Federation (MMF) for 24 years. Following his departure from the department of justice, he has become the longest serving President in the Federation's history, currently serving an unprecedented seventh term. Under his leadership, the MMF has grown from three employees in 1996 to over 900 employees, making the MMF the largest Metis employers in the Metis Nation homeland today. In just over two decades, President Chartrand has taken the MMF from a fledgling organization with an operational deficit to an established recognized Metis Government that has a multi-million-dollar annual operational budget.

President Chartrand's leadership has led ground-breaking and innovative advancements in the areas of education, health, housing, conservation & stewardship, and economic development, which have resulted in monumental gains towards the self-determination of the Metis Nation. A world-renowned ambassador and published author, President Chartrand developed the most comprehensive Indigenous Government in Western Canada and has led the Métis Nation to victories on several critical court cases, including the 2013 Supreme Court decision on the

Manitoba Métis land claims. He was born in 1960 and raised in the Métis village of Duck Bay, Manitoba. President Chartrand attributes his strong sense of identity and integrity to his mother Martha, who taught him that his name was the most important thing he owned, and that he must always protect it by acting with honour and respect. Among other accolades and honours, President Chartrand has been honoured with the Order of Manitoba, the Order of the Metis Nation and an honorary Law Degree from the University of Winnipeg. President Chartrand has two grown children, Christopher and Sonya, and four grandchildren and one great-grandson. He lives in Winnipeg with his wife Glorian, a Métis businesswoman and his granddaughter Martha.



2023- Dr. Digvir S. Jayas

President and Vice-Chancellor of the University of Lethbridge, Lethbridge, Alberta, Canada: Dr. Digvir Jayas is a distinguished academic and researcher, currently serving as



ICCHA DISTINGUISHED RECIPIENTS

(Research and International) Emeritus and Distinguished Professor Emeritus at the University of Manitoba. He holds degrees from G.B. Pant University of Agriculture and Technology in Pantnagar, India, as well as from the University of Manitoba and the University of Saskatchewan.

As a former Tier I Canada Research Chair in Stored-Grain Ecosystems, Dr. Jayas specializes in the drying, handling, and storage of cereal grains, pulses, and oilseeds. His innovative research also encompasses digital image processing applications for grading and processing operations in the agri-food industry. He has collaborated with researchers

across several countries, significantly impacting the development of efficient grain storage, handling, and drying systems in Canada, China, India, Ukraine, and the United States. Throughout his career, he has authored or co-authored over 1,000 technical articles in scientific journals, conference proceedings, and books focused on grain storage, drying, handling, and quality monitoring.

Dr. Jayas's contributions have earned him numerous accolades, including recognition from the Agriculture Institute of Canada, the Applied Zoologists Research Association (India), the American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers (ASABE), and the

Canadian Institute of Food Science and Technology. In 2009, he was inducted as a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada, and in 2018, he was appointed as an Officer of the Order of Canada for his advancements in agricultural practices and promotion of scientific research. He also received the RSC Sir John William Dawson Medal in 2019 and was inducted into both the Manitoba Agricultural Hall of Fame and the Canadian Agricultural Hall of Fame in 2022. Dr. Jayas has served on various boards and committees, including ArcticNet and the Churchill Marine Observatory, showcasing his dedication to advancing agricultural research and practices.

Distinguished Leadership Award

For a Lifetime Achievement Award, the criteria For a leadership award, an ideal candidate demonstrates a clear vision and innovation, contributing unique ideas and direction within their field or community. They inspire others, creating opportunities for growth and serving as a role model through their actions and integrity. Strong problem-solving skills and the ability to navigate challenges reflect

their capability to drive positive change, while their influence is marked by tangible outcomes or improvements, such as organizational growth or community advancement. Consistent dedication over time further underlines their commitment to leadership, highlighting their capacity to leave a lasting impact and inspire others.



2016- Dr. Mohinder S. Dhillon, Winnipeg

Dr. Mohinder S. Dhillon is an entrepreneur and well-respected leader in Manitoba's Indo-Canadian community. He is an ardent advocate for human rights and is devoted to supporting Manitoba's new immigrants. Dhillon arrived in Winnipeg in 1967, and has been contributing to the fabric of his community ever since. Upon his arrival, he worked full-time at Bristol Aerospace and leads his own real estate company.

Dhillon's work with the Manitoba Interfaith Immigration Council has helped welcome and integrate close to 5,000 refugees and new immigrants to our province. Dhillon has contributed his time and effort to more than 30 organizations including his serving on an advisory board for the Canadian Museum for Human Rights and The University of Winnipeg's Global College.

LEADERSHIP AWARD (2004-2024)



2018- Dr. Amarjit S. Arneja and 2010 Distinguished Service

Dr. Amarjit Arneja came to Winnipeg in 1973 as an intern and completed his Residency and Fellowship in Rehabilitation Medicine in 1979. Since 1980, he has been an active staff member at the Rehabilitation Hospital, Health Sciences Centre, and St. Boniface Hospital, while also serving as an Associate Professor in the Department of Medicine at the University of Manitoba. With over 38 years of service, Dr. Arneja is recognized as one of Manitoba's most compassionate and innovative physicians in Rehabilitation Medicine.

Beyond his medical practice, Dr. Arneja has served on numerous boards and committees, raising significant funds for organizations such as the Canadian Museum for Human Rights, Manitoba Tennis Association, United Way, and Gurdwara Singh Sabha Winnipeg.

His contributions have earned him more than 20 honors,

including the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal (2013), the Manitoba Medical College Student Association's Innovation and Mentorship Award (2014-2015), and the Distinguished Service Award from Doctors Manitoba (2018), the highest honor recognizing outstanding service to patients and the community.

Dr. Arneja's work reflects his dedication to promoting human rights, literacy, multiculturalism, and community well-being, making him a respected figure in both the medical field and the wider community.



2022- His Excellency Ajay Bisaria

India High Commissioner, Ottawa: Ajay Bisaria is a corporate strategic advisor, guiding global businesses on geopolitics and regulations. He advises OMERS in India and several companies in private equity, fintech, health tech, and more. Earlier Ajay Bisaria was an Indian diplomat with a diplomatic career spanning 35

years.

Bisaria has held key positions in some of India's most critical economic and security relationships. He served as the High Commissioner of India to Canada from March 2020 to June 2022, and prior to that, he was the High Commissioner of India to Pakistan from December 2017 to February 2020.

Bisaria has also represented India at the World Bank in Washington, D.C., and served in various capacities in Indian embassies in Berlin and Moscow. Within the Ministry of External Affairs, the Department of Commerce, and the Prime Minister's Office, he played a significant role, including being a key aide to Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee from 1999 to 2004. Bisaria is a specialist in India's Eurasia policy, having worked extensively with Russia, Ukraine, and Central Asia. Before his diplomatic service, he worked with American Express Bank and Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited in Delhi.



ICCHA DISTINGUISHED RECIPIENTS



2022- Mrs. Jessie Pannu, Winnipeg

Jessie has served on the board of ICCHA since its inception in 2004. She is presently a Board member of the Manitoba Multifaith Council, a registered charity that strives to create a platform to facilitate interfaith harmony, and where people of diverse faiths work together to build a just and caring society. Jessie is Vice-president Bhai Kahan Singh Nabha Foundation, a charity involved in the preservation and advancement of our culture and languages. Liaising with community members and politicians to champion the cause of introducing ancestral languages as credit courses at the high school level.

She is First Account/Portfolio Manager and a financial planner of East Indian origin for a big six bank in Manitoba. She is the recipient of several awards and accolades and has been a Board Member and committee chair, Singh Sabha Winnipeg Inc. She has extensively been involved in raising funds for the Ukrainian war relief. Jessie is a fitness enthusiast and a music aficionado. She has inspired others to improve their physical and mental well-being by encouraging them to lead

an active lifestyle and pursue their hobbies. Jessie is eager to help others without expecting anything in return. Her friends routinely acknowledge the improvement in their musical performances and the resulting boost in their self-confidence as a result of her free musical coaching.



2023 - Jay Grewal

President & CEO Manitoba Hydro: Mrs. Grewal arrived in Manitoba in this position in 2019 and has since distinguished herself by outperforming in her role as the ultimate overseer of the province's supply of electricity. In particular, the year she arrived Manitoba suffered a brutal Thanksgiving Day storm which caused an estimated \$100 million in damage, cutting off tens of thousands of people from electricity service. However, Mrs. Grewal rose to the occasion and lead Manitoba Hydro's teams and those of neighbouring states and provinces in quickly ascertaining, clearing, and repairing critical damage done to the electric grid.

In what was nothing less than a heroic effort under her leadership, full power was restored in less than two

weeks' time. Grewal was duly recognized and received the 2019 Edison Electric Institute North American Disaster Recovery Award. During her time at Manitoba Hydro, Mrs. Grewal has implemented transformational change, bringing one of the country's largest crown corporations into the modern era by implementing best practices in governance, enterprise risk management, and cyber security, amongst other areas, all the while prioritizing the service quality and reliability needs for the people of Manitoba.

Her list of accomplishments goes on, including bringing a multibillion-dollar dam online under budget and ahead of schedule – a virtual miracle in the public sector and something all Manitobans should be excited about – the money she saves Hydro ultimately benefits all of the people of Manitoba. So inspiring is she, that she was just recently awarded Outstanding Canadian Leader for 2023 by the Women's Infrastructure Network in Vancouver over 29 other outstanding nominees.



2024- Dr. Ganga Bhavani Dakshinamurti

LEADERSHIP AWARD (2004-2024)



Dr. Ganga had her initial education in Madras, India, obtaining a Master of Arts in Sanskrit and Indian Philosophy from Madras University in 1961. She obtained a Masters Certificate in Librarianship from State University of Pennsylvania, then her Masters of Library Science degree from City University of New York in 1974; and a Ph.D. in Human Resources Development & Educational Administration from the University of Manitoba in 1992. She also has Teaching Certificates from the University of Manitoba in Adult and Secondary School teaching. Initially an English teacher in the Winnipeg school system,

Ganga started her professional library career at Red River College in 1965, in charge of establishing, developing and eventually automating a new college library. She then became Instructor of Library Technicians Red River's College Technology program. In 1988 she moved to the University of Manitoba Libraries, holding various managerial positions in Technical Services area. After obtaining her doctorate in human resources management in education, she shifted her focus to public services in the Management Library at the University. After a long and active career, she retired at the end of December 2015 and is currently a Senior Scholar at the University.

From 1979 until she retired, Ganga was very active

in professional library organizations - provincial, national, American and international - working in and chairing many committees. She was the President of the Manitoba Library Association in 1995-96. She was part of Winnipeg City's Library Review Committee that established the foundation for the planning for City's Millennium Library.

Ganga received Manitoba Library Association's Librarian of the Year Award in 2001. Ganga has long been associated with Canadian Library Association and has chaired several of the national committees and served as local convener for national conferences held in Winnipeg. She has served as the President of Asian/Pacific American Librarians Association and was active as a member of the Steering Committee that organized a conference on minority participation in library services, in Dallas in 2006.

In 1991, Ganga helped to establish Manohar Performing Arts of Canada, and has served as Company Coordinator for the last 33 years. Manohar is a Winnipeg-based independent dance and theatre company that integrates classical Bharatanatyam and Kathak into the contemporary Canadian dance scene, and uniquely interweaves both these classical styles of dance into its theatrical productions.



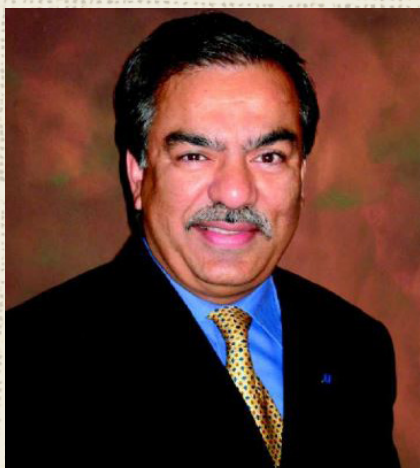


ICCHA DISTINGUISHED RECIPIENTS

Distinguished Service Award

In the case of a service award, the focus is on an individual's unwavering dedication to helping others and making a positive difference in the community. This person has shown a long-term commitment to various service initiatives, positively impacting areas like health, education, or cultural enrichment. Their selflessness and willingness to prioritize the needs of others illustrate their character, often accompanied by sacrifices for the

benefit of their community. Candidates for a service award are adaptable and resilient, maintaining their efforts through challenges and inspiring others to give back. Their role as a mentor or model for community engagement, particularly for younger generations, solidifies their qualification for such an award.



2008- Dr. Sunil V. Patel, Gimli

The new Canadian Medical Association (CMA) president, brings a rich blend of cultural and professional experience. Born in India, raised in Uganda, educated in the UK, and now practicing in Manitoba, Dr. Patel's journey informs his understanding of immigrant and international physician challenges. His appointment is a significant step for diversity in Canadian medicine, and he sees himself as a role model, instilling pride in others who may follow.

Since 1973, Dr. Patel has served Gimli, Manitoba, expanding its medical services by introducing chemotherapy outreach, sparing patients trips to Winnipeg. He approaches medicine with a community-

oriented philosophy, much like his cardiologist father, valuing patient relationships beyond the clinical setting.

In 1995, he pioneered electronic medical records in his practice, adopting a nearly paperless office, a rare achievement at the time. Dr. Patel's commitment to professional growth led him to the Manitoba Medical Association (MMA), where he became president in 1995. Over his three decades in Gimli, he has seen his hospital's capacity shrink, with essential services like surgery and obstetrics now located 60 miles away, underscoring the critical health human resources issues he plans to address as CMA president.

As he assumes office at age 55, Dr. Patel anticipates a busy term, focusing on the challenges of rural healthcare and envisioning a more inclusive future for Canadian medicine.

2009- Mr. Piara L. Sharma, Winnipeg

Mr. Sharma was an exemplary citizen whose excellent leadership in the field of community service was always gratefully appreciated.



He held the title of President of the Commonwealth Club of Manitoba along with the title of Vice President of the Manitoba Hindu Senior Society of Manitoba. He was the director of the Punjab Foundation of Manitoba and also for the India Canada Cultural & Heritage Association. He has been honoured by all levels of government. The Mayor of Winnipeg has given him a community service award, the Minister of Justice appointed him as the Human Rights Commissioner of Manitoba twice. Furthermore, the Federal government had appointed him to the Board of Directors of Forks North Portage partnership for two terms.

SERVICE AWARD (2004-2024)



It was a moment of great pride for the entire family when Mr. P.L. Sharma was honoured with the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal for his service to the Indo-Canadian community over the last four decades.



2008 - Dr. Madhav N. Sinha, Winnipeg

President of the Canadian Society for Quality, as well as the author, co-author and editor of 10 books, 11 academic journals and over 40 research papers on innovation and quality management. Madhav Sinha brought experience from previous roles at Canadian Quality Congress, Total Quality Research Foundation Canada Inc. and ASQ.

He had a robust skill set that includes Performance Excellence, Lean Dr. Sinha devoted his life to the pursuit and promotion of quality in his adopted country Canada and throughout the world. He was a professional engineer with a PhD from the University of Manufacturing, Quality Systems, Performance Improvement, Business Process Improvement.

2009- Dr. Chander Gupta, Winnipeg

During her decades-long career Dr. Chander Gupta has helped countless women reclaim their confidence. The gynecologist



practiced medicine in Winnipeg since 1976 after moving here from Scotland, and before that India, where she completed her undergrad. A specialist in urogynecology with a medical degree from the University of Manitoba, Gupta has helped patients manage and control issues that are rarely discussed outside the doctor's office, including deficiencies in the pelvic floor and female incontinence.

Gupta, who pioneered the province's first tension-free vaginal tape (TVT) procedure in 1999 and lobbied the government for funding for important gynecological surgeries, was recognized for her work by the YMCA-YWCA when she received the Eira 'Babs' Friesen Lifetime Achievement Award at the Women of Distinction awards night. The award is given to a woman who has demonstrated courage and persistence and has made a unique contribution to women's equality in Winnipeg. She was awarded the Order of Manitoba in 2005. For her dedication to excellence in patient care, she received the Manitoba Medical Association Physician of the Year Award in 2004. Gupta, who retired in 2012, continues to mentor practicing gynecologists in the province.



2009- Mrs. Jaya Chandrasekar, Toronto

Mrs. Jaya s a broadcasting pioneer recognized by the Canadian Association of Broadcasters for her significant contributions to ethno-cultural programming in Canada. Throughout her career, she has set high standards for excellence and community service. Along with her husband, Shan, she initially led programming on ATN's City TV and CFMT.

As the Executive Vice President and Vice President of Programming at the Asian Television Network (ATN), she oversees content for 54 channels serving Canada's South Asian community, including original Canadian programming produced in ATN's advanced facilities.

As the South Asian community has expanded, so has ATN, providing diverse programming in news, public affairs, entertainment, and sports, all thanks to Jaya's leadership and dedication.



ICCHA DISTINGUISHED RECIPIENTS

She has mentored many broadcasters from the South Asian community, helping them develop their skills at ATN. Jaya has also played a vital role in various fundraising campaigns for charities and has received multiple awards for her public service. In November 2008, she was inducted into the Canadian Association of Broadcasters Hall of Fame, the highest honour in Canadian private broadcasting.



2010 - Mr. Bidhu Shekhar Jha

Mt. Jha is a former Canadian politician in Manitoba, representing the Winnipeg division of Radisson as a member of the New Democratic Party from 2003 to 2016. He holds a degree in mechanical engineering from BIT Sindri and has completed postgraduate training in industrial engineering and management.

After moving to Canada in 1969, he founded Optimum Ergonomics Ltd. in 1978, focusing on office and computer furnishings, and

later established Optimum Technology Corporation for international trade and business development.

Jha authored the screenplay for the feature film *Namumkin* (1988), which depicts an Asian family exiled from Idi Amin's Uganda. He was president of Winnipeg's Indian Association and organized a flag-raising ceremony in 1997 to celebrate India's fiftieth independence anniversary.

In 2001, he hosted a dinner for British Columbia Premier Ujjal Dosanjh, marking his selection as Canada's first provincial leader of South Asian descent. Jha has served on the boards of the Manitoba Telephone System, Canadian Cancer Society, and Deer Lodge Foundation. He received a Queen's Golden Jubilee Medal in 2002 and the Asia Pacific Award of Entrepreneurship from the Asper School of Business at the University of Manitoba.



2011 - Dr. Sonny Dhalla, Winnipeg

Dr. Sonny has been a pioneering surgeon in Brandon for over 30 years, modernizing Brandon Hospital and introducing programs previously only available in Winnipeg. He established the hospital's GI Unit, allowing complex hepatobiliary procedures, such as Whipples and pancreatic surgery, to be performed locally. Dr. Dhalla has developed techniques that have become standard care, including endoscopic management of GI bleeding, pancreatic pseudocysts, and fistulas.

He also pioneered wireless pH studies for reflux disease and advanced treatments for Barrett's disease. He was instrumental in developing Manitoba's laparoscopic surgery program, teaching procedures like gallbladder, hernia, and bowel surgeries. His work in breast cancer management, particularly the sentinel lymph node procedure, has had nationwide impact. Dr. Dhalla also introduced minimally invasive techniques for parathyroid adenoma and melanoma.

Despite being a community surgeon, he has published research on various GI and surgical topics and has given numerous national and international talks, including teaching surgical techniques to other surgeons across Canada.

SERVICE AWARD (2004-2024)



**2011- Dr. Daya Gupta,
Winnipeg**

Dr. Daya is a renowned cataract surgeon and a leader in the Manitoba medical community. Over his 40-year career, he has pioneered outpatient small incision cataract surgery and opened one of the first refractive eye surgery clinics in the province.

Dr. Gupta is the chief surgeon at Gupta Eye Centre and Medical Director of Ultravision Eye Laser Centre, specializing in cataract, glaucoma, and retinal laser surgery. With training in Canada and the U.S., he has performed nearly 50,000 cataract surgeries and treated over half a million Manitobans.

His contributions have earned him several prestigious awards, including the 2013 Lieutenant Governor iCARE Award, Physician of the Year Award in 2011, and the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Award in 2012. As the founding president of the Manitoba Association of Asian Physicians, he also gives back by participating in annual Eye Camps in India, offering free surgeries and glasses to those in need.



**2012- Mr. Kamal Mehra,
Winnipeg**

Mr. Kamal is Manitoba's longest-standing Indian restaurateur, philanthropist, and community advocate, with a remarkable career spanning over 45 years. His commitment to excellence has elevated East Indian cuisine not only in Winnipeg but across Canada, making his establishments a go-to for authentic Indian flavors. With a vision that marries ethical business practices and community service, Mr. Mehra has made substantial contributions to various projects in Manitoba and Ontario.

Beyond his culinary achievements, he is deeply invested in philanthropic endeavors, supporting initiatives that uplift marginalized communities and promote cultural diversity. His restaurants have served as cultural hubs, fostering a sense of belonging for the Indian diaspora while educating others about the richness of Indian cuisine and traditions.

Mr. Mehra's influence extends beyond the dining experience; he actively engages in community advocacy, championing the importance of multiculturalism and inclusion in society. His efforts have garnered recognition and respect, earning him a reputation as a leader in the community. As a mentor to aspiring restaurateurs and a role model for young entrepreneurs, Kamal Mehra continues to inspire others to pursue their dreams while making a positive impact. His legacy is not only reflected in his successful restaurants but also in the vibrant community he has helped to cultivate through his dedication and generosity.



2012-Nirmal Ramgotra

Affectionately known as Nimmi, is a distinguished and highly regarded figure within the East Indian community. With over 40 years of dedicated service, Nimmi has made significant contributions to various community initiatives aimed at improving the lives of those around her.



ICCHA DISTINGUISHED RECIPIENTS

Her work spans a range of vital areas, including crisis intervention, where she has served as a crucial support contact for women facing abuse.

In addition to her role in crisis intervention, she has played an instrumental part in assisting new immigrants, helping them navigate their new lives in Canada. Her compassion and commitment extend to volunteering with Cancer Care Manitoba, where she provides support and advocacy for individuals battling cancer and their families.

Her unwavering dedication to community service has not only uplifted individuals in need but has also strengthened the bonds within the East Indian community and beyond. Her selfless contributions and relentless advocacy exemplify her commitment to enhancing the wellbeing of others, making her a cherished member of the community. Nimmi's impact over the decades resonates through the lives she has touched, embodying the spirit of service and compassion that is essential in building a stronger, more inclusive society.

2013- Mr. Haas D. Pandya, Winnipeg

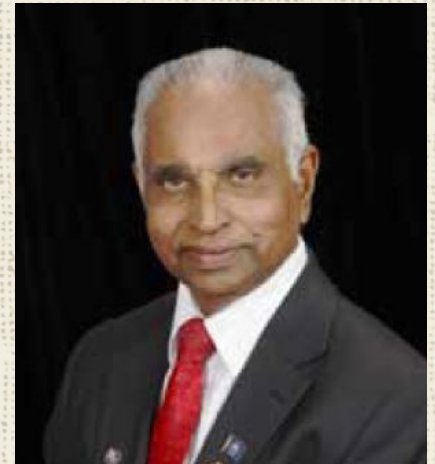
H.D. Pandya was educated in British Government Schools in Nairobi and in Kampala, Uganda, and acquired the Degree of Utter Barrister-at-Law.



He enrolled as a Barrister, H.M. High Court of Justice. Returned to Uganda as a Barrister and Solicitor with the H.M. High Court of Uganda, and was appointed as the Deputy Registrar General, Public Trustee and Official Receiver in the Attorney General's Office, British Government of Uganda. In 1970 came to Winnipeg, enrolled as a Barrister and Solicitor, Law Society of Manitoba. In 1983 the Government of Manitoba appointed him as a Queen's Counsel. During his career he has been an active community worker and has acted for or helped many organizations and associations.

2013 - Mr. Ken Eapen, Winnipeg

Ken Eapen came to Winnipeg in 1965. He has been a successful Insurance Agent and been the recipient of numerous Outstanding Performance Certificates as well as recognized as the Top Salesman for several years. He received the National Quality



Award for 15 consecutive years. Eapen was the first President of the Malayali Association of Manitoba. Over the years, Eapen has been actively involved in several community organizations and also dedicating himself to meeting the needs of families and individuals, especially new immigrants. He has also helped many international students to settle in Winnipeg. Eapen has served as a volunteer for many organizations including Alzheimer's Society, Canadian Diabetes Association, Kidney Foundation as well as Cancer Foundation.

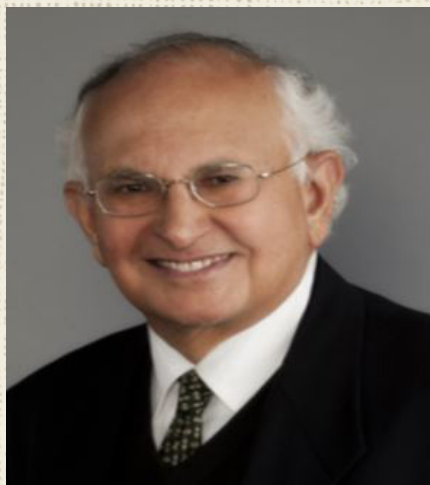


2014- Mr. Joginder Shamsher, Coquitlam

SERVICE AWARD (2004-2024)



Mr. Shamsheer has made several outstanding literary contributions in promoting Indian Heritage and Culture. His first ever publication was in Prem Sandesh, a weekly newspaper published in Lahore in 1943. Since then he has, to date, published 14 books with an additional 4 books in the works. Most notable is his book on the History of Manitoba (1993-2004) published in 2004 and Punjabi Literature of Manitoba published in 2013. Mr. Shamsheer has been honoured by several different national and international organizations for his literary work, including the Punjabi Writers Association, Calgary, and Punjab Adabi Sangat Vancouver with the Lifetime Achievement Award



2014- Dr. Pravinsagar Mehta, Winnipeg

Dr. Pravinsagar G. Mehta is a Primary Care Physician for over 40 years. He has served as President of the Medical Staff at St. Boniface Hospital, Board Member of the MMA (now Doctors Manitoba) and was elected to serve this organization as President in 2012.

He has also served on the Finance Committee of the Canadian Medical Association and is now elected Chair of its Audit Committee. He is an Associate Professor at the University of Manitoba in the Department of Family Medicine, and he is both a certified and elected Fellow of the College of Family Physicians of Canada.



2015- Mr. Norton Kothari, Mississauga

Mr. Kothari, graduated with Bachelor of Engineering degree (Honours with Gold Medal) from BITS Pilani, Rajasthan (India) and Masters in Electrical Engineering at the Cornell University, Ithaca, New York. He also completed MBA at University of Bridgeport, Connecticut. Mr. Kothari has been the chairman of Kothari Group of Companies based in Mississauga. The company is diversified with investments in mortgage financing, equipment leasing, real estate development, and hotel management. The company has built Hotels and is involved in the condo developments

both in Toronto and Winnipeg. Mr. Kothari also has made very generous financial contributions in support of a broad range of community activities.



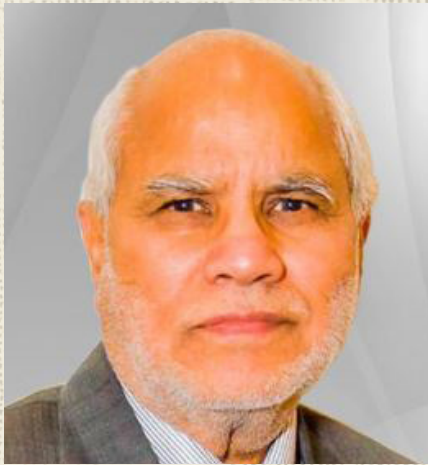
2016- Dr. Dhali Dhaliwal, Winnipeg

Dr. Dhaliwal was trained as a Medical Oncologist in England and worked at the Royal London Hospital before moving to Canada in 1987. For many years, he was CEO at North Western Ontario Regional Cancer Centre and Vice-President of Cancer Care Ontario. As past President and CEO of Cancer Care Manitoba, Dhaliwal worked tirelessly at reducing cancer incidence and improving outcomes through the introduction of many leading-edge advancements in the prevention, rapid diagnosis and treatment of cancer.

He also increased rural patients' access to cancer care and treatment through enhanced regional cancer centers. Dhaliwal was also recently a recipient of the Order of Manitoba.



ICCHA DISTINGUISHED RECIPIENTS



2016- Mr. Sushil Sharma, Winnipeg

Born in Mullanpur, India, Sushil Sharma has called Winnipeg his home for the last 44 years. He began his career in India with the Hindustan Machine Tools Ltd (H.M.T.), Pinjore, in 1964. In 1972, he brought his expertise in the manufacturing field to Winnipeg. He is a recipient of the 2002 Queen Elizabeth II Golden Jubilee Medal and 2011 Distinguished Alumnus Award from Panjab University, India. He has dedicated much of his time to supporting community organizations in Manitoba. He has been a pivotal support to countless newly immigrated families, helping them establish businesses and find jobs. As Editor In Chief of the Indo-Canadian Telegram newspaper, he has shared positive news about the community for more than a decade.

2017 - Dr. C.R. Bector, Winnipeg

Dr. Bector is a Professor Emeritus, Asper School of Business,



Department of Business Administration, Supply Chain Management, University of Manitoba. Dr. Bector earned his PhD at the Indian Institute of Technology in Kanpur. He joined the Asper School as an associate professor in 1970, and became a full-time professor in 1974. He was appointed professor emeritus in 2005. Dr. Bector has received numerous awards and recognitions and most recently, the Punjab Commerce and Management Association conferred a Lifetime Achievement Award to Dr. Bector, honouring his work and contribution to the field of management science.



2017- Mr. Anupam Kothari, Mississauga

Dr. Pravinsagar G. Mehta iAnupam has been the President of the Kothari Group of Companies for 12 years. The Kothari Group has been successfully developing and managing Canadian real estate since its entry into Canada in 1996. The real estate division of the group currently owns and manages two hotels in Winnipeg, MB. and in Cambridge, Ont. The group is also undertaking two condominium developments in Winnipeg. The Kothari Group entered equity-based mortgage financing in 2002 with the formation of Mercury Mortgages. In 2011, the Kothari Group diversified its finance holdings by creating Orchid Leasing, a subprime transport leasing company. The Kothari family and the Kothari Group support many charitable causes in Ontario and Manitoba. The focus of those efforts have been in health care and education.



2017- Roshi Chadda

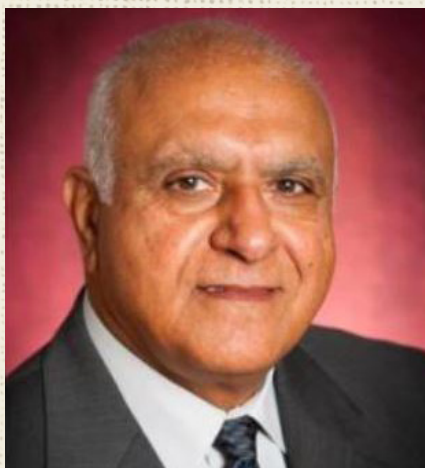
Professor Dr. Digvir Jayas Roshi was born as a Sikh and is keen to share her faith with others in Quebec and Canada.

SERVICE AWARD (2004-2024)



With the support of her Family Foundation, she has taken unprecedented endeavours. Highlighting the Punjabi culture, the first course “Introduction to Sikhism” was started at the Faculty of Religious Studies at McGill University. Using this as a template, these courses are now given at universities across Canada. With a fervent belief in promoting the Sikh principle of helping others, the foundation has undertaken to promote education by giving scholarships to students at schools and universities.

Focusing on bringing a greater understanding of her culture through the proliferation of art, support was given to “The Art of the Sikh Kingdom”, an exhibition initially held at Royal Ontario Museum in Toronto.



2017-Mr. Suren Mehta, Winnipeg

Mr. Mehta has lived in Winnipeg over 37 years. Suren has a passion for Social Service and has been involved with several organizations. Life member and

Past Director on the Board of India Association of Manitoba and continues support the activities of the organisation. He is Past President of Lions Club of Winnipeg South and member for over 25 years. A sixty-two unity Life lease project was developed under his Presidency and is well managed till this day. He has been awarded twice, the prestigious, “Lion of the Year Award”.

He is granted Life Membership with Lions Club. Most recently, Mr. Mehta was the recipient of the Unsung Hero Award at India Independence Day ceremony at Legislative Building Suren continuously helps in settlement of new immigrants through finding accommodation, work and introducing the way of life in Winnipeg.



2018- Ms. Adrienne Batra, Toronto

Dr. Dhaliwal was trained Ms. Adrienne Batra is the Editor-in-Chief of the Toronto Sun and 24 Hours Toronto online edition. Born in Saskatchewan, she holds an undergraduate

degree in Political Science and a Master’s in Public Administration.

She began her career as a researcher at the Saskatchewan Legislature before becoming Manitoba Director for the Canadian Taxpayers Federation.

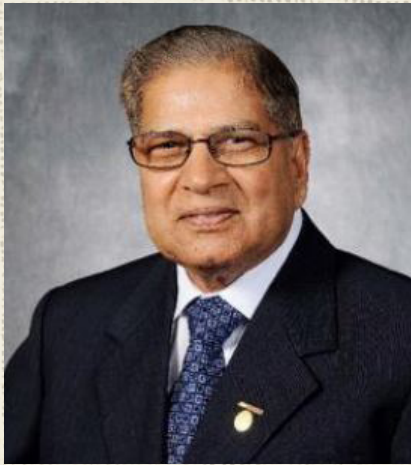
In 2010, she was Director of Communications for Rob Ford’s mayoral campaign and later served as his Press Secretary. After leaving City Hall, she joined the Toronto Sun as Comment Editor and columnist, while becoming a political commentator on NewsTalk 1010.

Ms. Batra also hosted a political show on Sun News Network and has made frequent appearances on Fox News, CNN, BBC, Global News, CBC News Channel, and more.

A former Lieutenant in the Canadian Armed Forces, Ms. Batra was nominated for a YWCA Woman of Distinction award and received the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee Medal in 2013. She also serves on the Board of Governors for the National Newspaper Awards and the Canadian Journalism Foundation.



ICCHA DISTINGUISHED RECIPIENTS



2018- Dr. Ganpat S. Lodha, Winnipeg

Dr. Ganpat S. Lodha is a renowned Earth Scientist with over 50 years of experience in mineral, oil, gas, and groundwater exploration in Canada and India. He played a key role in the discovery of the Hibernia oil field on Canada's East Coast and the first oil and gas wells in Gujarat, India. His contributions to mineral exploration include leading airborne geophysical surveys that facilitated the discovery of lead, zinc, and copper deposits in Rajasthan and Bihar, India. His Ph.D. research on the "Plate & Sphere" model is now widely used in the global mining industry.

In 1989, Ganpat moved to Manitoba to work at the Nuclear Fuel Waste Management Research Laboratory with Atomic Energy of Canada. He also represented Canada at the United Nations International Atomic Energy Agency in Vienna. Recognized for his service, he received the "Outstanding Service Award" from Engineers Geoscientists Manitoba in 2017. Ganpat

is an active volunteer for organizations such as Folklorama and the Hindu Society of Manitoba. He is a life member of the HSM, India Association, Manitoba Hindu Seniors, and ICCHA, continuing to contribute to both his profession and community.



2019 - Mr. Prem Bhalla, Winnipeg

Prem Bhalla Studied in England (electrical engineering), and immigrated to Canada in 1975. He worked for Unisys, a multinational computer company, for 20 years as Director of Quality. After that, he joined a rubber molding company as Director of Quality until his retirement. Prem Bhalla is Past President of the Manitoba Hindu Seniors (2002-2004) and Past President of Folklorama(1993-1995); he continues to serve this organization since 1988. He has served the Hindu Society of Manitoba from 1981 to 2001 in many different capacities including President.

He was appointed by Minister Jack Reimer to serve as a member of the Manitoba Council on aging (1998-2001). He served the India Association of Manitoba from

1977-1990, including as Vice President in 1987. From 1983-1987 he served as a member of the Manitoba Intercultural Council and was elected twice to represent the East Indian community.



2019 - Mr. Yog Gupta, Winnipeg

Yog Gupta has a Masters degree in Political Science (Jammu University). He immigrated to Canada in 1977. He was employed as Inspector in Quality Control with Reliance and Unisys. Presently, he is a free lance writer and has authored 5 books. His first book of Urdu poetry was released in 1974. Since then he has written two short stories books in Urdu, two books in English on English poetry, humanity and relationships. Yog Gupta is a regular host for 18 yrs with local radio CKJS-810, broadcasting weekly to East Indian community. In 2016, he became owner of first East Indian 24hr. FM radio station (Radio Awaz) in Manitoba ,serving East Indian community in Hindi, Urdu, Punjabi and English.

SERVICE AWARD (2004-2024)



2019 - Mr. Kamta Roy Singh, Winnipeg

Kamta Roy Singh is President of Caribbean Canada Heart Health Education as well as one of its founding members. He is CEO of Singh Enterprises Incorporation and owner of four Tim Horton's franchise. He has a long history of volunteering with sporting, cultural and community organizations. He is Past president of The Guyana Association of Manitoba. In 2005 the University of Manitoba made a video of him called "Manitoba is my Home". In 2018, a theatrical play on his life history, particularly as an entrepreneur,

In 2018, a theatrical play on Kamta's life history, particularly as an entrepreneur, was staged for 2 weeks at the Asper Theatre, University of Winnipeg. This was hosted by the Sarasvati Organization of Manitoba. President of Lions Cricket and Sports Club as well as The Manitoba Hindu Seniors organization. In 2006, he received the Entrepreneur of the Year Award from the Guyanese Association of Manitoba. He was acknowledged by the Filipino Association of Manitoba in 2013 as Business Man of the Year.

In 2018, he was a recipient of the Exemplary Service Award from the International Academy of Cardiovascular Sciences for his work on promoting the activities of the Academy in the prevention of cardiovascular disease. Earlier this year, Kamta was honoured by the Asian Heritage Society with a Community Leadership Award.



2022- Dr Jagmit Arneja

Dr Jagmit Arneja is a Obstetrician, Gynecologist in Victoria, BC having served Manitoba previously at St. Boniface Clinic. She was recipient of the Canadian Medical Association (CMA) Honorary Membership Award. Each year up to four distinguished Manitobans are nominated as Honorary Members of the CMA. This honor is bestowed to a physician who has attained eminence in Medicine, Science or Humanities or rendered significant services to CMA.

She has been an invited speaker and contributor at several seminars arranged by different community organizations and by the Manitoba Association

of Asian Physicians and local hospitals to promote women health. Dr. Arneja, is a continuing donor for the ICCHA university student award, and is an active member since 2004



2022- (Late) Mr. Kewal S. Chohan

Gyani Kewal Singh Chohan passed away on February 27th, 2021. He was a prominent leader in Canada for over 40 years and a founding member of several social, educational, political and religious groups. He was an active advocate for social justice and equality. He resided in Winnipeg where many of his grassroots initiatives and accomplishments began. Some of his notable recognitions include Governor General of Canada Commemorative Medal for the 125th Anniversary of the Confederation of Canada for significant contribution to compatriots, community and to Canada in 1992.



ICCHA DISTINGUISHED RECIPIENTS

Manitoba Ministry of Labour, committee member appointed by the Premier of Manitoba in 2001; Queens Commemorative Medal in Honor of Queen Elizabeth's Golden Jubilee in 2002; and established the first Gurudwara in Winnipeg. Over and above all the recognition of his achievements it should be noted that his hard work, love, teachings and devotion to his family has left the greatest impact. Beyond the many awards, accomplishments and distinguished recognitions, Gyani Kewal Singh left the thousands of people he met in his life with the memory of positivity, love and encouragement. His message to all was to not only leave this world better than you found it, but also to be kind to yourself along the way.



2022- Mr. Markus Chambers, Winnipeg

Markus is the City Councillor for St. Norbert–Seine River and made history as the first Afro-Caribbean elected in Manitoba at any level of government. Prior to public office, he spent 29 years as a civil servant,

including 17 managing the Provincial Nominee Program. Markus holds degrees in Political Science and Sociology from the University of Manitoba, where he also completed the Public Sector Management program. He has served as Deputy Mayor of Winnipeg (2018–2020) and has chaired several Standing Policy Committees, including the Winnipeg Police Board and Innovation and Economic Development. Currently, he sits on the Infrastructure Renewal and Public Works, and Parks Community Services Committees. Markus is committed to Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion and represents Winnipeg on various stakeholder issues.

In addition to his political career, Markus has served on numerous boards, including the United Way of Winnipeg, the Henteleff Park Foundation, and the Caribbean Canada Heart Health Education initiative. His contributions to the community focus on raising awareness for heart health and advancing human rights.



2022- Dr. Paramjit S. Tappia, Winnipeg

Dr. Pram Tappia is a dedicated community leader and healthcare professional who has made significant contributions to both sports and health education in Manitoba. Serving as the Soccer Convener at the Dakota Community Centre from 2008 to 2020, he has been instrumental in promoting youth engagement in soccer, coaching for nearly a decade and refereeing for almost three years with the Winnipeg Youth Soccer Association and Bonivital Soccer Club. Currently, he is the Chair of the Nominating Committee for the Manitoba Soccer Association and continues to play recreational soccer year-round, managing and coaching his Winnipeg Oldtimers Soccer League team.

In addition to his commitment to sports, Dr. Tappia has played a pivotal role in cultural initiatives. He coordinated the India Pavilion in 2009 and 2010 and was a founding member of the inaugural Punjab Pavilion in 2011. His involvement with Folklorama began in 2013, where he served on the Board of Directors and various committees, including a term as Chair of Youth and Scholarship. Currently, he is a member of the Licensing Committee. Dr. Tappia is also an advocate for health education. He has served as Secretary of the India Canada Culture and Heritage Association Inc. since 2010 and was a founding member of the

SERVICE AWARD (2004-2024)



Caribbean Canada Heart Health Education Inc. in 2015, where he serves as Secretary General. Professionally, he is a Principal Investigator and Clinical Scientist at the Asper Clinical Research Institute in St. Boniface Hospital, and he serves as Editor of CV Network, the official news bulletin of the International Academy of Cardiovascular Sciences (IACS), reaching an estimated global readership of 3,000.



2023- Mrs. Taran Malik, Winnipeg

Mrs. Malik was born in Indore, India, and holds a B.Sc. in Science and an M.Sc. in Mathematics from Indore University. She moved to Canada in 1966 and earned her B.Ed. from the University of Manitoba in 1980. Mrs. Malik spent 29 years teaching Math and Science across Manitoba, from Pinawa to Transcona-Springfield, and was actively involved in coaching table tennis, organizing fundraisers, and mentoring students for science fairs and math contests. A dedicated community

leader, she has been actively fundraising for causes such as the Christmas Cheer Board and Ukrainian refugees. Her extensive volunteer work includes serving as Director, Secretary, Vice President, and President of the National Indo-Canadian Council, and leadership roles with the Punjab Foundation and Punjab Centre.

Mrs. Malik has supported numerous charitable organizations, including WWF, Siloam Mission, and the Salvation Army, and has established a scholarship at the University of Manitoba in her parents' name. She was also invited to the Prime Minister's Garden Party in Ottawa in recognition of her service.



2023 - Capt. Jaideep Johar

Mr. Johar achieved his ship captain certification at a young age and now serves as a senior advisor with Transport Canada, Prairie and Northern Region. With extensive experience in marine safety and security, he is pursuing a Master of Marine Management and holds a

Bachelor of Maritime Studies. Beyond his professional achievements, Jaideep is dedicated to promoting diversity and inclusivity as the Winnipeg Public Library Board Chairperson. He actively participates in community initiatives such as the Winnipeg Pride Parade and Winnipeg Folklorama while supporting organizations like the David Suzuki Foundation, the Royal Canadian Legion, and the Global Citizen movement. Jaideep's family members, including his wife Narinder Johar, a daycare teacher, his son Harsh Johar, a business college student, and his daughter Sage, also participate annually at the Folklorama. Recently, Harsh and Sage were chosen as Ambassadors for the Punjab Pavilion of the Folklorama.

Additionally, Jaideep volunteers with CASARA and the Rotary Club International, exemplifying his commitment to service. These contributions have earned Jaideep numerous accolades, including the prestigious Hind Rattan Award. Most recently, he and his team colleagues at Transport Canada were honoured with the National Creativity and Transformation Award. In addition, Capt. Johar was recognized by the Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada for his contributions on behalf of the Government of Canada to support Indigenous partners.



ICCHA DISTINGUISHED RECIPIENTS



2023- Mr. Raj Maan, Winnipeg

Raj Mann is deeply committed to community, empowerment, and service. In 1983, he founded Desh Punjab, a cultural television program that ran until 1995, providing a platform for local artists, singers, and dancers to showcase Punjabi culture. Self-funding the program, Raj's passion for his community drove him to amplify its voice during the early years of settlement in Canada. His leadership continues to inspire as he advocates for inclusivity and cultural pride.

In 1984, Raj launched Raj Mann Financial, a life insurance business that now serves thousands of clients across Canada. His efforts provided financial literacy and stability to a community with limited representation in the sector. Raj's contributions extend to community initiatives such as the Sikh Society Gurudwara, which he helped establish as a space for Indo-Canadians to practice

faith and foster solidarity. He has long supported new immigrants, advocating for Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion for over 40 years. Raj's commitment to community empowerment remains a cornerstone of his work and influence.



2024- Gurharjit Kaur Sandhu, Winnipeg

Yog Gupta has a Masters Dr. Gurharjit completed her M.A. and M.Ed. at Punjab University in India and began her teaching career at Sidhwan College for Women. After moving to Winnipeg in 1974, she earned a second M.Ed. from the University of Manitoba. In 1977, she became a resource teacher and guidance counsellor at Ross L. Gray School in Sprague, Manitoba. While there, she regularly volunteered in Winnipeg's Asian community and advocated for the recognition of foreign credentials, motivated by her own experience of having to repeat her Master's. From 1990 to 2002, Gurharjit

worked as a Resource and Guidance Counsellor with the Seven Oaks School Division, actively promoting foreign credential recognition and volunteering with various organizations. Over her 49-year career, she has demonstrated an exemplary work ethic, earning the respect of colleagues and the broader Winnipeg community.

Gurharjit has developed programs and materials for government, peers, and community organizations, while fostering a strong voice for her Indian/Sikh community. She prioritizes building relationships across diverse groups and has created a supportive network for women, especially immigrant single mothers navigating multicultural challenges. A trailblazer, Gurharjit consistently challenges the notion of limitations placed on women, particularly immigrant women, and quietly dedicates her time to helping others fulfill their potential.

SERVICE AWARD (2004-2024)



2024- Dalip Shekhawat, Winnipeg

Dalip is an accomplished adventurer, mountaineer, and ultra-runner with over 20 years of experience. Dalip Shekhawat has summited 17 peaks, including Mt. Everest in 2019, and completed more than 42 ultra-marathons, such as the Marathon des Sables in the Sahara Desert and the Jungle Ultra in the Amazon.

In December 2022, he reached the South Pole during the “Ski the Last Degree” expedition and, in July 2023, conquered the Mountain Ultra in Kyrgyzstan.

He also made history by running the first-ever marathon at the Geographic North Pole during the summer season. Beyond his athletic feats, Dalip is committed to community service. He founded “Rising Runners” in 2020, promoting fitness and supporting fundraising and climate action efforts. His contributions earned him recognition, including a commendation from MLA Riel

Minister Rochelle Squires, the Community Service Award from the Mahatma Gandhi Centre of Canada, and the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee Medal in 2022.

Dalip has led fundraising efforts for numerous charities, including Wounded Warriors Canada, Cancer Care Manitoba, and the Terry Fox Foundation. He also serves as a special education teacher and is a member of the Canadian Armed Forces. Dalip is married to Parul Shekhawat and has two sons, with his eldest serving as a Lieutenant in the Canadian Army.



2024 - Teresa Cotroneo, Winnipeg

Teresa, a graduate of the University of Manitoba, is the Executive Director of Folklorama, Manitoba’s renowned ethno-cultural arts organization and festival. Prior to joining Folklorama in 2013, Teresa spent 15 years in community-based non-profit

organizations, overseeing cultural programming and event logistics. She led Folklorama’s milestone 50th edition in 2019 and guided the organization through the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic by implementing creative pivots that kept the festival top of mind and secure for stakeholders.

Under her leadership, Folklorama earned local and international recognition, including awards for “Best Virtual Festival/Event” and “Best Sponsor Activation.” In 2022, she secured \$400,000 from the Province of Manitoba to support Folklorama members’ re-engagement.

One of Teresa’s proudest achievements is establishing Folklorama’s first endowment fund at The Winnipeg Foundation, supporting cultural preservation for youth. Teresa also actively contributes to the community, serving on various committees, including RRC Polytech’s Hospitality & Tourism Program, the Manitoba Foundation for the Arts, and the Career Mentorship program at the University of Manitoba and St. Mary’s Academy. In her personal time, Teresa is passionate about social justice, racial equity, amateur photography, and exploring new culinary experiences.



SCHOLARSHIP FOR ACADEMIC & SPORTS

Youth Academic & Sports Excellence Awards

Academic Scholarships for Student. ICCHA has been engaged in promoting quality education in the province of Manitoba. We have been encouraging students by recognizing their excellent academic performance. In this regard, ICCHA has also established 8-10 annual awards/scholarships to high school and university students for academic excellence as well as for sporting excellence to students of Indian origin. These student awards also consider volunteer and community work undertaken by the candidates. The awards program has been successful because of the commitment of the donors that support these names awards.

SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS FOR ACADEMIC & SPORTS EXCELLENCE (2009-2024)

Dr. Chander Gupta Student Award	Dr. Jagmit Arneja Student Award	Ranjit Dhalla Student Award
2009: Gurkamal Dhillon 2009: Sumeet Dhalla 2010: Nikhita Arora 2013: Ankit Bahl 2014: Rajas Tipnis 2019: Jasmine Dhalla 2022: Khusheen Chaddha	2009: Ritika Khatkar 2009: Inderpaul Ruprai 2010: Shain Thakrar 2011: Sanjay Bansal 2012: Kamalpreet Gill 2013: Japandeep Sethi 2014: Kirandip Bhullar 2015: Prabhnor Osahan 2016: Disha Naik 2017: Rishma Jaryal 2018: Anjali Goel 2019: Manmeet Makkar 2022: Aakash Natarajan 2023: Sanjana Chauhan 2024: Pranav Mishra	2009: Gurkamal Dhillon 2009: Amrit Bharj 2009: Gurkirat Chana 2010: Gurkamal Dhillon 2011: Amy Sahai 2012: Shubleen Sidhu 2013: Shreyas Devalaparkar 2014: Shrey Gupta 2015: Gurasis Osahan 2016: Manmeet Kaur 2017: Karnvir S. Brar 2018: Sargun Rehsia 2019: Chris George 2022: Chahat Sharma 2023: Gaganpal Narula 2024: Bisman Randhawa
President's Award for Special Needs Student	Sindy Brar Student Award	Monique Pandey Student Award
2009: Rittu Chahal	2010: Shivani Mathur	2009: Dilpreet K. Bhattal 2010: Nikita Sarangal

AWARDS SPORTS EXCELLENCE (2009-2024)



Kalwant Dhalla Student Award	Sam & Madhu Dhalla Student Award	Kothari Foundation Student Award
2010: Jamie Rakhra 2011: Shreyas Devalapurkar 2012: Shrey Gupta 2013: Rushika Khatkar 2014: Shubleen Sidhu 2015: Sukhcharhat Dhillon 2016: Aayush Vij 2017: Rohan Sethi 2018: Nehal Kumar 2019: Rhea Gupta 2022: Vrinda Vyas 2023: Shivam Sharma 2024: Sahaj Chohan	2010: Gina Nirula 2011: Jamie Rakhra 2012: Thyaharajan Visweswaran 2013: Shrey Gupta 2014: Gurasis Osahan 2015: Charanpreet Kaur 2016: Sukhcharhat Dhillon 2017: Priya Basra 2018: Gurleene Bhathal 2019: Megha Jaryal 2022: Khushleen Dhaliwal 2023: Bisman Randhawa 2024: Anant Dhaliwal	2014: Shreyas Devalapurkar 2015: Satkaran Dhillon 2016: Gurasis Osahan 2017: Purna Sharma 2018: Sandeep Rakhra 2019: Nathan Matthews 2022: Rhea Gupta 2023: Reva Trivedi 2024: Maya Diocee
Jessie Pannu Student Award	Kamta Roy Singh Sports Excellence Award	Krishna Kohli Student Award
2017: Sparsh Agrawal 2018: Rhea Gupta 2019: Vrinda Vyas 2022: Jasmine Dhalla 2023: Surabhi Kishore 2024: Aahna Sharma	2022: Annika Paliwal 2022: Mahinder Pal John Singh 2023: Salina Leitao 2023: Aaditya Raj Singh 2024: Ira Shankar 2024: Suryansh Sharma	2015: Matthew Ramjiawan 2016: Shrey Gupta
Ventura Student Award	Rina & Pallab Ganguly Student Award	Dilawri Group Student Award
2010: Shreyas Devalapurkar	2011: Gurkamal Dhillon	2012: Rajas Tipnis 2013: Shubleen Sidhu
Terry Duguid Student Leadership Award		
2019: Devyansh Sharma		



SCHOLARSHIP FOR ACADEMIC & SPORTS

Mentorship Program

We have also established a Mentorship Program for High School and University students. This program is designed to provide mentoring to students who seek guidance and information on possible career choices.



AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE (2009-2024)





ICCHA

Celebration of Republic Day of India

An evening filled with pride and cultural vibrancy marked the celebration of India's Republic Day at the Punjab Culture Center. The event brought together community members, leaders, and dignitaries who gathered to honor India's journey as a republic and celebrate the strong bond between India and Canada. Several distinguished speakers highlighted the collaborations that India and Canada have fostered over the years, showcasing the shared values, cultural exchanges, and contributions of people of Indian origin in enriching the multicultural fabric of Canadian society.

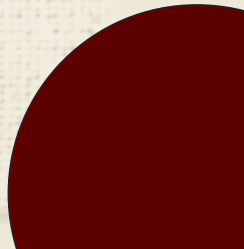
The evening's cultural segment featured captivating performances by the India School of Dance and Bulla Arts International. With graceful movements and vibrant costumes, the artists brought to life traditional Indian folk dances and classical pieces, creating a mesmerizing atmosphere that resonated with the essence of India's rich heritage. The performances highlighted the country's artistic diversity and left the audience in awe of the depth of Indian cultural expressions.

Adding to the evening's charm, attendees were treated to a feast of traditional Indian cuisine, with a spread of authentic appetizers and dinner. From the aromatic spices to the intricate flavors, the meal provided a taste of India's culinary heritage, allowing guests to indulge in a memorable dining experience.

Overall, the event was a wonderful fusion of cultural pride, community spirit, and international friendship, celebrating the achievements of the Indian diaspora in Canada while honoring India's enduring values and legacy as a republic.



MEMORY VAULT



Mehfil-e-Shaam

An enchanting poetry evening unfolded, gathering of local poets, singers and enthusiasts for a night of creativity and camaraderie was held at Charisma Restaurant. The event began with a cocktail hour, allowing guests to mingle and enjoy appetizers and refreshing drinks before the main festivities commenced. The formal program commenced with the lighting of the Diya by the founder and organizers, symbolizing the evening's spirit of warmth and enlightenment.

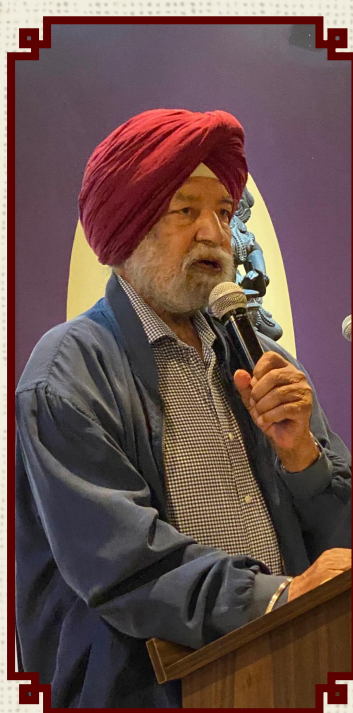
Local singers took to the stage throughout the evening, adding a melodic backdrop to the poetic ambiance. The performances resonated with guests of all ages, bringing joy and inspiration that spanned generations.

As the evening transitioned, attendees were treated to a sumptuous dinner, thoughtfully paired with desserts and aromatic chai, creating a cozy yet elegant dining experience.

After dinner, the event took a lively turn as the audience joined in for a spirited karaoke session, filling the room with laughter, music, and a shared love for the arts. It was a truly memorable night for all who attended, celebrating the vibrant local arts community and creating lasting memories.



MEMORY VAULT





Charisma Of India

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Dine in | Delivery | Takeout

Catering services

Corporate Events

Birthday Party

Any other events

Lunch / Dinner Buffets

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A culinary journey, a soulful delight,
Charisma of India, your taste of the night.



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+1 (204) 222-7878
+1 (431) 278-5850



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Magazine Design by:
Urbane Meraki Aesthete (UMA) Inc.

Simran Bhinder
Email: bhinder.simrank@gmail.com