



INDIA @ 75 GALA



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PRIME MINISTER • PREMIER MINISTRE

May 29, 2022

Dear Friends:

I am pleased to extend my warmest greetings to everyone attending the India@75 Gala, commemorating the 75th anniversary of India's independence.



This occasion offers a wonderful opportunity to reflect upon the events that have shaped India's history and to celebrate its many accomplishments since achieving independence on August 15, 1947. Canada and India have a strong, longstanding and vibrant relationship built on our shared traditions of democracy and pluralism. Our close bond is strengthened by a community of more than 1.4 million Indo-Canadians who make important contributions to our country's multicultural fabric and prosperity.

This event also provides a chance to pay tribute to outstanding individuals for their contributions to fostering this special connection. I would like to congratulate all those being honoured tonight. Your many successes have earned you the respect and gratitude of your fellow citizens and are most deserving of this special recognition.

On behalf of the Government of Canada, I offer my best wishes for memorable celebration.

Sincerely,



The Rt. Hon. Justin P. J. Trudeau, P.C., M.P.
Prime Minister of Canada

अजय बिसारिया
Ajay Bisaria



भारत का उच्चायुक्त, ओटावा
High Commissioner of India
Ottawa

MESSAGE

I would like to congratulate Impact Media and Events Corporation for organizing a grand tribute to India's 75 years of Independence, with "India@75" in Woodbridge of the Greater Toronto Area.

This year also marks the 75th year of establishment of diplomatic relations between India and Canada, who have been steadfast partners all these decades. Our relationship now stretches meaningfully across multiple domains.

Fittingly, IMEC is honouring leaders of the Indo-Canadian community and friends of India in Canada, who have not just achieved dizzying heights in their respective fields, but also fuelled the India-Canada strategic partnership. It is particularly heartening that on the occasion of India@75, while celebrating India's achievements, we also celebrate the extraordinary success and inspiring journeys of our diaspora.

Once again, felicitations to Impact Media and Events Corporation for organizing this special event.



Ajay Bisaria
(Ajay Bisaria)

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Apoorva Srivastava
Consul General of India



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Message

I am delighted to know that Impact Media & Events Corporation is organizing India@75 Gala on 29th May, 2022 to honour prominent Indo-Canadians for their outstanding services to the community and their contribution in strengthening the India-Canada relations.

The Indo-Canadian community is a key driver of our bilateral strategic partnership. The community is well integrated into Canadian life and adds a unique dynamism and resilience to Canada. Members of this community have achieved great success in a range of areas including politics, business, academia, science and culture. We are proud of the success the community has achieved and its contributions to Canada's place in the world.

This year India is celebrating 75 years of its Independence, Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav. This calls for celebration of the achievements of all Indians including those who have settled abroad and continue to make significant contribution to their motherland. I commend Impact Media & Events Corporation for commemorating the success of Indo-Canadians through this Gala event.

I would like to congratulate all members of the community who are being felicitated during the event and hope that they would continue to enrich India-Canada relations with their wisdom and experience.

Apoorva Srivastava
(Apoorva Srivastava)

Community Office:
Raj Chouhan, MLA
Burnaby Edmonds
5234 Rumble Street
Burnaby, BC V5J 2B6

Legislative Office:
Raj Chouhan, MLA
Burnaby-Edmonds
Parliament Buildings
Victoria, BC V8V 1X4



May 2022

Greetings to the Canadian National Gala to recognize India @ 75

As Speaker of the B.C. Legislative Assembly and the Member for Burnaby - Edmonds, I am delighted to send my warmest greetings and sincere congratulations to the Canadian National Gala to recognize India @ 75, a special moment in India's history.

It is a great opportunity to showcase all the fantastic talent we have in Canada of Indian Origin and how they are contributing to various aspects of our life, in both Canada and India.

As the first individual of South Asian heritage to be elected Speaker in British Columbia and in any Canadian parliament I understand the importance of representation and I am happy to see so many of you recognized and celebrated at this joyous event.

My heartfelt thanks to Impact Media and Events Corporation (IMEC). Your contribution to our community is greatly appreciated. Best wishes for a wonderful Gala.

Yours sincerely,

HON. Raj Chouhan, MLA
Burnaby-Edmonds
Speaker



Frank Scarpitti
Mayor

May 29, 2022

MESSAGE FROM MAYOR FRANK SCARPITTI

On behalf of Members of Council and the City of Markham, I am pleased to extend a warm and sincere welcome to everyone attending the *India @ 75 Gala* hosted by the Impact Media & Events Corporation (I.M.E.C).

As Canada's most diverse community, the City of Markham takes pride in the many groups that call Markham home. We are proud to be home to a large community of Indo-Canadians and we deeply value the beauty and vibrancy of the Indian culture and heritage.

The community of Indo-Canadians across our country has made and continues to make significant contributions to our social, cultural, political and economic mosaic. It brings me great pleasure to witness communities coming together to celebrate these incredible achievements. Congratulations to all the award recipients! I would also like to thank the staff and volunteers at I.M.E.C. for ensuring the success of this gala.

As the Mayor of Markham, I wish everyone a wonderful and joyous celebration commemorating India's 75th Anniversary of Independence.

Sincerely,

Frank Scarpitti
Mayor



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Master of Ceremonies
Amin Dhillon

Event Manager, Photography & Videography
Alaukik Naik – Naik Production

Magazine Design
Vinod John – Vinjo Media

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Gala Magazine Editorial Team
Tejas Aivalli

Entertainment
Parth Dani - Bollywood Dance School Canada

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Direct Dil Se

By: Vipul Jani

Special moments call for special celebrations, they also offer an opportunity to look back, re-evaluate, see what is working well, what is not and why and work on improving upon them going forward.

India @ 75 is a similar opportunity. Over the last 75 years, India, people living in India and the Indian Diaspora globally have come a long way, both in terms of their progress, accomplishments and aspirations. Signs of progress and change are visible everywhere, in India and how people of Indian Origin are now running the world's largest multinational corporations, also holding high political offices globally.

A very welcome change is the confidence and the pragmatic approach India is showing in global and diplomatic affairs. We are no longer part of this group or that group, our actions, while consistent and honourable, keep the larger interest of India in mind first. We have shown a large heart in accommodating our frenemies and sought better relations with everyone despite not so pleasant experiences in the past. India has never encroached upon someone else's land or resources, and that is why India must tackle its population growth head-on.

What is good for others, in terms of a large market, may not be so desirable for India in the long run as it puts enormous stress on the state to provide resources, jobs and opportunities as well as required services to 1.3 billion people. If the population growth is not checked, no amount of progress or growth will be sufficient.

It feels very humbling to see so many prominent business and political leaders accepting my invitation to join us here today. IMEC does 4 Make in India themed, Sector-Specific, Canada India Conferences per year, a Canada India Education Forum with Canadian Colleges and Universities, Provincial and Inter-Provincial



Conferences, Business Leaders Roundtables and now we are starting Business Delegations from One Canadian Province to another. This year, we are planning to take Business Delegations from Ontario to Yukon, Alberta and British Columbia, if anyone wish to join, please let us know.

I have a very large team of One, myself, to do all this, so, if you find any areas of improvement, do let me know. I will make sure I do better next time.

75 years of India as a modern nation is a historic milestone for sure, however, as we all know India that is Bharat that

is Hindustan, as a civilization, has been around for thousands of years. The British were there for 200 years only. So, let us remember the history, learn from it and celebrate this as a National Day. Do we still need to be part of a so-called Commonwealth? What and whose purpose does it serve in today's day and age? I think it's time to think and start fresh again. That's my personal opinion, just thought this would be the time to share it.

There are many Indo-Canadian Organizations here, organizing events, conferences, forums, delegation visits and more. However, most of the action is from event to event, meeting to meeting with nothing permanent on the Canada India Corridor. That is why I am trying to build a Canada India House here in GTA. A real estate property which can have an India Museum, a Canada Museum to showcase Paintings, Sculptures, Artifacts, our contributions to the world and more. A Speakers Bureau where we can invite Scholars, current and former Ministers, Ambassadors and Senior Govt and Business Leaders to debate and discuss important issues, a Convention Centre which can host events like this and other bilateral conferences, hotel rooms for visiting delegations and a few other things, including a Vegetarian Food Bank, Medical Camps and more.

This can serve as a template for other global initiatives like India-US House, India-UK House. Let us Indo-Canadians take the lead and create something unique, something first, I have the vision and the passion, what I need is professional guidance and seed money for this project. Initial estimates are about \$ 30-\$ 35 million to buy an existing hotel and convert it into a Canada India House.

There are many people in this hall today who can help build and fund this project just by themselves, however, what I want to do is to prepare a detailed Project Report first and then seek further funding from banks or other institutions. We are open to all options like Naming Rights, Revenue Sharing, Sponsorship Benefits and more. Many of you donate generously to Colleges, Universities, Hospitals and Temples. The Canada India House will be a first anywhere in the world and will be used by future generations, all big things start with a thought, right?

You will get permanent recognition on the Walls of the House, on rooms and museums, lifetime invites to all the events and activities at the Canada India House, Special Donor Recognition events and Get-togethers every year and many other benefits.

I don't have much time to get into all the details here tonight, but you get it, right? Can I see a few pledges tonight to take this project forward?

I have always believed in, always worked towards and always said that we, all individuals and organizations working on the Canada India Corridor should not only work together, but also need to be seen working together. Can we do it with the Canada India House Project, funded by Indo-Canadians together?

Lastly, a Special Thank you to the best diplomatic team we have in Canada today, High Commissioner Ajay Bisaria, Deputy High Commissioner Anshuman Gaur, Consul General of India to Toronto Apoorva Srivastava. They have all been rock stars and a solid support to us all. It will be heart breaking to see all of them soon depart to their next postings. Consul General of India to Vancouver Mr. Manish is away and could not join us today.

In the end, let us celebrate today but also remember that a 10,000 year old civilization is only 75 years young as a modern nation in its present geographical form. Much has been achieved in 75 years but a lot more has to be done before everyone can enjoy the fruits of our progress and success. Let us look at it as Glass Half Full and do what we can to make things better.

Jai Hind.





**Impact Media and Events Corporation (IMEC)
is a Brampton based company since 2002**

Our activities:

- Make in India themed, Sector-Specific, Canada-India bilateral Conferences (4 per year)
- Canada-India Education Forum, with Canadian Colleges & Universities
- Provincial & Inter-Provincial Conferences
- Business Leaders Roundtables
- Business Delegations within Canada, from One Province to another
- Annual Gala Events

Cabinet Ministers, High Commissioner and Consul Generals, MPs, MPPs, Institutional Investors, Pension Funds, Presidents and CEOs of large companies in both countries, Invest India and other Investment Attraction Agencies in both countries participate regularly at our events and conferences.

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Contact: Vipul Jani Call: 416-827-5189 Email: vipul@imec.biz Visit: www.imec.biz

IMEC Activities 2021-2022

Canada India Education Forum

- Session 1: The Business of Education : Role of International Education in strengthening Canada India Relations
- Session 2 : College or University : What is right for you ?
- Session 3 : Supporting International Students in Canada

Make in India themed, Sector-Specific, Canada - India Conferences

- Conference 1 :Travel, Tourism & Hospitality
- Conference 2 : IT & Manufacturing
- Conference 3 : Infrastructure
- Conference 4 : Healthcare & Pharmaceuticals
- Conference 5 : Renewable Energy

Other Events and Conferences

- Role of Indo-Canadian Political Leaders in Canada India Relations
- Keystone Cancellation and Alberta : Impact for Today, Implications for Tomorrow
- Punjab-Ontario Virtual Conference
- Consul Generals Roundtable on Canada India Relations
- Punjabi Political Leaders Roundtable as part of Pyara Punjab Project
- Punjabi Business Leaders Roundtable as part of Pyara Punjab Project
- Celebrating Success Gala
- India @ 75 Gala
- In Conversation with Annamie Paul, Leader, Green Party of Canada
- In Conversation with Ranj Pillai, Deputy Premier, Yukon
- In Conversation with Annie Dube, Canada's Consul General in Mumbai
- Canada India Insight Virtual Conference with Several Prominent Business and Political Leaders including Erin O'Toole, then leader of the PC Party and Hon. Som Parkash, Minister of State for Commerce & Industry, Govt of India.
- Investment and Wealth Management during Pandemic
- Print Media : How Relevant, Responsible & Sustainable ?
- Vocal for Local : With Hon. Niranjn Jyoti, Minister of State for Rural Development, Govt of India
- Corona, New NAFTA (USMCA) and Ontario : With Hon. Vic Fedeli, Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade, Govt of Ontario
- Challenges for today's Board of Directors including Automation, Executive Bonuses, Corona, Layoffs and more: In Conversation with Rahul Bhardwaj, President & CEO, Institute of Corporate Directors (ICD)

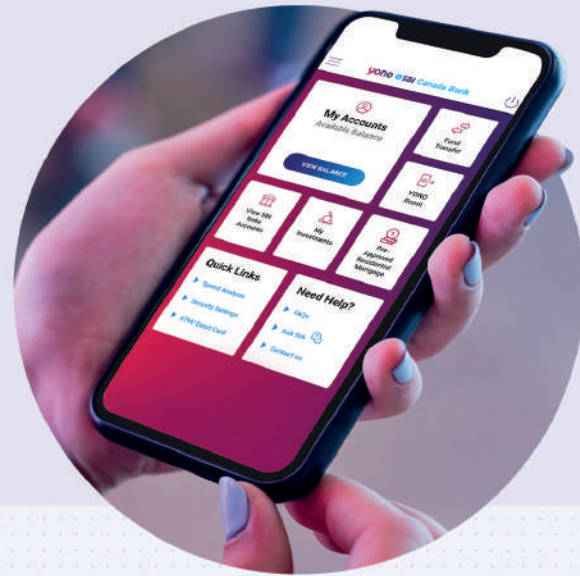
Speakers on the IMEC Platform

1. High Commissioner of India to Canada, H.E. Shri Ajay Bisaria
2. Deputy High Commissioner of India to Canada, H.E. Shri Anshuman Gaur
3. Former High Commissioner of India to Canada, Mr. Vishnu Prakash
4. Consul General of India to Toronto, Mrs. Apoorva Srivastava
5. Jim Keon, President, Canadian Generic Pharmaceutical Association
6. Hon. Prasad Panda, Minister of Infrastructure, Govt. of Alberta
7. Glenn Campbell, Assistant Deputy Minister, Investment, Partnerships and Innovation, Infrastructure Canada
8. Hon. Kamal Khera, Minister of Seniors, Govt of Canada
9. Hon. Bardish Chagger, Minister of Diversity and Inclusion, Govt. of Canada
10. Erin O'Toole, Leader of the PC Party
11. Hon. Som Parkash, Minister of State for Commerce and Industry, Govt. of India
12. Hon. Sdhvi Niranjn Jyoti, Minister of State for Rural Development, Govt. of India
13. Bruce Heyman, Former US Ambassador to Canada
14. Rana Sarkar, Canada's Consul General to San Francisco and Silicon Valley
15. Hon. Vic Fedeli, Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation & Trade, Govt. of Ontario
16. Dr. Trevin Stratton, Chief Economist, Canadian Chamber of Commerce
17. Hon. Ranj Pillai, Deputy Premier, Yukon
18. Preneet Kaur, M.P., Patiala & Former Minister of State for External Affairs, Govt. of India
19. Sandeep Goel, President & CEO, ICICI Bank Canada
20. Supreet Warna, Chief Operating Officer, HSBC Bank Canada
21. Omar Alghabra, M.P. and Parliamentary Secretary to Canada's Minister for International Trade Diversification
22. Peter Kent, M.P. and Former Minister of State for Foreign Affairs and Environment, Govt. of Canada
23. David Agnew, President, Seneca College
24. Deepak Bagla, MD and CEO, Invest India
25. Hon. Lisa McLeod, Minister of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries, Govt. of Ontario
26. Soumen Roy, VP & Country Head, TCS Canada
27. Sara Wilshaw, Canada's Chief Trade Commissioner
28. Michael McCabe, Resident Director, Tata Sons, North America
29. Several other MPs, MPPs and Senior Business Leaders from Canada & India.

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* as of the date the Magazine is going for Printing

Ajay Shah

President, Om Hotel and Resort Ltd., Shivutex Canada Inc., 3 Pines Lodge

Ajay Shah is the President of Om Hotel and Resort Ltd., Shivutex Canada Inc., and 3 Pines Lodge.

Ajay came to Canada 22 years ago, after spending seven years in Kenya and Uganda.

While Ajay dabbles in different businesses – Shivutex deals in PVC leather, his main business interest is in the hospitality industry and he plans to continue in the same.

Ajay's philanthropic work includes being a Trustee of Toronto Haveli, the society of Vaishnavas of Toronto. He is a past President of the Vanik Samaj of Canada.

After a busy day, Ajay likes to relax by

listening to ghazals.

Ajay likes to play badminton and spending quality time with family.

Ajay is a big fan of Indian cricket player Kapil Dev.

Ajay studied engineering in India. He and his wife have two children. His daughter has just finished her MBA, and his son is studying computer engineering.

Ajay is happy and content with what he has achieved in life and where he is today.

What makes him really happy?
Get-togethers with friends and family.



Akhil Tyagi

Manager, Ontario Ministry of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade

Akhil Tyagi is the Manager (Europe & Americas) of the Export Growth Branch in the Ontario Ministry of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade. Akhil has been with the Ministry for the last 16 years and now leads a team of professionals to assist Ontario companies to develop proficiency in exporting and to target business opportunities in interprovincial and international markets.

Akhil supports job creation and economic development. He promotes collaboration between businesses within domestic and international markets to help these companies become competitive and enhance their revenues.

Akhil's career began in India, where he held several senior management and business development positions with leading engineering companies. He was a Regional Manager with NEG Micon AG and then Zonal Manager with Kirloskar Oil Engine Ltd. before immigrating to Canada. Akhil joined the Ontario government after his MBA.

Akhil is a recipient of the Amethyst Award for excellence in service within the Ontario Public Service. He has also received the Sterling Award for promoting diversity within the Ministry.

Akhil is Chair and Board Member of the Canada India Business Council, Member of the Board of Directors and

Mentor at TiE Toronto, and, Board Member at Arusha Foundation, a not-for-profit charitable foundation.

Akhil is a past member of the Advisory committee of Indo Canada Chamber of Commerce and the Advisory committee of Ontario Chamber of Commerce.

On Canada India relations, Akhil believes India is well poised to play a crucial role in global economy as it is becoming attractive to global companies and investment. Canada provides access to the large North American market and India is a growing market with significant opportunities. Both countries are also expected to benefit from evolving alliances.

Akhil, through his family, supports an orphanage and leprosy centre in Jaipur, Rajasthan. Akhil is interested in photography and traveling.

A Mechanical Engineer from Birla Institute of Technology and an MBA from the Rotman School of Management at the University of Toronto, Akhil comes from a family of professionals who have served the society either by being in public services or as doctors. He has four

siblings, including a twin brother.

Akhil is married to Vibha. They have two children. Akhil's advice on how to face adversity in life is : Be Positive, Respect everyone including yourself and play to your strengths.



Anand Aggarwal

CEO, Manor Park Group of Companies and Infinity Convention Centre, Ottawa

Anand Aggarwal is the CEO of Manor Park Group of Companies and the Infinity Convention Centre in Ottawa, Ontario. Anand has been in the real estate business since 1980. He has over 100 employees and an annual turnover of \$100 million. In his 42-year career, Anand has invested in office buildings, commercial plazas and, hotels. He also develops land for affordable homes and new rentals.

Anand has received various awards and recognitions over the years:

- Order of Ottawa
- IIT Alumni Outstanding Award
- Businessman of the Year by the Indo Canada Ottawa Business Chamber
- Corporate Citizen of the Year by the Indo-Canadian Harmony Forum
- City of Ottawa Immigrant Entrepreneur

Anand also contributes his expertise to various organizations:

- Advisory Council of the Indo Canada Chamber of Commerce
- President, Sri Satya Baba Trust Ottawa
- Advisor, Indo Canada Ottawa Business Chamber

Anand considers Shri Satya Sai Baba as role model because of his efforts to supply basic needs to mankind without government intervention and opening of free hospitals for needy.

In addition, Anand has engaged in charitable work in and around Ottawa:

- Assisted in the building of Sikh Temple and Sri Satya Temple in Ottawa

- Heart Health for Indo Canadians
- Education and training for the homeless through the Ottawa Mission.

Anand is happy to see Canada becoming like Mini-India or Mini-United Nations. He believes that India is doing great, and that in the near future, the next generation of Indo-Canadians will be leading Ontario and Canada.

In his own words: "I am very happy with my accomplishments. but I do intend to keep active in the business and keep building till my last day. I wish to be the best in providing affordable rentals in the Ottawa area and do my part in providing the basics to all: Roti, Kapda and Makan (Food, Clothing and Shelter)



"Anand's motto in life is 'Help Ever, Hurt Never'. His advice to others on how to face adversity and challenges in life is, 'Life is a game, play it and keep moving'."

Anand's 'To Do' list includes building more affordable rentals in the Ottawa Region and building an Ashram (old age home) for Indo-Canadian elders who get ignored by their children in

Ottawa.

Anand is the eldest of eight children born to a middle-class family from Punjab. He is a graduate of the world famous IIT Delhi. He has post graduate degrees from the University of Alberta. Mr. Aggarwal's favourite place to visit (especially during Canadian Winters) is Florida and after a busy day's work, he relaxes by watching Indian TV Serials and Listening to Shabad from Gurbani.



Anil Arora

Chief Statistician, Statistics Canada

Anil Arora is the Chief Statistician of Canada. Anil was appointed to this role in 2016. Statistics Canada is the national statistical office. The agency ensures Canadians have the key information on Canada's economy, society and environment that they require to function effectively as citizens and decision makers. Statistics Canada has 8,000 employees and an annual budget of nearly \$1 Billion.

Anil joined Statistics Canada in 1988, where he served in several positions, including regional operations, corporate services and the redesign of the dissemination function. In 2000, he became Director of Census Management Office and subsequently the Director General responsible for all aspects of the 2006 Census. Following the successful delivery of the 2006 Census he became the Assistant Chief Statistician of Social, Health and Labour Statistics from 2008 to 2010. From 2010 to 2016, Anil served as the Assistant Deputy Minister of various federal departments.

At Statistics Canada, Anil is heading the process of modernizing and transforming the organization to better use new sources of data, cutting edge infrastructure, and world leading expertise to bring more detailed data and greater analytical insights to Canadians.

His advice on how to face adversity in life is : Always give back and be a beacon of hope. Through adversity comes growth and new possibilities. Continue to invest in your growth, take some risks and stretch yourself.

Anil Arora has received various awards and recognitions.

In 2009, Anil received the prestigious APEX Leadership Award in recognition of his exceptional leadership skills and management excellence. He has been recognized by the Association of Professional Executives, the Canada-India Business Council, the A-list, and many others.

"I have been fortunate and privileged to serve Canada at the most senior international tables in the areas of Health, Trade, Natural Resources and Statistics to name a few. I have led world leading experts at the UN, the OECD and helped build capacity and greater cooperation between nations. I have briefed Prime Ministers, Ministers and Cabinet."



Mr. Arora's Volunteer and Charitable work includes Ottawa Hospital, Shephards of Good Hope, Hindu temple of Ottawa-Carleton, Institute on Governance, Labour Market Information Council and Multiple International Organizations. The causes that he cares about and supports include : Organ Transplants, Dialysis Unit Support, Homeless and Immigrant Settlement Support Services.

After a busy day's work, he prefers to relax by going for a walk or ride a bike and read. On his things to do list is a Himalaya Basecamp Trek.

On Canada India relations, Mr. Arora Says, Canada India relationship is still in its infancy with a tremendous potential for economic and social co-operation and joint ventures in multiple areas of mutual benefit – from energy, food supply, education, tourism and environmental cooperation.



Anil Shah

President & CEO, Ni-Met Metals Inc.

Anil Shah is the President and CEO of Ni-Met Metals Inc. Ni-Met was established in 1990 as a metals trading house, based in Oakville, Ontario and has since then grown to be one of Canada's largest trading houses dealing in metals for the world market with an annual turnover in excess of \$100 million, employing twenty-five in its Ontario headquarters and several more in its operations in UAE, the US, and India. Ni-Met actively sources, processes, and trades key products like nickel, steel, and alloys. Ni-Met plans to branch into future metals like lithium and cobalt. Ni-Met is setting up a greenfield scrap recycling and processing plant in Ras al Khaimah, UAE.

Anil started his metal business in 1983 in Mumbai, India. He moved to Canada in 1990. Over the years, Anil has received several awards and recognitions. In 2012, Anil received the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal. In 2021, Anil was one of the Top 25 Canadian Immigrant Award winners.

“Never take no for an answer. Follow your passion and don't give up.”

Anil has been actively involved in several philanthropic and charitable endeavours over the past two decades.

From 2002 to 2009, Anil was actively involved with the Fundraising Committee for Trillium Hospital in Mississauga – as member (2002 -2003), Diwali Gala Dinner Co-Chair (2004-2009) and Director, Trillium Health Centre Board (2004-2009).

Anil has led a number of charity golf tournaments that



have helped raise thousands of dollars for charitable causes such as the Trillium Hospital Foundation, Sick Kids Hospital, and the families of fallen soldiers in India and Canada.

Anil's philanthropy extends to India too. Anil helped build a student hostel in Dhandhuka, Gujarat, the birthplace of his parents – it is today home to over 50 needy students. Anil has donated over \$30,000 to the Polio Foundation Seva Sansthan in Gujarat to help build a hospital. He helped them secure land and also raised a further \$ 25,000 for it.

There are very few other places on the planet that offer such a spectrum of possibilities as today's India. Despite occasional irritants, I am happy to say that the Canada and India bilateral relationship is maturing to a point that each sees the potential in the other and is ready to engage in a wide spectrum of activities. This relationship is healthy and mutually respectful today, but can only become deeper and more productive in the coming years.

Anil graduated as a Chemical Engineer from the Laxminarayan Institute of Technology in Nagpur, Maharashtra. Anil was more interested in pursuing independent business, so he started trading in a number of products early in life. Realizing that the India of those days didn't offer full opportunity to maximize and thrive in international trade, he immigrated to Canada.

Anil is married to Harsha and they have a son and a daughter. On his Things to Do list is a wish to visit the other 85 countries that he has not been to yet.



Anil Sharma

Certified Financial Planner & Chartered Life Underwriter

Anil Sharma has been in the insurance and investments industry for three decades. He is a Certified Financial Planner and a Chartered Life Underwriter. He manages 50 brokers and has three employees.

Anil worked in Iraq, Oman, and Brunei before migrating to Canada in 1992. He got into the investment and insurance industry by a stroke of luck as the recession was at its peak in 1992 and no other job was available. Anil believes in serving Canadians in the field of financial planning and wants to make investing simple for everyone. He loves to travel and has already travelled to over 30 countries.

Anil wants to make an economic difference in the lives of associates and colleagues

Anil has received the CPB Award from Industrial Alliance continuously for the last 17 years.

Anil appears on radio shows to provide free financial tips. He donates regularly to Vidya Jyoti,



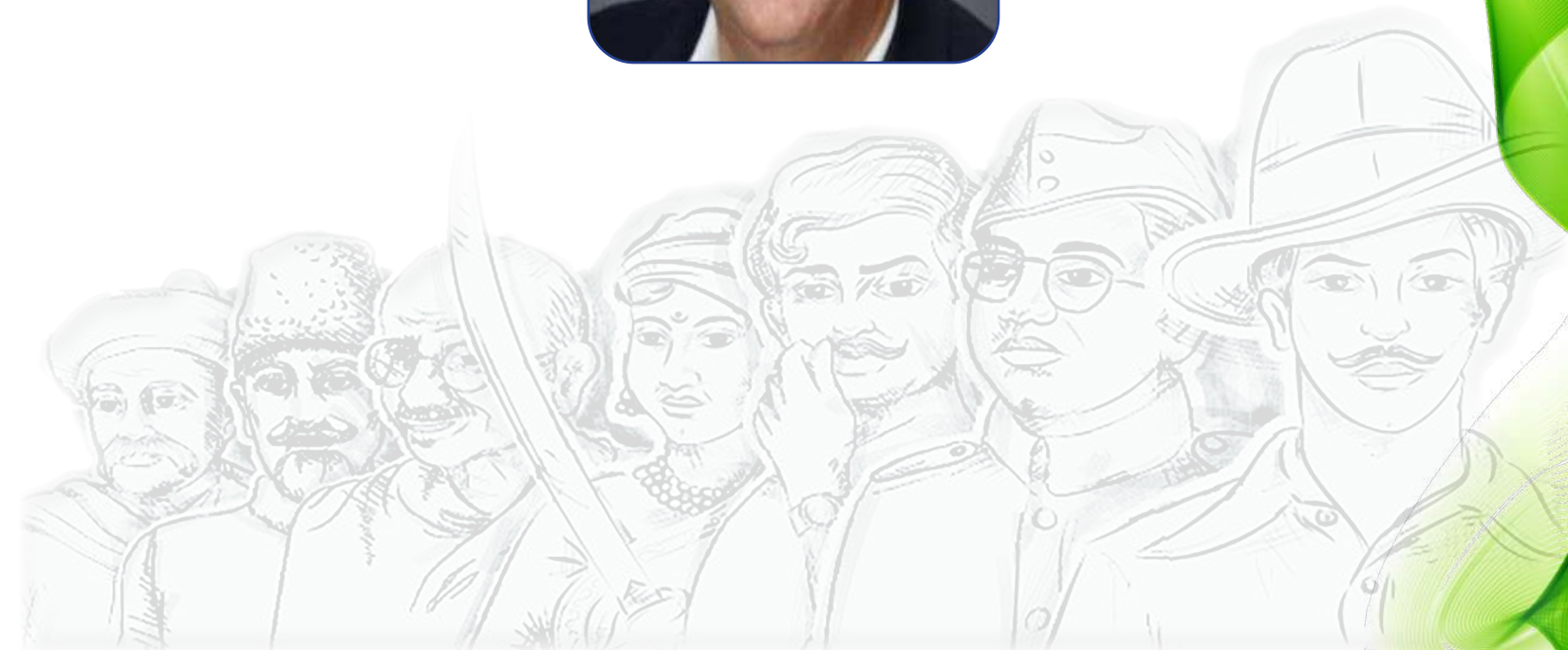
an organization providing free education to the underprivileged in India. Anil promotes and donates to aspiring young badminton players. In 2017, he collected and donated funds to farmers in India and helped pay their loans. He has also raised and donated funds for the Brampton Hospital, and to provide ventilators in India during the Covid pandemic.

Looking back, Anil has no regrets and would do everything the same if he got a chance to go back in time.

“India is my motherland and I want to see it prosper and develop. I hope relations improve and grow between India and my adopted homeland, Canada.”

Anil is a Civil Engineer. He has been happily married since 1987. He and his wife have two children who are well settled in their respective fields. Anil lives in Brampton, ON with his wife, father, and children.

Anil's motto in life is : Walk the Talk and Practice what you preach.



Anita Dalakoti

President, Dalakoti Financial & Insurance Services Inc., CEO, Apple Insurance and Financial Services Inc.

Anita Dalakoti is President of Dalakoti Financial and Insurance Services and CEO of Apple Insurance and Financial Services. She has been in the insurance industry for nearly two decades. Between her two companies, she covers the entire spectrum of insurance and financial planning needs for her clients.

Prior to immigrating to Canada in 2000, Anita lived and worked in Beijing, China for well over a decade. She worked at the International School of Beijing as a Procurement Manager, then worked to support her husband's business. She was the Country Manager of China for the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR), a statutory body within the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs & Trade. Her career in Canada started at Best Buy/Future Shop as a Marketing Manager for Future Photo.

Anita has been recognized with various awards over the years. In 2014, she ranked 4th among the Top 50 Financial Advisors in Canada. In 2012 and 2013, she was the recipient of the Five Star Wealth Advisor Award, the largest and most widely published wealth manager award program in North America.

Canada and India share a healthy relationship with more than 1.4 million people of Indian origin staying in Canada which is about 4 % of Canada's population. We have shared values based on democracy, pluralism, and strong interpersonal connections.

As the Indian economy grows, Canadians of Indian origin should play a more active role in becoming the catalyst of this amazing opportunity. The time



has come when Canada should have a clear policy of engaging with India as it emerges to play a more important role in the world affairs.

Anita is an active member of the community. She served on the Board of the Law Foundation of British Columbia from 2012 to 2018. She has also served as a Lay Bencher on the Law Society of BC from 2018 to 2020. She was a Charter Member of the Canada India Foundation from 2010 to 2016 and also served as the Treasurer for CIF. She was an active member of the Rotary Club of Vancouver-Fraserview till 2016. She has hosted numerous exchange students from Asia as they pursued their studies in Canada.

Anita cares about gender equity and diversity, and, acceptance and inclusion of LGBTQ2S+ as part of the gender equity and diversity struggle.

“ One can make every adversity a learning experience that will benefit you and the people around you in ways you may never be able to otherwise.”

Anita's late father retired as a decorated officer in the Indian Army.

Her mother is a retired military nurse & teacher. She has an older brother. In 1982, Anita's father was posted to China. There she met Atul, whom she married. They have two daughters.

Anita completed her Bachelors and Masters Degree from Jawaharlal Nehru University, in Russian Language & Literature. She has an MBA in International Business & Marketing from Durham University, UK. In addition, she is a Certified Professional Consultant on Aging, and, an Elder Planning Counselor.



Rajya Sabha, the upper house of parliament, has 250 members.

Aravind Arasavilli

Chairman & Managing Director, Exella Education Group

Aravind Arasavilli is the Chairman and Managing Director of Exella Education Group based in Hyderabad, India. He is also the Director of Param Technologies Inc. based out of Minneapolis, USA and Eficens CA in Canada.

He heads his own charity, the Arasavilli Aravind Charitable Trust.

Aravind started his career working as an International Admission Officer at Global University, Minnesota, right after his MBA from the same university. He returned to India in 2012 and setup an overseas education consultancy, Exella Education Group LLC. It provides international educational services to Indian students.

He launched Param Technologies in 2015, in the US. Param is an information technology development and consulting firm serving clients throughout the US.

In 2020, Aravind started Eficens CA in Toronto, Canada. Eficens CA is a software services provider, delivering IT services with creative solutions.

While he was an MBA student, Aravind was inspired by a meeting with Mr. Shiv Nadar, the Founder of HCL Technologies. The meeting made him think about giving back to society.

Aravind engages in philanthropy through the Arasavilli Aravind Charitable Trust. In 2022, it adopted a government school in the village of Uddandarayuni Palem, Andhra Pradesh, for the construction of a new school building. The trust also funds education fees for girls.

On his 'To Do' list is to use drones in farming.

After a busy week, Aravind likes to relax by absconding from people.

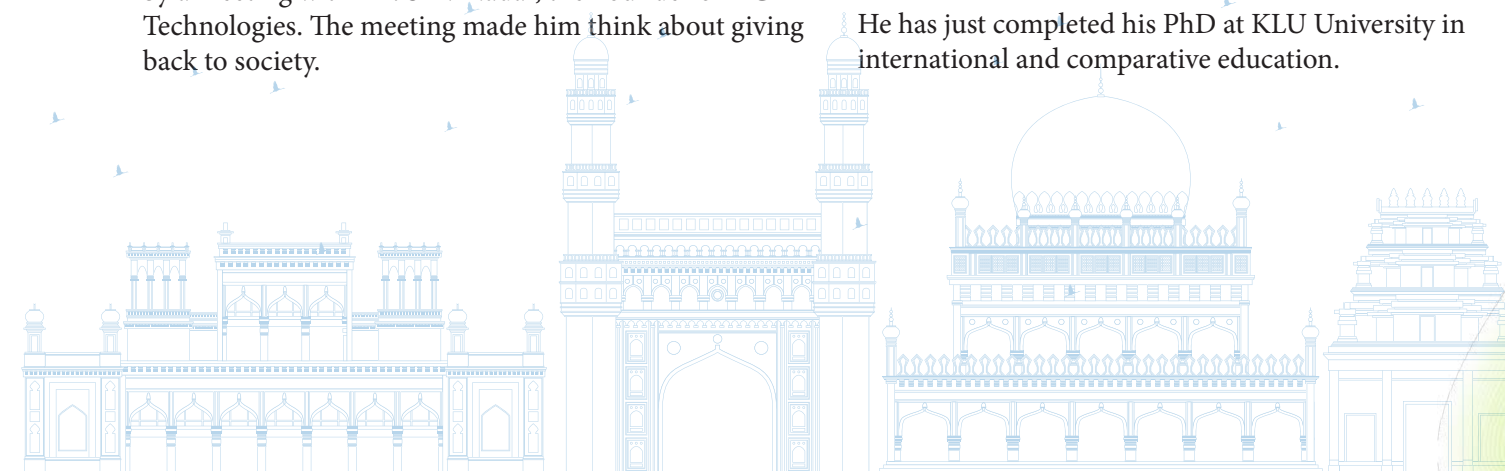
His new goal is to enter politics.

Aravind's father retired as a bank manager. Aravind was born and brought up in Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh until the age of nine. Due to his father's work, his family moved from Vijaywada to Delhi where he learnt Hindi, and then to Nagpur, Maharashtra where he learnt Marathi. The family then returned to Vijaywada.

Aravind obtained his Bachelors in Industrial Engineering from the Koneru Lakshmaiah College of Engineering, now called KLU

University. He got an MBA from Global University's Minnesota School of Business.

He has just completed his PhD at KLU University in international and comparative education.



Lok Sabha, the lower house of parliament, has 543 members.

Atul Aggarwal

Co-Founder & Chairman, A & A Pharmachem Inc., Co-Founder & CEO – Marcan Pharmaceuticals Ltd.

Atul Aggarwal has been in the pharmaceutical sector in Canada for more than three decades. He is the co-founder and Chair of A & A Pharmachem Inc. Atul is the Co-Founder & CEO of Marcan Pharmaceuticals Ltd. where he is a Board Member. Atul employs over 60 people and his businesses have an annual turnover exceeding \$200 million (including Pharmaceutical, Real Estate and Service Stations).

Atul plans to continue to grow A & A Pharmachem business in the USA and eventually into Europe. At Marcan, he plans to bring several complex generic drugs to the Canadian market including biosimilars & vaccines. His real estate work includes commercial redevelopment on existing sites with large food and petroleum tenants.

Atul has been involved in many charitable and non-profit organizations. He served as Vice-Chair of Mukul Hindi School in Ottawa, Chair of Young Presidents Organization (Ottawa), Chair of Joan of Arc Academy, and, Vice Chair of Queensway-Carleton Hospital in Ottawa.

Through the Richa & Atul Aggarwal Foundation, Atul and his family work closely with an NGO in Rajasthan. They have helped over 300 families access clean drinking water, grow their own food, and send their daughters to school in the Thar desert area of Rajasthan. The Aggarwals have been significant donors to Queensway Carleton Hospital and have committed to be significant donors towards building a new Ottawa Hospital.

For Atul, his parents are his role models - they came to Canada with \$10 and a job. They were real pioneers and worked very hard to make a life for themselves and their family. Atul tries to be the same good example to his daughters.

Atul derives great satisfaction in not just building a



business from scratch and growing it, but also from the knowledge that he helps millions of Canadians everyday by providing medicines they need at affordable prices. He is proud of his Indian heritage and that he was one of the pioneers who introduced and brought Indian made pharmaceuticals to Canada.

“Canada-India relations have had their ups and downs, but people to people relationships have grown substantially. A Free Trade Agreement will bring mutual benefits and grow business between the two countries”

Atul was born in Punjab, India and came to Canada when he was only two months old. He and his parents arrived in Nova Scotia in 1965 and moved to Ottawa in 1966. His parents were teachers in India and did the same in Canada before joining the federal government. Atul's father then became an entrepreneur, starting in the real estate and service station business in 1970. He encouraged his children to join the business and become entrepreneurs after finishing education.

Atul went to public schools in Ottawa, and then received his Bachelor of Mathematics (Hons) at the University of Waterloo in 1987. After getting his CA designation in 1988, he got his Masters in Business Administration from Wilfrid Laurier University in 1989. After graduation, he joined the family real estate business before founding A & A Pharmachem Inc. in 1992 and then Marcan Pharmaceuticals Ltd. in 2004.

Atul was married in 1993, in New Delhi, India. He and his wife Richa have three daughters. His other interests include Football, Hockey, Golf and Travelling.

What's on his To Do List ? More Philanthropy and to help mentor and build new businesses as an investor and advisor.

Bob Dhillon

President & CEO, Mainstreet Equity Corp. ; O.C, MBA, DCom.; LLD; ICD.D

The first thing you have to know about Bob Dhillon is how he describes himself: a radical social entrepreneur with real estate in his blood. Entrepreneurship has always been his only drive, his only calling. From his teenage start as a grassroots real estate entrepreneur, he has evolved to add real estate development, real estate asset ownership, and real estate management to his skill set. He has built his company to be one of the most successful on the TSX, compounding double-digit returns for over 20 years and building his team to 500 members plus another 200 contractors.

Bob has seen the positive effects that the Mainstreet business model had across communities in Canada; He wants to recreate this globally. In fact, Bob has already implemented this model in Belize, where he owns a private 3,000-acre island that he is developing into a world-class eco-resort alongside a 1,500 acre rainforest resort. Bob is Honorary Consul General of Belize for Canada.

“Anytime he's asked who his role model is, Bob is quick to respond, “Mahatma Gandhi”. Without Gandhi, Bob says, Indians would not be celebrating the nation's 75th anniversary, or talking about the incredible progress that Indian peoples have made throughout the world. Gandhi's words, “My uniform experience has convinced me that there is no other God than Truth,” have echoed consistently throughout Bob's efforts educational philanthropy.”

Special appointments for Bob:

- Appointed as Officer of the Order of Canada 2021
- Awarded Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal 2012
- Appointed Honorary Consul General of Belize for Canada 1999

Some of Bob's awards and honours:

- Leaders List, Indiaspora Philanthropy 2021
- Honorary Doctorate of Laws, Uni. of Lethbridge 2019

- Legacy Award, Transformation Institute for Leadership & Innovation 2019
- Honorary Doctor of Commerce, Lakehead Uni. 2017
- Top 25 Canadian Immigrant Award, RBC, 2015

Nothing makes Bob happier than to see the positive social change that Canada is undergoing – the national fabric of Canada is evolving with new threads being woven in every day. This is great for Canada, and Bob believes it will lead us to truly become the ultimate rainbow society.

Board Appointments:

- Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) Board member since 2015
- Board of Governors of the Banff Centre for Arts and Creativity 2022
- Canada-India Business Council 2021
- Invest Alberta Corporation 2020
- Premier's Alberta Economic Recovery Council 2020

Bob's philanthropy is extensive, but he is most passionate about his targeted giving in the field of education:

- Gifted \$10,000,000 to the University of Lethbridge toward creation of Dhillon School of Business, 2018
- Donated \$10,000 towards creation of Sikh studies program, Uni. of Calgary, 2021
- Established a \$10,000 business studies scholarship for Lakehead University, 2017
- Donated \$500,000 to town of San Pedro, Belize, 2008
- Donated \$25,000 to Richard Ivey School of Business various years

Bob still has a long way to go before he'll be ready to rest. He strongly believes that the most important task ahead of him is his work in building the bridge to connect Canada with India. These two great societies have so much to exchange, and through the corridor we build together will flow technology, education, philanthropy, capital, and culture.



Cuckoo Kochar

President & CEO, DCR/ Phoenix Group of Companies, Ottawa

Cuckoo Kochar is the President and CEO of DCR / Phoenix Group of Companies based in Ottawa, Ontario. Cuckoo started working in Canada in 1972. He was involved in various municipal infrastructure projects in Quebec, including hydraulics at the Mirabel Airport and the Matagami access road for the James Bay project. From 1977 to 1988, he was responsible for the development, disposal, and management of the entire land portfolio of the federal government which consisted of several thousand acres of land in 9 provinces and territories with a value of over \$500 million. He also worked at the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation.

In 1988, Cuckoo founded Phoenix Group of Companies which has developed a large land portfolio and house building operation across the Ottawa-Carleton Region. Construction and sales exceed \$200 million per year. Through the company, he is the owner and manager of a large residential rental portfolio in Ottawa and a number of commercial properties including the Ottawa Life Sciences Park. He also has a large granite, hardwood, ceramics operation - one of the largest in Ottawa - and its clients include most of the large builders in Ottawa.

Cuckoo was on the Board of Directors of the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation from 1995 to 2001 where he represented Ontario, with more than 50% of the national budget. He was responsible for mortgage

insurance, affordable housing, and developing secondary markets for mortgage-backed securities.

Cuckoo has given back to the community – both to the Indo-Canadian community in particular and to the larger Ottawa community.

In 2013, Cuckoo donated \$1.2 million to create the Kochar Family Scholarships at Carleton University, in honour of his mother and grandmother.

He has donated \$250,000 to the Cancer Institute of Ottawa General Hospital, \$100,000 to the Ottawa YMCA and to several other Ottawa based charities.



Cuckoo was the Chief sponsor for over ten years of the “Tarang” show, which raised thousands of dollars for the Canadian Cancer Society.

Cuckoo has a B.E. (Honours) in Civil Engineering from the Birla Institute of Technology and Science, Pilani, in India. He has a M.Eng. in Civil Engineering from Concordia University, Montreal.

He was Co-Chairperson for the Laurier Club and led two major business delegations to India on behalf of Govt of Canada.

Mr. Kochar has hosted a number of fundraisers for Canadian Prime Ministers at his home, including the current Prime Minister.

Dr. Indira Khurana

President & CEO, Laser Cosmetics & Pain Treatment Clinics

Dr. Indira Khurana is the President and CEO of Laser Cosmetics and Pain Treatment Clinics, a chain of clinics based in the Greater Toronto Area. Over a period of two decades, with hard work, knowledge, and persistence, it has grown into a successful business in GTA, catering to the community's cosmetics health and wellness needs.

Dr. Khurana's career began in India. She was an Assistant Professor of Electric and Electronics Engineering at BITS, Pilani. She then moved to the USA and was an Adjunct Professor of Physics at Florida A&M University, Tallahassee, Florida, and a Research Associate at Clarkson University, Potsdam, New York.

Dr. Khurana started the company with no employees and just one service in 1997-98. Today, her clinics employ 12 people. Over the years, the company has provided jobs to many, and helped them in getting training, certification, and knowledge which has helped them in upgrading their qualifications.

Dr. Khurana's clinics offer unique laser treatments such as addiction control, migraine relief, skin conditions, and pain relief, in addition to cosmetic laser treatments. She plans to expand her pain clinics all over India and Dubai.

Dr. Khurana is a member of the Board of Governors of the Canada India Foundation, and is the Vice President of the Philanthropy Committee.

Dr. Khurana gives back to the community in various ways. In 2021, she pledged \$ 25,000 to the University Health Network in Toronto, ON, for research on Integrated Disease Management. At the 2021 Canada India Foundation golf tournament, she won a Ford Mustang worth \$ 30,000 and donated it right back to be auctioned – the money raised was sent to the children of fallen soldiers in India.

In the early days of the Covid-19 pandemic when government regulations shut down her clinics, she delivered free meals and groceries to international students and seniors. Over the past several years, her clinic has been offering free treatments to seniors on Tuesdays.



Dr. Khurana obtained her Ph.D. degree in Atomic, Molecular, and Laser physics from the world-reputed Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Roorkee. Her research has important applications in space, plasma, laser, biomedical science, and the environment. In college, she participated in State Level Volleyball Championship in India. At university, she participated in the National Level Rowing Championship in India.

Dr. Khurana is the daughter of an Indian Army officer and a school teacher. She has an older brother. What's on her To Do List ? Going on a world tour. An Advice she is happy to give : Behind every dark cloud, there is a silver lining.



Dr. Lalita Malhotra

Medical Practitioner; O.C

Dr. Malhotra C.M., S.O.M., is a medical practitioner.

Dr. Malhotra began her career as a Medical Officer in Obstetrics and Gynecology in New Delhi in 1964. She left for England in 1966. There, she worked as the Senior House Officer in Obstetrics, then Senior House Officer, General Surgery, and as, Specialist registrar Obstetrics and Gynecology. She served as the Assistant Medical Officer, Public Health, from 1973 to 1975. Upon arriving in Canada in 1975, Dr. Malhotra settled in Prince Albert, Saskatchewan, and has been practicing there ever since.

Dr. Malhotra manages over 250 pregnancies a year. She focuses on high-risk pregnancies (teenage, poor nutrition, poor socio economic, substance abuse) and menopause. She is the Founding Director and Chair of the Menopause Clinic in Prince Albert Parkland Health Region.

For Dr. Malhotra, delivering babies has been a passion. She has delivered over 12,000 babies in and around Prince Albert, and is now delivering the third generation.

Dr. Malhotra and her family donated \$800,000 towards the Malhotra Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at the Victoria Hospital in Prince Albert. She donated \$80,000 towards a play room – named the Malhotra Room – at the Alfred Jenkins Field House recreation centre in Prince Albert.

Dr. Malhotra's role models are her father Dr. Vaikunth and husband Dr. Tilak Malhotra.

Over the decades, Dr. Malhotra has received several honours and awards. In 2003, Dr. Malhotra was bestowed with a Fellowship of the Royal College of Obstetrics and Gynecologists of London (England), in recognition for excellence in obstetrical care provided over 30 years.



Dr. Malhotra has also been actively involved in the Indo-Canadian community in Saskatchewan for several decades.

Among other things, Dr. Malhotra is currently working on opening a school for Aboriginal boys to learn trades, and, a project on combating anemia during pregnancy in Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh.

“Her advice to everyone is to keep getting educated because no one can ever take it away from you.”

Dr. Malhotra was born in New Delhi.

She graduated with a M.B.B.S. in Gwalior, in 1962. She then did postgraduate work in Obstetrics to obtain a specialty Diploma in Gynecology and Obstetrics in 1964. After leaving India, she did her postgraduate and postdoctoral training in England from 1966-1975. Dr. Malhotra then moved to Canada and has been practicing medicine in Prince Albert, Saskatchewan since 1975.

Dr. Malhotra has 3 children, all of whom are physicians, are married, and have their own families. Her husband passed away in 2017. Dr. Malhotra is a patron of Prince Albert Music Festival and has raised funds for Tsunami Relief as well as various other causes and institutions.

She received the Saskatchewan Centennial Medal award from the Lieutenant Governor of Saskatchewan in 2005. Dr. Malhotra was made a Member of the Order of Canada in 2006. She received the Saskatchewan Order of Merit Award in 2011. She also won the South Asian Humanitarian Award by CIBC in 2013.

Dr. Malhotra has been a presiding official at Canadian Citizenship ceremonies and was a member of the Advisory Council to the Governor General of Canada for Order of Canada awards and honours for 3 years.

Dr. Pradeep Merchant

Site Chief, Division of Neonatology, Ottawa Hospital

A medical doctor, Dr. Pradeep Merchant is the Site Chief of Neonatology at the Ottawa Hospital, Civic Campus since 1997, the longest serving site Chief at the Ottawa Hospital, having served for 25 years.

Dr. Merchant sits on the boards of several non-profit and charity organizations. He has been a member of the Queensway Carleton Hospital Foundation, and a long time Board member of Ottawa Hospital's Foundation. He has also been a Medical Director of the Rich Little Special Care Nursery for 25 years.

He was made a Member of the Order of Canada in 2021.

“My motto in life is “Never give up”. One may lose today but tomorrow is another day. Give your best and results will follow. Dream big and put all your honest efforts towards it. Luck is no substitute for hard work and dedication”

Wishing to make a global impact, Dr. Merchant joined forces with a Canadian charity, brought together Indo-Canadian volunteers, and hosted three successful fund-raising galas, to raise over half a million dollars in aid for Kalthana village in Rajasthan, India.

He has served as Chair, and President, of the Indo-Canadian Ottawa Business Chamber. He, along with others, founded the Canada India Centre for Excellence in Science, Technology, Trade in Policy at Carleton University in Ottawa.

Dr. Merchant has volunteered in preparing food for the homeless and worked with other not for profit organizations to raise funds for Cancer. He has worked with the Government of Canada to create an International Student visa program and also created

a Canada India acceleration program for women entrepreneurs from both countries.

Dr. Merchant considers the Mahatma – M.K. Gandhi – as his role model. Dr. Merchant believes that the sheer conviction of his values and strength from those convictions made him stronger than what he was as a person and made him the undisputed leader of the movement for India's freedom. His favourite film is “Gandhi”.

Dr. Merchant's favourite place to visit is Mumbai, where he grew up.

“India at 75 has come a long way from its 1947 independence. India will need to continue to discover herself as ever changing political conversations and social construct are being challenged every day.

The old dogmas of societal division and separation based on religion and language will have to be challenged and examined in a thoughtful way to see that next 25 years create more harmony amongst all Indians with equal opportunity for all.”

Dr. Merchant is happy with what he has given to society and how society has responded by giving back to him. He wants to continue working and making a difference to the lives of the youngest but vulnerable citizens of Canada.

Dr. Merchant comes from a humble family and grew up in a lower middle-class household in Mumbai. He is married to Anita and they have a son and a daughter. His motto in life is to never give up. One may lose today, but tomorrow is another day. Give your best and results will follow. Dream big and put all your honest efforts towards it.



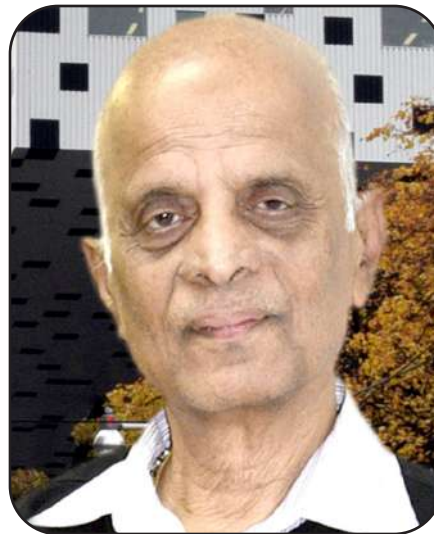
Dr V. I. (Lucky) Lakshmanan

Chairman, Process Research ORTECH Inc.

Dr. V.I. (Lucky) Lakshmanan is the Chairman of Process Research ORTECH Inc. a privately owned organization serving mining, metallurgical, recycling and chemical industries. Dr. Lakshmanan is an internationally renowned scientist, innovator, entrepreneur and teacher in the area of technologies for sustainable development. He has more than four decades of hands-on experience in technology development and commercialization, having successfully guided process technologies from concept through development and demonstration to commercialization for energy (including renewable energy), resources and chemical (including specialty chemical) industries. Dr. Lakshmanan has consistently identified and developed innovative applications in technology commercialization.

Dr. Lakshmanan moved to UK in late 1960s and served as Lecturer in Minerals Engineering at the University of Birmingham. He moved to Canada in 1974. His corporate experience includes roles in Noranda, Eldorado Nuclear and ORTECH Corporation.

Process Research ORTECH Inc was formed in January 1999 to take over the Process Technologies division of ORTECH Corporation (Formerly Ontario Research Foundation) under the privatization scheme of the Ontario Government. Process Research ORTECH is



a global leader in sustainable process technologies. It runs its laboratory and pilot plant in Mississauga. Dr. Lakshmanan served as the CEO and Vice-Chair of the company and recently became its Chair. He is also an Adjunct Professor at the University of Toronto.

His accomplishments have won him numerous professional plaudits, including Fellow of the Canadian Academy of Engineering, Fellow of the Canadian Institute of Mining, Metallurgy and Petroleum. He has five books, forty-eight patents/patents-pending and over 130 publications to his credit. He holds numerous patents. He is a recipient of the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal. He was inducted into the Order of Canada in 2021.

He is a co-founder of TiE Toronto, Canada India Foundation, and Sringeri Vidya Bharati Foundation. He has been named to the board of IC-Impacts, a Canadian Government funded Centre of Excellence.

He has helped raise funds for the Credit Valley and has sponsored a research initiative at Martin Prosperity Institute. He served on the board of

United Way in 1995.

Born and educated in India, Dr. Lakshmanan obtained his Ph.D in Chemistry from Bombay University.

Dr. Mohit Bhandari

Chair, Department of Surgery at McMaster University

Dr. Bhandari is the Chair of the Department of Surgery at McMaster University with oversight of 11 surgical specialties, 120 surgeons, 200 surgical trainees, and 200 administrative and research staff. He also holds a unique Senior Tier Canada Research Chair in Surgical Innovation.

He has conducted pioneering research relating to intimate partner violence and has led multiple, large-scale clinical trials.

He has advocated on behalf of domestic violence victims. His worldwide fracture-care studies help transform the treatment of severe trauma victims in places like India, China and Africa.

Dr. Bhandari started at a faculty position at McMaster University in 2004, beginning a lifelong career as a surgical scientist. During his time, Dr. Bhandari served as Head of Orthopaedic Surgery and Associate

Chair of Research, for the Department of Surgery. In this role, he led a transformation in orthopaedics at McMaster—making this program a leading brand in scholarship worldwide.

He has received the fields highest awards including the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons Medal, and one of Orthopaedic Surgery's most prestigious research awards – the Kappa Delta Award (twice). He has been acknowledged among the top 10 most cited orthopaedic surgeons in the world. Dr. Bhandari has published over 1000 papers, and received over 60 million dollars in research funding.

Dr. Bhandari's research and advocacy efforts have led to his induction into the Order of Ontario in 2013 and in 2019, in to the Order of Canada. He also has been awarded McMaster University's Distinguished Alumni Award and the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario's Council Award for Outstanding Achievement.



Dr. Roseann O'Reilly Runte

President & CEO, Canada Foundation for Innovation

Roseann O'Reilly Runte is the President and CEO of the Canada Foundation for Innovation, a not-for-profit organization funded by the Government of Canada whose mandate is to increase Canada's capacity to carry out important world-class scientific research and technology development by providing state-of-the-art facilities, labs, equipment, computer hardware, software and data bases. To date the CFI's contribution to research infrastructure has exceeded \$9 billion and, with matching funds from the provinces, \$20 billion. The CFI has been recognized as a top Employer in the National Capital Region every year for the last 5 years.

With Dr. Pradeep Merchant and Mr. Barj Dhahan, she established the Canada India Center at Carleton University. This project took her to India on a half a dozen occasions where she met with senior members of the Indian government, established partnerships with a half dozen universities and BITs, and was an invited speaker. She crossed Canada raising funds for the Center. In addition to creating the space for the center and its small library, she promoted lectures and activities on campus for Indo-Canadian students as well as students visiting from India.



With the Center, she organized several conferences and hosted many visitors, including cultural events through the High Commissioner to Canada and an exchange with students in architecture who worked on a design project for the city of Mumbai. She also translated the poem by Dr. Taj which is now in the Canadian Embassy in India. Dr. Runte has a Ph.D. in literature and has served as professor and president at 5 universities in Canada and the U.S.

She has received many awards including the Order of Canada, the Ordre du Mérite from France, Commander of the Ordre de la Couronne de la Belgique, the Distinguished

Civilian Service Medal, U.S. Army, the Women of Distinction Award, YWCA, The BillBro Foundation Award for Leadership, the Peace and Dialogue Award, the Top 100 Vice-Chancellors in the World, The Pindar Award for Distinguished Public Service....and a number of honorary degrees.

Her volunteer service includes having served on the executive committee of World University Services of Canada, the Club of Rome, member of the board for the Telus Community Foundation, President of the Canada/US Fulbright Foundation, President of the Canadian Commission for UNESCO, President of the Canadian Federation for the Humanities, Board, Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, Virginia Marine Science Museum, vice-chair, Gardiner Museum (Toronto), Associate to the Council of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons, Board, Associated Medical Services, Chair, Foundation for International Training, etc.

She has also served on the boards of the National Bank of Canada, Pharmacies Jean Coutu, Life Net, the Virginia National Defense Industrial Authority etc.

Dr. Runte has a Ph.D. in Literature and has written a number of books and articles. She likes to write and volunteer in her spare time. She is currently volunteering for the Health Standards Organization and the Foundation for the National Library of Canada.

“It is a privilege to contribute to the community, to Canada and to international collaborations. I hope that I will be able to continue to serve and to support education and research in particular. Both Canada and India have fine educational facilities and traditions of brilliant scholarship, creativity and innovation. The challenges both nations face are global and require our best minds and concerted efforts to resolve.”

Gary Comerford

President, CMC Global

Gary Comerford is the President of CMC Global, a consulting company specializing in international expansion. Gary has been actively involved in dealing with the enormous changes that have taken place in the financial services industry for more than four decades. He has worked extensively in both the individual and group insurance markets.

Gary entered the financial services business in 1977 as a Branch Manager for Canada Permanent Trust Company (TD Canada Trust) and rose to become its Vice-President of Marketing. In 1986, he joined Sun Life of Canada as Vice President of Marketing, and worked in a number of roles including General Manager for India, retiring as Senior Vice-President, International. In 2009, he joined Reinsurance Group of America as Executive Vice President and was later appointed Executive Vice-President and Chief Marketing Officer. In 2014 Gary incorporated CMC Global. Gary is currently a Director of Novelis and is a Past Director of Aditya Birla Minacs, Birla Sun Life Insurance, Birla Sun Life Asset Management, and Birla Sun Life Distribution in India. Gary served as President and CEO of the Canada India Business Council (C-IBC). In 2008, Gary received the Indo-Canada Chamber of Commerce (ICCC)'s President's Award for his role in strengthening the trade relationship between Canada and India.

“I am the eternal optimist and believe that the business possibilities between Canada and India are endless. India @75 is just the beginning.”



Gary is an active member of his community. Gary is a past President of the Catholic Children's Aid Society Foundation of Toronto, and Past President of the Rotary Club of Oakville. In 2016 Gary was awarded the International Insurance Society Kenneth Black, Jr. Distinguished Service Award in Singapore.

Gary is a past member of the Board of Directors of TVO, past Chair of the Board of the Shaw Festival. In 2014 Gary was appointed as a member of Brock University's Board of Trustees and served on the executive committee. In 2017, he was appointed Chair of the Board and on July 1 2021, assumed the role of immediate past Chair.

“Be a contributor. It does not matter how you contribute but it is very important to me to give back and help others.”

Gary received his Bachelor of Arts in History (Honours) degree in 1973 and his Master of Business Administration (Deans list) in 1975 from the University of Western Ontario. In November 2006, he received the Institute of Corporate

Directors' ICD.D. certification from the Rotman School of Management, University of Toronto. He is married to Catherine and they have two sons.

Gary has run eleven marathons, including Boston Marathon. His favourite cities are London (for Visit), Rome (for Food) and Mumbai (for Business) He consumes one audible book every week and what's on his To Do List ? To visit St. Petersburg.



Goldy Hyder

President & Chief Executive Officer, Business Council of Canada

Goldy Hyder is President and Chief Executive Officer of the Business Council of Canada. Founded in 1976, the Council is a non-profit, non-partisan organization composed of the chief executives and entrepreneurs of Canada's leading companies. Members collectively employ 1.7 million Canadians across the country in every major industry.

From July 2014 to October 2018, Mr. Hyder was President and Chief Executive Officer of Hill+Knowlton Strategies (Canada), providing strategic communications counsel to the firm's extensive and diverse client base.

Prior to joining Hill+Knowlton in 2001, he served as Director of Policy and Chief of Staff to The Right Honourable Joe Clark, former Prime Minister, and former leader of the federal Progressive Conservative Party.

In addition to his achievements in business and public policy, Mr. Hyder has a long track record of service on behalf of several charities and non-profit organizations. He is chair of the Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada's Asia Business Leaders Advisory Council, a board member of the Business + Higher Education

Roundtable, an executive committee member of the Century Initiative, and co-chair of Canada's World Trade Organization Business Advisory Council.

In addition, he sits on the advisory boards of two leading organizations promoting advancement of women leaders: Catalyst Canada and the 30 % Club (Canada).

Mr. Hyder is also a member of the selection board for A Seat At The Table, an initiative to encourage greater representation of people with disabilities on corporate boards. He is a past co-chair of the United Way of Ottawa's Campaign Cabinet.



Mr. Hyder is a regular commentator in the Canadian media on business, politics and leadership. He is also the host of the "Speaking of Business" podcast, which features interviews with Canadian innovators, entrepreneurs and business leaders.

In 2013, he received the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal in recognition of his contributions to Canada.

He holds a Master of Arts in Public Policy from the University of Calgary.



Tehri Dam in Uttarakhand is the tallest dam in India and the tenth-tallest in the world.

Harshvendra Soin

Global Chief People Officer & Head – Marketing, Tech Mahindra Ltd.

As the Global Chief People Officer and Head – Marketing, Harshvendra Soin heads the human resources and marketing functions at Tech Mahindra Ltd.

Over a 26-year span, Harsh has worked for several organizations. Before becoming the Global Chief People Officer, he was CEO and Country Head at Tech Mahindra (Canada) and, Head - Business HR for APAC & IMEA (Telecom & Enterprise) for Tech Mahindra. Harsh was previously at Fortis Healthcare Limited where he was the Chief People Officer. Prior to that, he was the Chief People Officer at Aditya Birla Retail Limited, and was responsible for the rapid scale-up of the organization.

Harsh held several senior positions at the corporate office of Bharti Enterprises where he was designated Senior Vice President – People Excellence, and then became the Head of HR for Bharti Retail Limited. He has also worked with the Oberoi Group and Punwire Limited.

Harsh has received various awards and recognitions over the years:

- 'CHRO of the Year' award during the 20th edition of the Business Leader of the Year Awards by CMO Asia in collaboration with ET Now and CNBC TV18, in March 2022
- 'CHRO of the Year' award at the World HRD Congress Business Leader of the Year Awards, in February 2021
- Top 40 Marketers on Twitter by Association of Bloggers, Storytellers and Creators
- Talent Magnet Award - Conscious Business Leader

Award 2016 by LinkedIn

- Pride of HR Profession Award – India Human Capital Summit 2011
- HR Leadership Award – Asia Pacific HRM Congress and Ascent
- Most Powerful HR Professionals of India Award – World HRD Congress

Harsh was recognized as one of Top 40 Marketers on Twitter by Association of Bloggers, Storytellers and Creators. Harsh is a Member of the Executive Committee of the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD), an Initiative of the International Organisation of Employers (IOE), Geneva



Harsh also contributes his expertise to various organizations:

- Member, HR Committee at FICCI.
- Member, Executive Committee of the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD), an Initiative of the International Organisation of Employers (IOE), Geneva.
- Honorable member, Corporate Advisory Board of Chandigarh University.

Harsh graduated with a Bachelors of Law from Punjab University, and studied Personnel Management and Industrial Relations at University Business School, Chandigarh.

Harsh is passionate about sports, and, loves to travel. Harsh is married to Mansi and they have two children.

The Indira Sagar Dam in MP is the largest dam in India, in terms of volume of water stored in the reservoir.

Hema Bhatt

Vice President, Natu' Oil Services Inc.

Hema Bhatt is currently the Vice President of Natu' Oil Services Incorporated, a premier supplier of edible oils and feed energy supplements, one of the largest importers of packaged palm oil and energy supplements, and a leader in introducing sustainable refined palm oil in North America.

Hema is a passionate self-taught leader who continuously strives for excellence and has inspired many through her relentless strength, courage and compassion for others. The headquarters is in Port Coquitlam, while the other offices are in Malaysia, USA, Singapore and India.

Natu' Oil Services Inc was awarded the Business of the year 11-30 employees in 2016 by the Tri-Cities Chamber of Commerce and in 2020 awarded the Community Champion Award by the City of Port Coquitlam.

Aside from being an accomplished entrepreneur, Hema Bhatt is a philanthropist and continues to ensure the active participation of Natu' Oil Services in supporting both the local community, as well as communities abroad. The culture of caring was



present from the day Natu' Oil Services began operations. The company supports and donates to the following causes; The Terry Fox Foundation, SHARE Family and Community Services Society Food Bank, Eagle Ridge Hospital, Royal Columbian Hospital and the Power of Hope music program for incarcerated youth, Gujarati Society of British Columbia, Indian Summer Festival, and Mega Medical and Cataract surgery eye camps in India.

Hema is also a tenacious and resilient entrepreneur who supports UN Women, Shakti Society and believes in women empowerment across borders.

Her credentials further include the following honours to her name:

Board of Governors/ Secretary – Canada India Foundation, Board of Directors – Royal Columbian Hospital Foundation, BC India Business Network - Vice President, SFU India Advisory Council – Board Member, Tri- Cities Chamber of Commerce Women in Business committee – Board Member, Immigrant Employment Council of BC – Mentor, Greater Vancouver Board of Trade – Member.



Jatinder Banwait

Co-Founder & CEO, J & M Group Inc.

Jatinder Banwait is the Co-Founder and CEO of J & M Group, an IT services, consulting, and business solutions organization. J & M Group offers a consulting-led, integrated portfolio of IT and IT-enabled infrastructure and engineering services. J & M Group has more than 250 employees.

Jatinder has been in the IT business for 20 years. His First professional job in Canada was with Rogers.

The J & M Group has won several awards and recognitions over the years. It was recognized two times in a row by Branham 300 amongst the Top 250 ICT companies in Canada in 2017 and 2018. The Branham 300 is the most comprehensive listing of public and private IT companies in Canada and has become the gauge by which IT companies measure their success.

In 2017, Canadian Business and PROFIT today ranked J & M Group 30th on the 2017 STARTUP 50 ranking of Canada's Top New Growth Companies. It also won the MaxSys Staffing & Consulting Award for Most Effective Recruitment Strategy at the Canadian HR Awards 2017.



Jatinder's life motto is, 'Life is short, enjoy it.'

J&M Group has been a Regional Finalist in Deloitte's Best Managed Companies in Canada.

Jatinder supports the Sick Kids Foundation.

His favourite place to visit is Italy and hopes to go on a world tour. Jatinder relaxes after a busy week with exercise, music and TV.

He believes India is going to grow and develop into a superpower and it will play an important role in Canada's growth.

Jatinder completed a Masters in Mathematics in 1997, in India. He moved to Canada in 2000, and started his career in IT. Jatinder and his wife have two children.

"In terms of being happy and content with what he has achieved so far, Jatinder says, "Human beings can not be satisfied and will always keep looking for growth. I am also Human."

Joseph S. Savier

President & CEO, SBI Canada Bank

Joseph S. Savier is the President and CEO of SBI Canada Bank, a wholly owned subsidiary of State Bank of India (SBI), a Fortune Global 500 company.

Joseph's career of more than three decades spans several areas and countries. He has experience in consumer banking, commercial banking, international banking, treasury, technology, and HR. He has worked in India, the USA, Canada, and Panama.

As CFO & Corporate Secretary, State Bank of India (California), during the great recession of 2007-2008, he helped the bank navigate the crisis without any liquidity issues.



Joseph is a member of the board of SBI Canada. He is also a member of the Advisory Board of the Indo-Canada Chamber of Commerce (ICCC).

In India, Joseph managed SBI's relationship with the treasuries of its corporate clients and foreign investors, assisted by a team of over 70 Relationship Managers. He was part of the team that designed and executed 'Parivartan' and 'Aarohan', two landmark HR initiatives which impacted over 200,000 employees.

Joseph has an MBA from Anna University, Chennai, and a Diploma in International Banking and Finance.

Kamal Bhardwaj

President & CEO, Lotus Funeral and Cremation Centre Inc.; M.D. & Owner, Kitchener Funeral Homes and Crematorium, South West Crematoriums, United We Care.

Kamal Bhardwaj is the President and CEO of Lotus Funeral and Cremation Centre Inc., Managing Director / Owner of Kitchener Funeral Homes & Crematorium, Owner of South West Crematoriums, and, United We Care. Kamal has been in this business for 15 years and employs 100 people.

He has expansion plans to build more funeral homes and crematoriums. United We Care is a business in the mental health and wellness sector. His future diversification plans include building internationally in the energy sector.

Kamal is a Founding member of Sunoh charity, an organization for the betterment of international students in Canada providing them mental health support to other forms of social assistance.

Kamal's philanthropic endeavours have seen him support mandirs and gurdwaras and various seniors' groups throughout Toronto and the GTA. He also supports fundraising drives for the Willian Osler Hospital Network.

Kamal founded Sunoh due to the rising suicides that he was seeing within the international student community. He was bringing back mortal remains to India and dealing with grieving parents, so he decided to



do something to help prevent or reduce these suicides. Sunoh has now grown to helping these students from peer mentoring, mental health counselling, landlord abuse and sexual abuse.

Kamal is also involved in his family's charity with Kartarpur Charitable Fund. They have a hospital in Kartarpur, Punjab, that is for needy families who receive free medical care and medicine. They have been operating the hospital for over 25 years.

For Kamal, his mother is his role model. She always had a strong drive to succeed. Like many other immigrants coming to this country with very little, she had to navigate through a city to find a job, raise kids, and look after a husband. Ultimately it was her ambition to work for herself that made her open up her first business in the 1970s. It was not easy during the 1970s and 1980s as she battled some health issues but her strong will and positive outlook on life made her succeed.

On the personal side, Kamal enjoys running and weightlifting.

He wants to inspire his children to do things in their lives that are meaningful, make them happy, and impact society

Kanwar Dhanjal

CEO Just Instruments, Managing Partner, Empire Bakery

Kanwar Dhanjal is the CEO of Just Instruments Inc. and a Managing Partner of Bakeman's Inc./ Empire Bakery. Kanwar has been successfully running his instrumentation company since 2009, and achieved growth every year. An entrepreneur and a highly experienced engineer from India with vast experience in the field of industrial instrumentation and automation, his company provides consultancy, designing, sales, repairs, calibration, and provides complete automation solutions for process control instrumentation.

Kanwar has been involved in the community for several years. He is an executive member of the Sai Dham Food Bank, a charitable organisation in Toronto. He is a Director of the My India in Canada Association. He is also an executive member of the South Asian Philanthropic Council of the William Osler Health System Foundation.

Kanwar believes that Canada India Relations should be healthy in all forms including Social and Economic.

In 2017, he won the inaugural Chair's Award by the Brampton Board of Trade. In 2019, he was recognized by the Trade Promotion Council of India. In 2020, he won the RBC Top 25 Canadian Immigrant Award. He has also



been recognized by the Lahore Chamber of Commerce in Pakistan, Lucknow Chamber of commerce, and, My India in Canada Association.

Kanwar is a big believer in strong Canada-India relations. He believes both countries should enhance education and skills training through greater collaboration between Canadian and Indian educational and technical skills institutions. Further, there is big scope of commercial research and development to drive innovation in sectors such as information and communications technologies and advanced manufacturing. Kanwar urges both countries to increase exports of food products and fertilizers to support India's food security needs. Lastly, Canada and India should work together working toward a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement and a Foreign Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement (FIPA). He also believes Canada should support India's energy security ambitions through increased exports of conventional and nuclear energy as well as clean and renewable energy technology.

Mr. Dhanjal is a Diploma engineer in Instrumentation and electrical engineering. He has been married to Gurmeet for 31 years. They have two children and a grandchild.

Kelly Ahuja

President & CEO, Versa Networks

Kelly Ahuja is the President & CEO of Versa Networks, based in Santa Clara, California, USA. Versa Networks is an innovative leader in SASE (Secure Access Service Edge), security, networking, SD-WAN (Software-Defined Wide Area Network), cloud, and analytics. It has 600 employees around the world. Kelly is a seasoned industry veteran with more than 25 years of experience in networking and telecommunications.

After completing his Bachelors, Kelly moved to Ottawa to work for Telesat Canada designing and implementing data networks over satellite. He then worked at Unitel (AT&T Canada) and designed data and voice networks.

“The Canada-India bond has grown significantly in the last 75 years and will grow exponentially in the next 25. The impact Indians are having in Canada is great to see.”

Kelly moved to San Jose, California in 1995 and worked at StrataCom which was acquired by Cisco in 1996. He went to a startup in 2000 and ended up back at Cisco in 2002 and worked in multiple roles. Kelly left Cisco in 2016 and joined Versa Networks as President & CEO.

Kelly was recognized with the Top 100: Most Powerful People in Telecom in 2017. Kelly serves as a board member

of the South Asian Heart Center at El Camino Hospital.

Kelly's role model is the Dalai Lama – a self-less leader who lives for others, is humble, calm, always smiling and gives unconditionally.

Kelly has done the trek to Everest Base Camp. On his To Do list is to visit Kedarnath-Badrinath and travel the Silk Road. Kelly considers himself an adventurer, on a quest to continually learn and grow. He is happy with where he is, but his passion, focus, and energy drive him to continue to do more.



Kelly was born in New Delhi, India. He was raised by a single mom since the age of 10 when his father passed away. Kelly attended the Frank Anthony Public School till the age of 14. After moving to Calgary, he went to Springbank High School and then to University of Calgary and graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering.

Kelly has been happily married for 32 years. They have three children. After a busy day's work, he prefers to relax with a nice bottle of wine, while listening to relaxing music with his wife.

When asked about his motto in life and a word of advice for others on how to face adversity and challenges in life, he says: “Live for today”.

Michael McCabe

Resident Director, Tata Sons, North America

Michael (Mike) McCabe is the Resident Director for North America at Tata Sons, the principal investment holding company and promoter of Tata companies. He is responsible for Tata Sons' government affairs and strategy development across North America. In Canada, Tata Sons has business interests in technology, telecommunications, steel, mining, automotive, food and beverages, and commercial aviation, and employ more than 7,000 people across the country. They have 8 operating companies in Canada and as a Group have invested over C\$ 2 billion over the past 5 years.

Mike joined Tata in 2005, as head of Government Relations for North America at Tata Consultancy Services. His professional career began by working in public affairs representing the interests of various trade associations across industry sectors in Washington, DC. After moving to New York City, his work shifted to public relations representing a number of technology and internet companies while working at public relations agencies.

Tata companies in Canada have consistently ranked amongst top employers and most engaged workplaces for their practices, CSR initiatives, sustainability practices, and safety stewardship. Tata Sons' companies outreach within the community includes Tata Steel Minerals Canada work with First Nations & Aboriginal communities as well as Tata Consumer Products Ltd's work on Breast Cancer Awareness.

Mike is so grateful for the opportunities that life has given him over the years starting with his parents who enabled him to grow up in several different countries, including India. Those experiences have shaped who he is today and his global perspective.



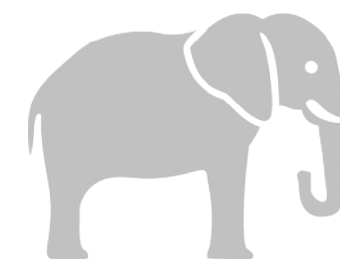
Mike believes that over the past 75 years Indian democracy has come a long way. India at 75 is a young and aspirational economy and is playing an increasingly important role in the modern world. India's twin imperatives of achieving sustainable development and climate change agenda will make an interesting play of priorities around skills development, innovation capabilities, digital infrastructure, global governance and foreign policy.

In this, the Canada-India story will have an important role to play, and how this relationship evolves over the next 2 decades will be critical for the growth of both economies. Canada and India share strong cultural and economic ties and there are a number of points of convergence on talent, innovation and technology across industry sectors.

“Mike's motto in life is 'community and respect'. His advice for others on how to face adversity and challenges in life: 'We are a global community, and no challenge is too difficult to overcome if we face it together and respect each other.'”

Mike is the son of a US Foreign Service officer, and lived in Delhi, India for 3.5 years and graduated high school from there. He holds a B.A. in International Relations from George Mason University.

Mike's relationship with the Tata family pre-dates his birth. His future father-in-law came from India to study in the United States - his journey was paid for with a Tata scholarship. If he had not made that trip, Mike's future wife would not have been born and it was through her family that Mike was first introduced to the Tata group. He currently resides in the Washington, DC metro area with his wife and two daughters.



Pankaj Agarwal

Managing Partner, Agarwal Holdings

Pankaj Agarwal is the Managing Partner of Agarwal Holdings Inc. Their model is to have a significant stake in a portfolio of fast-growing technology companies in Canada. These companies are led by passionate entrepreneurs and Agarwal Holdings actively helps them lead. In addition, they are passive investors in various fast-growing companies and funds. Across those organizations, Agarwal Holdings has a few hundred employees spread all over the globe. They have a significant presence in India both in terms of investments as well as teams. Agarwal Holdings has been active in India for more than 30 years.

After graduation, Pankaj worked with WIPRO, a leading Indian IT company, before becoming an entrepreneur at the age of 25. He moved to Canada in 2000. Since then, he has built many businesses.

Pankaj was recognized by Business in Vancouver Top 40 under 40.

“We are living in a world of tremendous opportunities. It is a privilege and a responsibility to leverage those opportunities and help others.”

Pankaj has served on several boards, including Science World, Vancouver, BC Tech Industries Association, and TiE. At Science World, he was a launch member and funder of the “Future Science Leaders” program.

He has been actively engaged in various charitable initiatives in India, such as Ekal, by supporting their BC Chapter and many schools in India. In addition, he has had the opportunity to support JABC on the initiative of “financial literacy among First Nations Youth.” He helped the “Vancouver Farmers' Market” as an advisor. He has been an active contributor and funder to the “Save the old growth forests” campaign in BC.

Pankaj believes that education is the key to equality and prosperity. That is why most of his philanthropic activities have been around education.

Canada and India are both vibrant democracies. There is so much more potential to collaborate on all fronts. Ultimately, it has to be a win-win partnership. Both countries can learn a lot from each other and help each other. We are moving in the right direction.

Pankaj loves traveling and has a goal of visiting 100 countries before turning 60. An engineering graduate from Indian Institute of Technology, Roorkee, he also has an MBA from the Indian Institute of Management, Bangalore. Pankaj is married with 2 daughters (whom he proudly refers to

as his role models). They live in Vancouver.

His motto in life is : Keep learning, keep growing and pay it forward.



Pawan Gupta

CEO/President, Camyork Apartments

Pawan Gupta is a Real Estate Investor and has been involved in the real estate sector for nearly five decades.

Pawan bought his first property in 1977, just two years after immigrating to Canada. At the peak of his career, Pawan had over 300 rental units.

Pawan has been involved in volunteerism and charity since his youth. As a teenager, he volunteered at the Government Hospital in Mandi Dabwali. Two years later, in 1964, he started fundraising to support the CMHC Hospital in Ludhiana helping it hire additional doctors and perform over 1,000 surgeries.

Since moving to Canada, Pawan's charity work has changed. He joined the Indo Canada Association and became a part of the Executive Committee. Over the last four decades, he and his wife Sudha have provided affordable and reliable housing to new immigrants and helped new students in Canada get started and settle down by providing mentorship and support, as well as warm blankets and clothes.

“You never fail in your mission until you quit. So, keep on working and put your 100 percent in it. If you believe in it, you will



achieve it too.”

Pawan joined hands with Mr. Anand Aggarwal to start an organization called Dhadkan to bring awareness about heart disease to the Indo-Canadian community. To date, the organization has raised over \$10 million dollars to support the Ottawa Heart Institute.

“India and Canada are great partners. We have made much progress together but there is definitely an opportunity to do more.”

Pawan's role model is Sai Baba and looks up to his teachings for wisdom, patience and kindness.

Pawan and his wife have travelled to 30 countries but Pawan hopes to travel more, especially in Asia. He and his wife head to Florida every winter.

Pawan did a lot of volunteer work throughout high school at local hospitals in India. Pawan's parents insisted he study something related to mathematics. So, Pawan graduated from Punjab University in 1969 with a BA in economics and believes that education has served him well.

Pawan is married to Sudha and they have two children.

Prasad Panda

Minister of Infrastructure, Government of Alberta

Hon. Prasad Panda is Minister of Infrastructure in Government of Alberta. From 2015, he has been a Member of the Legislative Assembly (MLA) of Alberta, and Minister from 2019 onwards. Prasad worked in the energy sector for nearly three decades before joining politics.

Prasad began his career in India, working in Hyderabad Allwyn's Andhra Pradesh Scooters Limited for a year. From 1988, he started working in Reliance Industries in Mumbai and rose up the ranks in 16 years. At Reliance, he was deeply involved in the construction of the world's largest oil refinery in Jamnagar.

After coming to Canada in the early 2000s, he worked for SNC Lavalin. He then worked for a decade at Suncor. In 2015, Prasad was elected as the MLA from the riding of Calgary Foothills in a by-election. Prasad was re-elected in 2019 from the riding of Calgary Edgemont and soon named as Minister of Infrastructure.

Prasad was voted as “2021 Parliamentarian of the Year for Best Community Outreach” by his fellow MLAs, and recognized by the Speaker in the Legislative Assembly of Alberta on December 7, 2021.

“My dad believed in selfless seva and he helped build a public high school in my village by fundraising in neighbouring villages of the school's catchment area. He was a firm believer in “Manav Seva is Madhav Seva.”

Prasad is, and has been, involved in several charitable causes. Prasad raised \$83,000 through the Moustache

Shave For Cancer for the Alberta Cancer Foundation. His fundraising goal was \$50,000.

He has also come close to his target of raising \$75,000 for the Calgary Health Foundation to support the Foothills Hospital's Neonatal Intensive Care Unit and their families. He runs an annual food drive to support the Calgary Veterans Food Bank.

Prior to getting elected, Prasad was an active member of his community, having volunteered as the President of the Telugu Association of Calgary, and as the Vice-President of the India-Canada Association of Calgary.

Mr. Panda was born in Guntur district, Andhra Pradesh, India and has three sisters and one brother. He studied Mechanical Engineering at VRS Engineering College in Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh.

He is a member of the Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of Alberta (APEGA). He is a passionate ally in the fight against cancer, having lost both his mother and sister to cancer, as well as sponsors early cancer screenings for people in

his home village in India.

Minister Panda received a Lifetime Achievement Award from Cricket Icon Kapil Dave for Excellence in Public Service at TANA Convention in Washington DC in front of 15,000 people. He was also honoured by the then Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh Shri N. Chandrababu Naidu along with his Cabinet Ministers, as well as honoured by the current Chief Justice of Supreme Court of India at his house in New Delhi.



Prashant Srivastava

Director, Business Development (Middle East, North Africa and South Asia) Seneca College

Prashant Srivastava is a leader in the international education sector with over 16 years of experience in international business development in the US, Canada, and India. Prashant joined Seneca College in 2014. In 2018, he was appointed as Director, Business Development, to lead Seneca's student recruitment and business development in South Asia.

Prashant's journey in the field of International Education started in 2006 at Vancouver Island University (VIU), where he was given a project to open the first overseas office of VIU in India. The assignment was to build educational ties with India and recruit students to study at VIU. He opened the VIU Center for Canadian Education in New Delhi in 2007. He travelled across India to meet educational partners, students, and parents, to promote Canadian education and VIU's educational offerings.

“Canadian and Indian values have shaped me. Growing up and living in a diverse country like India taught me tolerance and respect for all cultures, religions, and human beings. This synergizes so much with Canadian ethos of multiculturalism that I feel so proud to be a Canadian of Indian origin.”

Prashant has also worked at New York Institute of Technology and University of California.

Prashant has delivered presentations at several international conferences on the Indian education system, Canadian education, Ontario college system, and participated in panel discussions on International Education and Skills Development. He works closely with Indian and Canadian Government in organizing international training programs of Indian civil servants in Canada.



He has participated in Trade Missions to India led by the Government of Canada (2017 & 2018), Government of Ontario (2015 & 2019), and Government of British Columbia (2008), resulting in signing of MOUs in the field of entrepreneurship, education, and skills development.

Prashant volunteers with various business chambers, international associations, and community organisations in deepening Canada's international relations.

India@75, is a new India, full of energy, aspiration, filled with colors of diversity. Canada India relations are built on our strong people to people ties, with Indian immigrants making their new home in Canada.

Prashant hails from the state of Uttar Pradesh. He holds a Bachelor in Electronics Engineering from DY Patil College of Engineering and Technology, Kolhapur, Maharashtra, an MBA from University of Hertfordshire, UK. He is a Regulated International Student Immigration Advisor (RISIA) as per the College of Immigration and Citizenship

Consultants, Canada. Prashant came to Canada as an international student in 2003.

Prashant's wife has recently started a new career as a Regulated Canadian Immigration Consultant (RCIC). His son is a black belt in Taekwondo, and attends a gifted school in Ajax, Ontario. Prashant plays Badminton, Cricket and Tennis.

What's on his To Do List ? Meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi. His motto in life is : Live as if you were to die tomorrow. Learn as if you were to live forever.

Praveen Varshney

Varshney Capital

Praveen Varshney, FCPA, FCA has been in the venture capital and financial sector for 35 years. He has over 400 employees and a gross turnover of more than \$75 million. Praveen's family investments are in three broad areas: real estate (own hotels, apartment buildings, warehouses, affordable housing), social impact ESG businesses, and in the mining and resource sector.

Praveen has received several awards over the years. He was recognized in Vancouver's 40 Under 40 in 1998. He was given the UBC Alumni Builder Award to mark the association's 100th anniversary in 2017.

In 2020, he received the Greater Vancouver Board of Trade Women's Leadership Council (WLC) Wendy McDonald Diversity Award, in the category of Outstanding Mentor or Sponsor.

Praveen's role models are his parents, Hari and Madhu Varshney. They worked hard to provide education, amazing opportunities to Praveen and his two younger siblings, taught the importance of giving back and being of service, and most importantly, how to maintain strong family values and relations.

Praveen is on the board of four charities: Foundations for Social Change, Instruments Beyond Borders, The Dalai Lama Center for Peace and Education, and, the Vancouver

Foundation.

What's on his 'To Do' list ? Continue to help build great companies, mentor more kids and travel to more places. Praveen has travelled all over the world, but has a special place in his heart for Hawaii. He feels there is something special about Hawaii with the vegetation, flowers, smells, beaches, and the weather.

“It's incredible to see India hit the 75-year milestone. And the Indian diaspora in Canada has grown so much and it's so great to see so many of them doing well in their professions and communities.”



Praveen was born in Modinagar, India, in 1964. He moved to Vancouver at age 5. He graduated from the University of British Columbia in 1987 with a Bachelor of Commerce degree. He became a CA in 1990, and FCPA, FCA in 2015.

Praveen has been married to wife Anuja for 30 years. They have a daughter and a son both of whom study at the University of British Columbia.

He plays all kinds of sports including Soccer, Ball Hockey, Volleyball, Tennis,

Badminton, Ping Pong and Pickleball.

On facing adversities in life, he says : “ There is no failure. Everything is a learning opportunity. ”



Prem Bhatia

President, P. B. Holdings Inc.

Prem Bhatia is a businessman in Ottawa, Ontario.

After graduating from Punjab University in 1960-61, Prem joined his family business trading in steel products in Delhi. With hard work and good luck, he expanded the business to Bombay. He got into importing essential steel items, and started traveling to various countries to establish contacts. He became one of the top five importers of steel in India. He then got into manufacturing.

Prem moved to Canada after the sudden death of his wife. Given his experience, Prem setup a steel trading company in Ottawa called Metal Exports Limited and very soon it became a big exporter to India. He then ventured into land development and construction. To devote more time to the real estate business, Prem wound down his steel trading company. He has since retired. While the bulk of his businesses have been taken over by his son, he is involved in projects as President of P. B. Holdings Inc.

“Prem’s motto in life is, “never give up in difficult times as nothing is forever”. His advice to others is ‘Be happy, spread happiness and increase your happiness by sharing some of your good fortunes with family, friends, and community.’”



Outside of work, Prem engages in philanthropy and has been recognized by various organizations for his achievements. He has contributed to and been recognized by the Indo Canada Association and the Indo Canada Ottawa Business Chamber. Prem has also contributed to the Children’s Hospital of Eastern Ontario and Bruyere Hospital. Prem has been recognized as a silver contributor and received a certificate of appreciation on behalf of the Heart Institute and Dhadkan by Dr. Wilbert J Keon, the then President and CEO of University of Ottawa Heart Institute. Prem’s favourite movie is “Guide” starring Dev Anand.

On India@75, I wish to salute India which has given so many CFOs to many international companies, the largest democracy, and well known throughout the world for its achievements in every field. Between Canada and India, I would like to see more trade delegations and close contacts between our Heads of States to resolve issues and to strengthen our relationship in mutual interest.

Mr. Bhatia comes from a big joint family of 9 brothers and sisters with many uncles and aunts.

Raj Narula

CEO & Founder, InCa Synergies

Raj Narula is the Founder and CEO of InCa Synergies. He is a serial entrepreneur and has been an active angel investor in eLearning, web portals, security, and IT companies. He started his first successful business in his 20s.

Early on, Raj worked with GE Canada and Dresser Industries and then began his 35-year journey as a serial entrepreneur, co-founding and operating many businesses in Ottawa. He has helped launch numerous start-ups and helped to secure millions of dollars in early and mid-stage funding.

Raj has spent the last 15 years in the Canada-India corridor, building a product and services practice. Raj helps technology companies scale up internationally in India and the surrounding market.

Raj started the Haveli Indian Restaurant with his brother, Ravi, in 1984. The restaurant is still thriving today, in Ottawa’s ByWard Market.

Raj has been recognized for his leadership and philanthropy. He is also the co-founder and Charter Member of the Ottawa chapter of TiE (The Indus Entrepreneur)

“Life is not about money but about making a difference. Money follows success.”

Raj and his family were instrumental in creating the Maharaja’s Ball charity event in 2006 which has raised over \$1 million for the community. He is also a board

member for the Ottawa Heart Institute Foundation. Raj is a campaign member with the Ottawa Community Foundation. He also supports various charities in Canada and India. Raj speaks and understands five languages and has travelled to more than 50 countries. New Zealand, Fiji, Maldives, and Hawaii, are on Raj’s travel wish list.

On Canada India relations, Raj believes it is very important to consolidate the experiences of many accomplished leaders and put them to good practise for others to learn from. The India-Canada corridor is very meaningful and requires a dedicated channel to help fuel the growth.



Raj’s late father was a diplomat, so he grew up in 4 different countries. He grew up in countries like Iran, Italy, South America and India, arriving in Ottawa in his teens. Raj studied at Ottawa Tech High School. He then got a Mechanical Systems Diploma from Algonquin College in Ottawa, followed by a Mechanical Engineering degree from the University of Ottawa in 1980. Raj is married to Jyoti. They have two daughters.

Mr. Narula has led many trade delegations to India, working with Federal Ministers, Mayor of Ottawa, ITAC and is a mentor at Reliance JIO Gennext in Mumbai. He has also hosted many delegations to Canada from India.

Raj’s motto in life is : Always smile, it is never too late to start fresh, respect others and their opinions and if you can’t help, don’t get in the way.



Rakesh Joshi

Barrister, Solicitor and Notary Public

Rakesh Joshi is a Barrister, Solicitor and Notary Public, running his own private law firm – Joshi Law Office.

Mr. Joshi obtained Bachelor of Arts degree from Punjab University in 1987 and LLB from Ajmer University (India). He was called to the bar in Canada in 2005 and has since been practicing primarily in the areas of Real Estate, Corporate and Commercial.

Rakesh Joshi is also a very well-known and highly

respected name in the Conservative Party of Canada, both Provincially and Federally.

He has also been very active on the Canada India Corridor, both as a member and on the boards of Indo-Canadian Organizations, he tirelessly advocates for stronger Canada India relations and have also visited India as part of Canadian Delegations earlier.

For more information, www.joshilawoffice.com



Raman Agarwal

President & CEO, Akran Group

Raman Agarwal is the President and CEO of Akran Group of companies, comprising marketing, advertising, promotion, IT, consulting, and real estate companies with a 36-year business history. Akran Group has more than 55 employees, and annual combined revenues exceeding \$ 100 M.

Akran became one of Canada's most successful IT companies, employing over 100 people at peak. Raman transformed Akran into a multi-million-dollar marketing and real estate company in 2000. Akran is an industrial-strength Canadian owned and operated company with core competencies in branding, premium incentives, and licensing. They design, produce, imprint, and distribute a full range of promotional products and specialize in corporate sponsorships, marketing campaigns and e-commerce.

Over the years, Akran Group and Raman have received numerous awards and recognitions. Akran Group has been awarded "50-Best-Places-to-Work" by Advertising Specialty Institute (ASI) and # 1 fastest growing company in Canada; "Mid-market Fastest Growing Company in Ottawa", Ottawa Chamber of Commerce (OCC) Marketplace Ethical-Award, Better Business Bureau (BBB); and honoured as "Canada's 100 Fastest Growing Companies", Canada Profit Magazine. Raman has been honoured as "Entrepreneur-of-the-Year", Indo-Canada Chamber of Commerce (ICCC) and "Top 40 under 40" in

Ottawa. "Best-Boss-of-the-Year", Promotional Products Association International (PPAI).

With the help of his sons, Raman plans to ratchet up their array of innovative products and services and expand into new markets while continuing with their world-class customer service and customer centric approach.

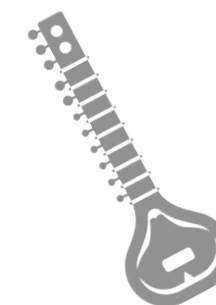
"My success comes from ambition, effort, and a vision, but entrepreneurs work in teams not in isolation – the interaction and support of employees, suppliers, financial institutions, government, community, family, and friends all contribute collectively—there are no individual heroes."



Akran champions environment, education, and community through the Akran Foundation, a registered charity. The Akran Foundation provides direct assistance via The Missing Children's Network of Canada, Dave Smith Youth Treatment Centre, The Children's Wish Foundation, the Ottawa Food Bank and currently assists over 25 local charities. Raman has served on the boards of Better Business Bureau, Habitat for Humanity, Children's Wish Foundation, and, Children's Aid

Foundation.

As a leader, mentor and role model, Raman helps the next generation of entrepreneurs transform business ideas into dynamic enterprises.



MAKE IN INDIA

Ranj Pillai

Minister of Economic Development, Government of Yukon

Hon. Ranj Pillai is a Minister in the Government of Yukon. He holds the portfolios of Economic Development; Tourism and Culture; Yukon Housing Corporation; and the Yukon Liquor Corporation and the Yukon Lottery Commission.

Minister Pillai held roles with numerous First Nation development corporations and junior mining companies. He then became the Executive Director of the Champagne and Aishihik First Nations Government and held senior roles with Northern Vision Development and Yukon University. He was a Whitehorse City Councillor from 2009 to 2012. During his tenure, he spearheaded the first anti-racism and discrimination bylaw North of 60.

“I am driven to complete more work that will continue to improve the lives of Yukoners and position Yukon as a geopolitically desirable place for people to live, work and do business.”

Minister Pillai was first elected to the Yukon Legislative Assembly in 2016 as the Member of the Legislative Assembly for the riding of Porter Creek South and was appointed as Deputy Premier, Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources; Economic Development; and



Kings College.

Minister responsible for the Yukon Development Corporation and Yukon Energy Corporation. He was re-elected for a second term in April 2021.

Minister Pillai is a recipient of the North Startup Canada 2019 Regional Award for Entrepreneur Promotion. He is a former member of the Governor General's Leadership Conference and Banff Forum.

“India @75 is extremely important to celebrate. Canada must continue to nurture and build stronger relations with India. The Indian diaspora will be extremely influential in realizing the success of this undertaking. For Canada, this will be of great importance to the future sustainability and positioning of Canada on the international stage.”

Outside of work, Minister Pillai sponsors and plays on a number of basketball teams, loves attending concerts and hunting in the mountains throughout Yukon.

His favourite places to visit are the mountains of Yukon and the beaches of Nova Scotia. Minister Pillai attended Dalhousie University and

Sandeep Gupta

Owner, Aarti Group

Sandeep Gupta has been in the textile business – as an employee and as an owner – for over three decades. Traveling for work made him realise the opportunities outside India, so he migrated to Canada.

After working in Canada for three years, he started his own business in 2005 which now spans across the entire American continent— Argentina, Chile, Peru, Ecuador, Bolivia, Paraguay, Venezuela, Colombia, Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, Dominican Republic, USA, and Canada.

He sources textiles, fabrics, yarns, and their related chemicals and dyes from various countries in Asia, mainly from India. He started his own spinning factory in Panipat, Haryana which caters to the local and export markets.

Aarti Textile business annual turnover has now surpassed \$200 million and group turnover is around \$250 million.

As his business has grown, he has invested in other businesses in Canada. He manages several

commercial plazas and industrial properties in southern Ontario.

Sandeep has also become an active investor in real estate and entered the field of real estate development and construction. He is currently working on 10 development projects across Ontario, including a Marriott in Toronto, and a Multi – Use Residential project in the heart of Brampton.

He also has interests in financing, and iron and steel industries in the Canadian market.



Sandeep and his family are deeply committed to philanthropy. Sandeep has pledged \$1,000,000 to Trillium Health Partners to support the redevelopment and expansion of Trillium's Mississauga hospital.

Sandeep is a Textile Engineer from Technological Institute of Textile & Sciences (TIT&S) in Bhiwani, Haryana (B.Tech). He also holds a Master in Business Administration from Som Lalit Institute of Management in Ahmedabad, Gujarat.

Supreet Warna

Chief Operating Officer, Wealth and Personal Banking, HSBC Bank Canada

Supreet Warna is the Chief Operating Officer of Wealth and Personal Banking at HSBC Bank Canada. There, she has oversight of all transformation and delivery, automation and process simplification, cost control and governance, credit adjudication, collections, fraud management, channel operations, and performance effectiveness areas.

Supreet started her career working for a US bank in New York City. She was one of the youngest branch managers at the age of 23. In 2005, she returned to Canada and started working for CIBC where she moved into increasingly senior roles. She joined HSBC Canada in 2017 and has now risen to COO

“I am very passionate about Diversity and Inclusion, and in particular mentoring South Asian women in professional pursuits. I strongly believe that there is an opportunity to increase the representation of South Asian women in senior executive positions in the Financial Services Industry in Canada, and I would like to provide a positive example to help pave the way for the next generation.”

During her career, Supreet has been recognised with several awards. In 2019, she received the Personal and Private Banker of the Year Award as part of the Women in Finance awards series run by Bonhill Group plc. In 2018, she was recognized with the “Women in Focus” award at a Diwali Gala organized by the Times of Canada magazine in Toronto. She was also



recognized at IMEC's Celebrating Success Gala in 2019.

Supreet sits on the board of FICANEX Services Limited Partnership, a limited partnership 100% owned by Canadian financial institutions. She is also an Advisor to Pink Attitude Evolution, a network of passionate and hard-working individuals committed to uplift and support South Asian women and allies.

I have so many role models that I look to for different aspects of my life. If I see someone doing something that I admire, I am always eager to learn from them so that I can improve myself. I believe that it is important to be a life long “learner” and to always seek opportunities to improve and grow.

Outside of work, Supreet loves to travel and looks forward to traveling more once the Covid-19 pandemic related restrictions are fully lifted. Her favourite place to visit is Europe.

Supreet is very disciplined in spending time daily in meditation. She finds it critical to manage the competing demands on her time and attention. Supreet was brought up in British Columbia and is now settled in Ontario.

She went to Simon Fraser University and graduated with a BA in Economics. She also studied at York University.

Supreet is married. She and her husband have a son and a daughter.



India is now at # 63 (out of 190 countries) in the Ease of Doing Business.

Surjit Babra

Chairman - Skylink Capital Corp., Vice-Chairman & Partner, Highbury Canco Corp.

Surjit Babra is Chairman of Skylink Capital, and Vice Chairman at Highbury Canco. He employs over 650 people. Surjit selected travel business as his career in U.K. in 1972. Before moving to Toronto in 1979 to expand his business (SkyLink Travel Group) in Canada, he had already established five offices in the United Kingdom and Europe.

After starting his first North American office in Toronto, he expanded to three regional offices in Canada and five in U.S.A. He invested in numerous other travel companies, aviation companies and other transportation companies with great success.

In 1991, Surjit Babra and Walter Arbib started SkyLink Aviation. It provided aircraft and logistical support to organizations such as the United Nations, Red Cross, World Food Program, Canadian Armed Forces, USAID, and, the International Organization for Migration. SkyLink Aviation was revered for its reliable and timely deployment of aircraft during emergency and aid missions.

In 2008, Surjit and Walter sold their interests in SkyLink Aviation for US\$ 125 million. In 1996, the group established a domestic aviation company called SkyLink Express.

In 2014, Surjit Babra and three other partners purchased the Heinz Leamington plant in Ontario, thereby reinvesting in the province and saving 250 jobs. The company has now expanded to 600 employees.

“India is a growing world power and very influential. It must make the world a better place. Canada India relations will grow stronger and each country has a lot to bring to the table.”



Surjit is the recipient of numerous awards. In 1996, he received the Businessperson of the Year Award from ICCA. In 2019, he was awarded the Roy MacLaren Humanitarian of the Year Award by the Canada-India Business Council. In 2006, he received the B'nai Brith Canada's Award of Merit and in 2009, he received the Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Award in New Delhi.

Surjit started his own “SkyLink Children's Charity”, which has contributed to Haiti, Sick Kids Hospital (Toronto, ON), the Guru Gobind Singh Children's Foundation (Toronto, ON) and, the Canadian Soldier's Benevolent Fund in Petawawa, Ontario.

Last year Surjit contributed a large sum towards sending Oxygen Generators from Canada to India during Covid Wave there, also sponsored Drip Irrigation and Girl Education Projects in India and contributed \$ 50,000 towards building toilets for Girls Schools in India. He runs a non-profit called “Langar for the Mind” which conducts free motivation and self-improvement seminars.

His Motto in Life is : Do the best you can and a little bit more. Then leave the rest to God.

Surjit Babra was born in India. He married Remy in 1982. They have three children. Surjit enjoys spending his free time travelling, investing in self-improvement, gardening, golfing, and mentoring. Surjit Babra is 70 years old and resides in Richmond Hill, Ontario, with his family.

What's on his To Do List ? Before I exit, I want to make the world a better place and make a difference in some people's lives.



India has over half a billion active internet users.

Tazim Lal

Owner & Designer, Thank You India

Tazim is the owner of Thank You India, a Canadian social enterprise, based in Ottawa, ON.

Thank You India is a social enterprise with strong ties to artisan communities in India, working with their skills to create unique jewelry designs and textiles that are one-of-a-kind pieces, supporting living wages. Tazim has been in India's artisanal sector for 15 years.

Tazim is a trained and certified Canadian interior designer. Her skills include architectural drawings, furnishings, finishes, and equipment knowledge. She designed one of the first silver LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) designation buildings in Toronto.

Tazim gives back to the community in various ways. She was the Chair for World Partnership Golf (WPG) event in Ottawa. WPG is an initiative of Aga Khan Foundation Canada, and is Canada's only national golf event dedicated to raising funds and awareness to alleviate global poverty. Since 2000, the WPG has raised over \$18 million.

Tazim considers Audrey Hepburn as her role model, for her elegance as a professional and an empowered woman but mostly for



her will to improve lives of underprivileged.

On India turning 75, Tazim believes that India will excel when the artisanal community has grown exponentially, where the sustainable piece to fashion is strong, where we question where our clothes are coming from, and where fairly paid work is a priority.

“I like the Nike slogan “Just do it”. It is the persistence, tenacity, and believing in yourself that one can overcome various adversities...”

Tazim's family hails from East Africa. Tazim is the youngest of eight children.

At the age of 13, Tazim left for boarding school in Kent, UK. Her three brothers supported her education and living expenses for three years before she was sponsored by her sister to immigrate to Canada.

She graduated with a Bachelors in Science from the University of Toronto. She taught science and math as a supply teacher for three years in Miramichi, New Brunswick. She then pursued interior design at Algonquin College in Ottawa. She has been married for almost 40 years to Dr. Jaideep Lal.

almost 40 years to

Dr. Jaideep Lal.

Victor Thomas

President & CEO, Canada India Business Council

Victor Thomas is the President and CEO of Canada-India Business Council. He has worked with high-growth private sector companies in Canada and Australia with reach to India, China, South East Asia, the USA, and the UAE over his career.

Victor was the Principal and Executive Director of Aspen Medical Canada Inc., a subsidiary of Aspen Medical, an international firm with expertise in delivering healthcare solutions in complex and often remote environments.

Victor has been involved with several organizations and served on several boards. He is the Executive Chair of Precision AI, an AgTech company striving for sustainable farming practices at the forefront of the autonomous farming revolution. Victor is the Chair of Saskatchewan's Innovation Place, fostering the province's tech sector within 1.7 million square feet of real estate. He served as a corporate director of SaskEnergy from 2008 to 2016, serving as chair of its Human Resources and Compensation Committee, and as Vice-Chair from 2012 to 2016.

Victor has received several awards for his leadership including the Public Policy Forum's Emerging Leaders Award for Canada (2011), the University of Regina Alumni's Crowning Achievement Award for service to the University (2013), and the Canadian Red Cross's highest honour, the Order of the Red Cross (2014).

Victor has served on several charities and non-profit organizations:

- Chair of CARE Canada's Board of Directors, sits on the CARE International Council and is the former Chair of CARE International in Kenya.
- National Executive Member for the 2022 Governor General's Canadian Leadership Conference.
- Member, Canada's Future Skills Centre Advisory Board.
- Past Chair of Canada's Banff Forum and is a member of its Advisory Council.

- Director Emeritus of the Rideau Hall Foundation Board of Directors and serves on their Programs Committee.
- Past Chair, Regina & District Chamber of Commerce.
- Past Chair of the Canadian Red Cross Saskatchewan Executive Cabinet.
- Former member of the Board of Governors at the University of Regina and a former member of its Senate.
- Past Regina Co-Chair, Ronald McDonald House Saskatchewan Building Expansion Committee.

“It is quite remarkable how far India has come in the last 75 years, especially with the economic reforms in the early 1990s and the significant economic progress of the past few years. In the next five years, one-fifth of the world's working-age population will be Indian. By the end of this decade, there will be over a billion internet users in India. Over the next 15 years, India's five largest cities will have economies comparable in size to middle-income countries today. India is destined to be a world economic leader. Canada and India have so much more to do together!”



Victor's parents were born in India and Malaysia.

Victor graduated from the University of Regina with a Bachelor of Business Administration in 2007 and a Master of Administration in leadership in 2011. He also holds certificates in French studies from both York University and Université St. Anne in Nova Scotia. He is the youngest graduate with a Chartered Director designation in corporate governance from The Directors College program offered through the DeGroot School of Business at McMaster University, and also holds the reciprocal designation of Administrateur de Sociétés Certifié from Laval University.

Victor believes India is destined to be a world economic leader. Canada and India have so much more to do together.

Vijay Thomas

CEO, Tangentia

Vijay Thomas is the Founder and CEO of Tangentia, a global Agile Digital Transformation company. Tangentia has more than 300 employees worldwide and \$ 20 million in gross annual revenue.

Vijay started his career in India, working in the mechanical engineering field for a short time for a boiler manufacturing company in Pune. Following his MBA, Vijay was selected from campus to work for Satyam Computer Services in 1999. After a rewarding stint at Satyam which included travel and projects in different parts of the world including India, Australia and Boston, USA, Vijay decided to move to Canada and joined a company that did work for Bombardier Aerospace in Montreal. 2 years later the family moved to Toronto and Vijay started Tangentia from a 1-bedroom condominium in the Bayview and Sheppard area in Toronto.

Vijay started Tangentia Ventures in 2017 to look for opportunities outside of the Information Technology sector already covered by Tangentia and invested in multiple startups globally including Clean Planet, a Made in Canada apparel manufacturing company based in Scarborough which became one of the largest manufacturers of hospital gowns in 2021; Pumpkin Kart, the leader in Ethnic Food Delivery in Toronto and many others. Tangentia Green and Tangentia Electronics are 2 new ventures that are focussed on the renewable energy and semiconductor/electronics business segments in India.

Vijay as well as Tangentia have won many awards and recognitions over the last 20 years. Tangentia was on the Profit 500 list of fastest growing companies in Canada 6 years in a row.

Tangentia America was on the Inc 5000 list of fastest growing companies in the USA. Tangentia India was voted IT company of the year by Business Goa magazine.



“I don't have a single role model, but a couple of people have inspired me over the years. The Tata Group for their resilience and longevity and value system over the years, Steve Jobs for his “stay hungry, stay foolish philosophy, and, Warren Buffet for frugality and value investing.””

Vijay is involved in several nonprofit and charitable organizations. He is the founding Treasurer of the Willowdale BIA, board member of TiE Toronto, and several other local and global organizations. Vijay is involved in several philanthropic ventures. As President of the Indo-Canada Chamber of Commerce, Vijay led an ‘Oxygen for India’ fundraising campaign to help send oxygen to India during the catastrophic second wave of Covid 19 in India. Vijay and his wife are supporters of organizations like UNICEF and Sick Kids Hospital.

Travelling is a big interest for Vijay and he is an avid traveller. He took his entire family on a trip around the world in 2017 and they circumnavigated the world for 30 days. On his ‘To Do’ list is visiting Antarctica, and listing Tangentia on a stock exchange.

India@75 is a misty-eyed perspective of struggle, hope, resilience and ambition. My grandfather was a freedom fighter and worked alongside Mahatma Gandhi to help India achieve Independence. From that perspective to today's young and bold India that has ambition and drive unparalleled in the world has been a great journey over the last 75 years.

Vijay was born in 1974 in Goa, India, he grew up in India and spent the early part of his professional career in India. Vijay is a Mechanical Engineer from Karnatak University. He graduated with an MBA from the Goa Institute of Management in 1999. He met his wife Parul Verma at the Goa Institute of Management, where they were in the same MBA course. They married and moved to Canada in 2001. They have 2 children. His favourite place to visit was and still is Goa.

Vipul Patel

Vice President, Sun Pharma

Vipul Patel is Vice President, Head of Supply Chain at Sun Pharma. Sun Pharma has a turnover of more than USD 4 billion and has 18,000 employees. Vipul has been in the pharmaceuticals industry for three decades.

Vipul started his career at JC Bhalla & Co. a leading CA firm in Delhi. He then started working at the family business. Years later, he moved into the corporate world working with Ashima Ltd. heading its branded business and then moved to DTDC Courier and Cargo.

Vipul then worked for several years with Torrent Pharmaceuticals, first in India as Head of Global Supply Chain, then in Germany and US in various functions and increasing responsibilities. He left Torrent as their Vice President of Commercial Operations for North America, based out of NJ.

“I consider my grandfather and my father as my role models. My grandfather ran a popular grocery store in the town center but often came home with empty pockets: not because he didn't have any customers that day, but because he often emptied his pockets for someone in need on the way home.”

My father was an entrepreneur turned business tycoon. He was a visionary, who built a pharmaceutical

distribution business that spread through much of northern and western India at its peak, from practically nothing.

For the last 9 years Vipul worked for a Canadian owned and operated generic pharmaceuticals start-up and built the business from a modest turnover into a \$100 million company. He is proud to have contributed a major part in the company's achievement of being named one of Canada's Best Managed Companies (awarded by Deloitte and CIBC) four times in a row.



Outside of work, Vipul contributes to women's health care and basic education in rural India. Vipul supports an orthopedic and women's health hospital built by his family foundation.

After retiring, his father donated all of his life's savings to the Blind People's Association in India, which funded the construction of two rural hospitals.

Vipul is the youngest of three children. He finished his undergraduate studies in Economics (Hons.) from Guru Nanak Dev University and studied management at IIM Ahmedabad,

Gujarat. He is a certified Six Sigma Black Belt and an ISO lead Auditor.

Vipul's mantra in Life ? Learn, De Learn and Re Learn.



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Minister's Message

The Yukon is renowned for its spectacular vistas, incredible wildlife, and abundance of outdoor activities. Dazzling sights such as the midnight sun and the northern lights have captured the hearts of travellers around the world.

These marvels make our territory one of the most unique tourism destinations in the world, but beyond these experiences lies a land of opportunity where people from all walks of life find their calling and flourish. Residents enjoy a quality of life that is second to none, with a strong economy, a broad range of government and community services, and easy access to nature, wildlife and adventure.

Starting or advancing your career? The Yukon has a diverse economy with active mining, tourism, construction, technology and research sectors. The territory is also home to Yukon University, the first university in northern Canada.

Looking for new experiences? There are many recreational and outdoor activities, as well as social and cultural events. The Yukon boasts a wide range of activities to choose from for a fulfilling lifestyle.

Simply put, the Yukon has so much to offer investors, visitors and the people who call it home. I encourage you to come and witness the magnificence of our territory for yourself. You will never forget the experience!

Ranj Pillai

Ranj Pillai
Minister of Economic Development
Minister of Tourism and Culture
Minister responsible for the Yukon Housing Corporation
Minister responsible for the Yukon Liquor Corporation and the Yukon Lotteries Commission
Government of Yukon



The average wage in the Yukon is 17% higher than the Canadian average.



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