

May 1, 2008

Dear colleagues and friends,

It is my pleasure to present the 2006/07 annual report for the Centre for Indo-Canadian Studies at the University of the Fraser Valley.

This report outlines our ongoing activities and programs that reflect our vision and goals. The Centre is one of the many catalysts that have transformed UFV into an institution that fully reflects the diversity in our region. Since its official opening in November 2007, it has been a hub of activity as we started programs and activities and got involved on campus, in the community, and abroad in India. The annual report is a reflection of our growing programming and our capacity to attract people to our work.

We are extremely proud of how our India Cana



Centre for Indo-Canadian Studies University of the Fraser Valley

Vision

The Centre for Indo-Canadian Studies at the University of the Fraser Valley officially opened on Oct 28, 2006.



India-Canada Studies program

The India-Canada Studies program started out with a few courses in 2004. The multi-disciplinary program has grown exponentially since then and in the last few years it has matured in breadth and offerings. Starting out with History, Social Work and English, the program now includes Geography, Anthropology, Philosophy, Religious Studies, Cultural and Media Studies, Modern Languages, and, in the near future, Political Science.

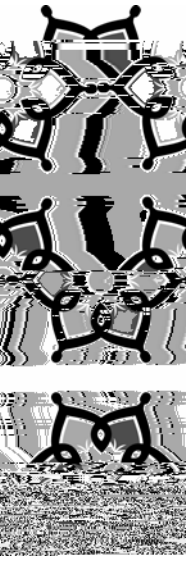
As the program grew over the years and as the interest in the courses grew, new faculty were hired, study tours undertaken to India, academic exchanges developed, student internships initiated, and much more. In September 2008, the brand new India-Canada Studies certificate will be launched. Students will have the added opportunity to graduate with a certificate that will assist them in their career and further education pursuits. Students will benefit from a rich, vibrant, and interesting certificate program that incorporates a wide range of disciplines. In Canada, it is a unique offering that will draw many prospective students to UFV.

www.ucfv.ca/CICS/Courses.htm

Student Internships

Two UFV students have had the experience of a lifetime. Criminology student Sumeet Jammu and Sociology/Anthropology student Meggie Shields spent 6 months in India preparing for an international conference funded by the Shastri Indo Canadian Institute on "Child Friendly Cities". They interned for Professor Cherie Enns, Geography Dept, UFV who developed the conference. They worked at the Canadian Studies Centre at Panjab University, Chandigarh under the able guidance of Prof. B.S. Ghuman, Director of the Centre.

A first-ever event for the city of Chandigarh, the conference was a great success. The international line-up of speakers included Dr. Eliana Riggio, consultant & former Coordinator, International Child-friendly Cities Secretariat, UNICEF Innocenti Research Centre, Florence Italy; Dr. Sudeshna Chatterjee, planner and urban design consultant focusing on child-friendly spaces in India, research affiliate of Children, Youth & Environments Centre for Research & Design, University of Colorado, USA; Mr. Samir Chaudhuri, founder and director of the Child in Need Institute in Calcutta; and Dr. Gamal Hamid, urban planner, consultant, and current director of the Middle East and North Africa Child Protection Initiative (CPI).





Partnerships

Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute

UFV is a member of the Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute and has continued to take part in the many activities sponsored and organized by the Institute. Yvon Dandurand is UFV's official representative at the Institute, where he is currently serving as Secretary-Treasurer.

Panjab University, Chandigarh

As part of the implementation of a memorandum of understanding between UFV and Panjab University (PU), a Canadian Studies Centre was set up at PU in Chandigarh in June 2005.

The Centre aims to:

- Promote Indo-Canadian studies in the field of social sciences, sciences, humanities, and professional disciplines like engineering, law and management
- Encourage research on the Indian Diaspora in Canada in association with Canadian institutions
- Undertake studies in the areas of Indo-Canadian trade, and economic relations
- Facilitate exchange of faculty and students
- Supply policy inputs both to the Indian (specially Panjab) and the Canadian governments for further strengthening their economic, trade, social and community ties

Sanatan Dharma College, Chandigarh (SDCC)

UFV partners with SDCC, an affiliate of Panjab University, for the delivery of a Bachelor of Business Administration degree program. SDCC, established in 1973 and accredited by the Indian National Assessment and Accreditation Council, is a post-graduate institution focusing on providing students with liberal, holistic education in a strong student-centered environment. UFV's Chandigarh campus is located at SDCC, with UFV students living on campus in residence or at home.

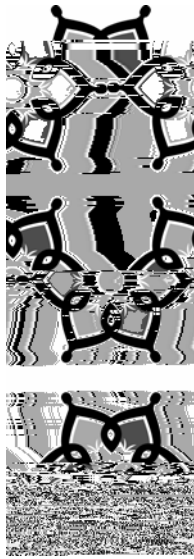
Developing partnerships

University of Mumbai, Mumbai, India
Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar, India
Himachal Pradesh University, Shimla, India
Western Washington State University, Bellingham, USA
University of Washington, Seattle, USA
University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada

The BC Regional Innovation Chair on Canada-India Business and Economic Development

When Professor DJ Sandhu was interviewed for the new BC Regional Innovation Chair in Canada-India Business and Economic Development at UFV's Centre for Indo-Canadian Studies, he shook his head. "I told them that if they just wanted someone to conduct research and write detailed reports for the government, I wasn't their man. I would only take it if I could be a 'hands-on' Chair. By that I meant that I wanted to be in a position to help business people on a one-to-one basis. They agreed, and here I am."

Sandhu's appointment was announced in June 2007. The provincially-funded Leading Edge Endowment Fund provided \$1.25 million in support, which was matched by donations from hundreds of individuals and organizations throughout the Fraser Valley and beyond.



Fundraising for the Chair

The fundraising committee remained active and involved in the fundraising campaign that has a five year legacy. Volunteer committee members were honoured by President Dr Skip Bassford at a reception for their hard work and dedication. The fundraising committee raised \$1.4 million far surpassing the required matching funds of \$1.25 million for the establishment of the Chair by the Provincial Government under the LEEF guidelines. The community rallied behind the fundraising committee's campaign of "Now, it's time".

Fundraising members are:

Chair: Parm Bains

Co-Chair: Paul Wadhawan

Dr Malwinder Dhami

Tok Herar

Norm Sangha

Andy Sidhu

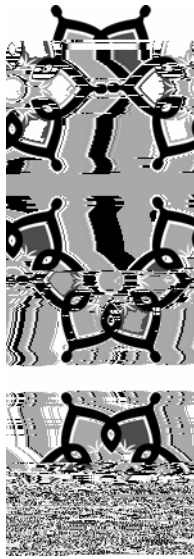
Balbir Mahil

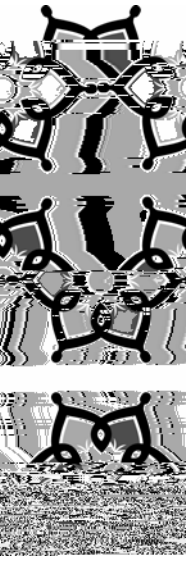
Jatinder Sidhu


Baldev Dhugha

Arno Newman

The fundraising committee was ably shepherded by Associate Vice President Yvon







providers, focus groups with stakeholders, client baseline data review and assessment, service model exploration and an inventory of services. The report will be ready for the Ministry by late summer 2008.

Cultural Recovery Project

The Centre is assisting in the Cultural Recovery Program of the Khalsa Diwan Society of Abbotsford. The initiative has delivered an interactive website that highlights the 100-year history of the Indo-Canadian Punjabi/Sikhs in the Fraser Valley. Their experiences in a tumultuous century, fraught with trials and tribulations, have culminated in a momentous juncture with the designation of National Heritage Site in Abbotsford as the oldest Sikh temple in the Americas. The objective of the website is two-fold: firstly to provide an avenue for any Canadians to learn about the 100-year history and secondly to link the institution with local, national and international organizations that provide cultural, historical, and traditional information on the Sikh/Punjabi community and its Diaspora communities. The project is grateful to Canadian Heritage – Canada Online for funding support. For more information, visit www.canadiansikhheritage.ca

Indo-Canadian Centennial History Project – the first 100 years

The Centre has formed a steering committee to develop and design a publication on the 100-year history of British Columbia Sikhs. The goal is to develop the publication for launch in 2011, the Centennial Year for the National Heritage Site Sikh Temple in Abbotsford. This publication will record the often tumultuous history of Sikhs, their successes, and their determination to make Canada their new home. UFV colleagues, community members and students are all a part of this exciting new venture.

Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute, Calgary, Alberta









Dr. Nicola Mooney, Department of Anthropology



