

National Historic Site of Canada – Abbotsford Sikh Temple Visit

Dear colleagues,

Members of the UCFV community have expressed strong interest in visiting the Abbotsford Sikh temple, which was declared a National Historic Site of Canada by the Hon. Jean Chrétien, Prime Minister of Canada on July 31, 2002.

The Khalsa Diwan Society of Abbotsford has engaged the Centre for Indo-Canadian Studies at UCFV to document, record, write, and present the 100-year history of Indian pioneers within the context of the Fraser Valley, the lower mainland, and British Columbia as a whole. This includes the temple, which is the oldest standing Sikh temple in North America.

Construction of the Sikh temple was started in 1908 and completed in 1911 by determined Sikh pioneers who came from India and worked in the nearby sawmill owned by the Trethewey family. The company donated lumber and Sikh employees carried it on their backs to the building site. The western storefront styling of the temple reflected the desire of the men to integrate into their new country. As was tradition, the temple was placed on high ground overlooking the community. The temple has now been fully restored to reflect the same beauty it displayed in 1911.

The Centre invites you to attend a guided tour of the National Heritage Site on any one of the following days:

Tuesday, September 25	11 am - 12:30 pm
Wednesday, September 26	1-2:30 pm
Thursday, September 27	2:30-4 pm

The temple is located at 33089 South Fraser Way in Abbotsford. The group will meet at the assigned time at the temple (next to the Red Robin restaurant). Ample parking is available in the temple parking lot.

Please RSVP by Sept 17 by sending an email to jag.deol@ucfv.ca indicating your preferred date of attendance. We encourage you to share this invitation with family and friends.

Kindest regards,

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