



**CENTRE FOR INDO-CANADIAN STUDIES**  

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**UNIVERSITY of the FRASER VALLEY**

**BI-ANNUAL REPORT 2014/2015**

# Centre for Indo-Canadian Studies at the University of the Fraser Valley

## *Bi-Annual Report 2014-2015*

### Table of Contents

Centre for Indo-Canadian Studies at the University of the Fraser Valley	2
India-Canada Studies program	3
Student internships and scholarships	3
Academic partnerships	4
The BC Regional Innovation Chair on Canada-India Business and Economic Development	7
Developing and sustaining community partnerships	7
External community committees	9
Internal UFV committees	10
Research, forums, projects and consultation studies on issues that support the vision of the Centre	10
Student research	14
Internationalization projects	17
Visiting scholars and dignitaries	18
CICS contact information	20





# Centre for Indo-Canadian Studies at the University of the Fraser Valley



## Vision

The Centre for Indo-Canadian Studies (CICS) is the University of the Fraser Valley's (UFV) nexus point where scholars and students from UFV programs, community members as well as groups from all sectors of the community and international visitors come together to develop the study of the Indian sub-continent and the Indian Diaspora. The Centre supports the development, maintenance, and strengthening of understanding between these two nations that lead to diverse experiences for students, faculty and community. The Centre also initiates and supports India-Canada studies, and programs and activities that promote the study of and engagement with the Indo Canadian Diaspora. The research arm of the Centre supports the appointment of Faculty Associates of CICS to undertake research in their special areas as well as being responsive to broader research needs as they arise. The Centre is also a hub and repository of the pioneering history of the Indo-Canadian Diaspora while undertaking much-needed research that benefits members of the community, government, and academia. The Centre is the home of the BC Regional Innovation Chair on Canada-India Business and Economic Development.



## Core Programs:

- India-Canada Studies program
- The BC Regional Innovation Chair on Canada-India Business and Economic Development
- Developing and sustaining academic, business, and community partnerships
- Conducting research, holding forums and consultations on various business related, social, cultural and historical issues
- Support for UFV-wide-initiatives that enhance the vision of the Centre

## Goals:

The Centre for Indo-Canadian Studies identified four major goals that it pursued through the years 2014 and 2015:

1. Faculty, student engagement and stakeholder relationships
2. Research and consultations
3. Resources and administration
4. UFV and community engagement

To meet these goals, the CICS has relied on several inter-related strategies and one of the most effective strategies has been to strive to involve as many faculty, staff, students and members of the community as possible in the activities of the Centre. In the last two years, the Centre has involved 24 students in various roles: as work-study students, as practicum students, in leadership volunteer roles, as research assistants or as coordinators of events, activities, and programs. Centre Faculty Associates are involved in research projects, study tours, curriculum planning, presentations and activities with the Centre. The community has participated in activities of the Centre and in giving advice and support. The media has consistently sought the views of staff at the Centre when related stories have broken or are being analyzed and the Centre strives to provide a balanced and objective view on current events. The Centre's finances have been enhanced by research grants, government funding, and community fundraising.

Future plans:

1. Ongoing enhancement of the Centre's financial and staffing resources
2. Undertaking relevant and pertinent research
3. Strengthening and enhancing the India-Canada Studies program
4. Continuing to engage faculty, students, staff, and community in the work of the Centre

# 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 courses in Geography, Anthropology, Philosophy, Religious Studies, Social, Cultural and Media Studies, and Modern Languages. As the program grew over the years and as the interest in the courses grew, new faculty were hired, study tours were undertaken to India, academic exchanges were developed, student internships were initiated, and much more. In September 2008, the brand new and unique India-Canada Studies certificate was launched. Students now have the added opportunity to graduate with a concentration certificate that will assist them in their career and further education pursuits. Students are benefiting 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.



[ufv.ca/cics/courses-and-programs/](http://ufv.ca/cics/courses-and-programs/)

## Student Internships and Scholarships

### March 2014

#### CICS Welcomes Visiting Scholar from Panjab University

The Centre for Indo-Canadian Studies welcomed Mr. Mohammad Sohail in the winter semester of 2014 to engage in secondary source research for a five week period. Sohail worked under the guidance of Dr. B.S Ghuman of Panjab University, Chandigarh, who is a Senior Faculty Associate and a colleague of the CICS. Sohail was selected by the Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute (SICI) New Delhi/Calgary under its 2013-14 Student Mobility Program. He then worked with the Centre for Indo-Canadian Studies on a selected research proposal, the title of which was *Regulation of Higher Education in Canada with Special Reference to British Columbia* under the supervision of CICS Director Satwinder Kaur Bains.

### March 2014

#### Indo Canadian Community Advisory Committee Member Dr. Dhami Creates UFV Endowment

As a man of “firsts,” Dr. Malwinder Dhami is no stranger to taking the lead role in his philanthropic giving. Dr. Dhami is a keen supporter of the University of the Fraser Valley and recently established his first endowment, the Dhami Family Endowment Leadership Award. This is the first UFV endowment established by an Indo-Canadian family, and it is from a family that is well known within the local community for its high regard for education and love of UFV.

#### 2014 Scholarship Recipients

The CICS awarded scholarships to five impressive students:

Suhail Shaikh and Suman Lally each were awarded the HSBC Endowment Scholarship and Bharat Nayyar and Meena Bolla were each awarded the newly forged Dhami Family Endowment Leadership Award which was created through a donation by Dr. Malwinder Dhami, an avid supporter of the CICS and the University of the Fraser Valley.

The CICS also nominated Donna Gomes for the 2014 Undergraduate Research Excellence Award for her work on digitizing the Sikh Reference Library and primary documents of the late Dr. D.P Pandia.

#### 2015 Scholarship Recipients

The CICS awarded Pushpinder Singh Mann and Anish Bahri the HSBC Endowment Scholarship award. Pushpinder acted as ‘Santa Singh’ in the CICS commissioned play *That Land Beyond the Waves*, and Anish was a dedicated and hardworking communications practicum student for the CICS.

The CICS also nominated Anecia Gill for the 2015 Undergraduate Research Excellence Award for her work in creating an interactive study guide for high school students based on the CICS commissioned play *That Land Beyond the Waves*.



**May 2015**  
**Student Internship at UFV Chandigarh**



Derek Ward-Hall, a 4<sup>th</sup> year student in the Bachelor of Business Administration program at UFV was offered a \$2,500 scholarship to study at UFV's Chandigarh campus. Derek was also hired at the same time by UFV India to take on the campus's Qbiz program. Qbiz is an annual business quiz completion run by UFV India for all grade 11 and 12 students from across North India. The program travels to 150 schools over 20 cities, and reaches 18,000 students. It is one of the campuses most active programs and aims at recruiting high school students to enroll into the UFV Program in Chandigarh.

## **Academic Partnerships**

**March 2014**  
**UFV Chandigarh Meeting with Himachal Pradesh University**



Vice Chancellor Prof. A.D.N. Bajpai and Associates of HPU met to further develop the MOU signed between UFV and HPU in November 2014 by Dr Mark Evered of UFV. The goal of the meeting was to

further explore the possibility of academic programs on the same model as those at UFV Chandigarh. Gurneet Anand, Associate Director UFV India, gave a presentation on the Chandigarh BBA model and briefly discussed various collaborative research projects that the CICS and HPU could develop. There were positive responses and optimistic and encouraging views that will be actively explored and pursued. The VC also advised his team to visit the UFV Chandigarh campus in April, 2014 and move the matter further.

#### **May 2014**

##### **CICS Hosts Faculty and Graduate Student from the University of Mumbai**

The Centre for Indo-Canadian Studies was pleased to host Dr. Nilufer Bharucha and Dr Sridhar Rajeshwaran of the University of Mumbai along with their Phd students on May 20th and May 21st. Dr. Bharucha is the Honourary Coordinator of the Indo-Canadian Studies Centre (ICSC) located in the University of Mumbai. The ICSC was formed by the former BC Premier Gordon Campbell on his trade mission to India in 2008 in partnership with the CICS at UFV. Since 2008, the ongoing friendship and partnership between the CICS and ICSC has been beneficial for both parts. The CICS also hosted an evening event where both Dr. Bharucha and Dr. Rajeshwaran presented academic papers. Dr. Bharucha's paper was entitled: *The Indian Diaspora in the Global Age and Cross-Over Bollywood Cinema* and Dr. Rajeshwaran's was entitled: *Imagining and Re-Imagining India: Deepa Mehta's Films*. Both papers were met with great interest and resulted in some fruitful dialogues.

#### **May 2014**

##### **CICS Co-Hosts 'Charting Imperial Itineraries Conference' 2014**

The Centre for Indo Canadian Studies, UFV, in partnership with the University of Victoria, Trent University and the University of British Columbia presented a conference in commemoration of the centennial of the Komagata Maru tragedy. This conference, titled: "Charting Imperial Itineraries 1914-2014: Unmooring the Komagata Maru," was very well attended and included top academic scholars and emerging scholars from across North America and the world. In addition, the conference included a community event at the Royal BC Museum featuring a keynote address from Mr. Tariq Malik, author of *Chanting Denied Shores*.

#### **September 2014**

##### **UFV President and Vice Chancellor Dr. Mark Evered Hosts Vice Chancellor of Punjabi University**

Dr. Mark Evered, Vice-Chancellor and President of UFV hosted the Vice Chancellor of Punjabi University, Dr Jaspal Singh. Faculty, staff, community leaders and members from the management team attended the meeting which generated good discussion and dialogue. The CICS has an ongoing relationship with Punjabi University under a general MoU. Dr Evered reiterated our commitment to interacting with the community at large and to examine issues as they arise. He spoke to the need to develop, maintain and enhance our connections with the Diaspora communities in the area with a goal to recognize the high level of achievement enjoyed by many.

#### **September 2014**

##### **Instructional Skills Workshop at UFV Chandigarh**

UFV ESL instructor Raymonde Tickner continued her longstanding support of UFV Chandigarh by recently conducting an Instructional Skills Workshop (ISW), an internationally recognized peer-based educational development program with a 35-year history.

Held in Chandigarh through a partnership between Goswami Ganesh Dutta Sanatan Dharma College (GGSD) and UFV, participants enhanced their teaching practices through the delivery of three 10-minute mini-lessons. Instructors practiced their teaching skills by trying new teaching methods and explored rationales for delivery of learner-centred teaching methods. The success of this ISW was a direct result of the teachers' engagement, commitment to the teaching models, and their active participation and support of one another's skill development.







### January 2015

#### **The Centre for Indo Canadian Studies Presents Marie Curie Scholars**

On January 12th, the Centre for Indo Canadian Studies Presented three lectures from Marie Curie Scholars. The three PhD students: Ruby Rana, Melanie Wattenbarger and Holly Morgan from the University of Mumbai and Westfaelische Wilhelms Universitaet in Muenster respectively, are all a part of the Diasporic Constructions of Home and Belonging (CoHaB) program under the guidance of CICS Faculty Associate, Dr. Nilufer Bharucha.



### October 2015

#### **UFV's School of Business Instructor Presents at St. Bede's College in Shimla**

Dr. Mike Ivanof, UFV School of Business presented Leadership in the context of globalization on October 3, 2015 at St. Bede's College, Shimla, India. He spoke on "Challenges and Opportunities emerging from Globalization, and the types of leadership styles, skills and traits that would lead to the most desirable outcomes in terms of successful development and implementation of corporate vision, mission, and strategic goals." The seminar was well attended and there was good discussion with students. CICS has a MOU with St. Bede's College, Shimla since 2014 and this seminar was part of internationalization programs with the college. Dr Ivanoff is teaching at the UFV Chandigarh campus this semester.



### November 2015

#### **CICS Partners with the Royal BC Museum to Stage an Intervention on Historical Discourse**



The Centre for Indo Canadian Studies has partnered with the Royal BC Museum in Victoria to collect and preserve the history of Indians in British Columbia. The CICS will be guiding the RBCM's future plans and eventual goal to create a permanent exhibition installation and collection of archives. In order to bring awareness to this new partnership and ongoing efforts, the Royal BC Museum staged an intervention on historical discourse on November 21<sup>st</sup>, 2015. The intervention, organized by the Royal BC Museum, the Centre for Indo Canadian Studies at the University of the Fraser Valley and the David Lam Centre at Simon Fraser University, included a dynamic telling of stories not shown or told in the exhibit and discussions

about what the exhibit might look like and what messages it might convey in the future. The intervention is the first in a number of joint initiatives.

#### **December 2015**

##### **Instructional Skills Workshop a Success in UFV India**

In December 2015 UFV Faculty members David Tickner and Raymonde Tickner conducted the Instructional Skills Workshops (ISW) at the UFV India campus in Chandigarh. The ISW Program is a comprehensive three-tiered instructor development program. The workshop focuses on the teaching from the point of view of students and not from the point of view of teachers and it emphasizes, not simply on teaching but on teaching effectively. ISW was first brought to India in August 2014 by Mr. Upkar Krishan Sharma, the President of the GGSDS College Society in collaboration with the University of the Fraser Valley.



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

#### **July 2015**

##### **Canada-India Chair Sponsors Scholarship Night**

The BC Regional Innovation Chair in Canada-India Business and Economic Development sponsored one of the scholarships at this year's annual Scholarship Night which is hosted by the Fraser Valley Indo-Canadian Business Association. Each year, stellar students from all schools in Abbotsford apply to receive a \$1,000 scholarship in recognition of academic excellence and community outreach.

UFV Representative, Dr. Adrienne Chan, the Associate Vice-President of Research, Engagement, and Graduate Studies at UFV, presented the scholarship and award to Abbotsford Senior Secondary Student Pranav Arya on behalf of the Chair.

## **Developing and sustaining community partnerships**

#### **January 2014**

##### **Centennial Year of Komagata Maru Launched at the Sikh Heritage Museum**

This dark moment in Canadian history was marked on Sunday, January 26th at the Sikh Heritage Museum located in the National Historic Site Gur Sikh Temple in Abbotsford, BC. The Museum launched its sixth official exhibition since its inauguration in 2011 with an exhibition titled: "Challenge and Denial – Komagata Maru 100 years later 1914-2014." The launch was very well attended with over 100 community members coming together to commemorate this episode. The speakers included Finance Minister and local MLA Mike De Jong, Abbotsford Mayor Bruce Banman, renowned local artist Jarnail Singh and a reading by author Tariq Malik from his book on the Komagata Maru titled: Chanting Denied Shores.

One of the highlights of the event included the keynote address from Nsibe Kaur, whose father Bhag Singh was on the shore committee that raised \$60,000 in 1914 to assist the Komagata Maru passengers. Nsibe reflected on her experiences within the community in the early 20th century and the memories she had more specifically of the Gur Sikh Temple in Abbotsford. The Centre for Indo-Canadian Studies also took a moment to honour Nsibe Kaur along with SFU Community Liaison Librarian Moninder Bubber for their contributions to preserving South Asian pioneering history connected to the Komagata Maru. The Sikh Heritage Museum exhibition on the Komagata Maru was available for viewing all year long from January 2014-December 2014.

#### **March 2014**

##### **CICS Supports International Women's Day**

Abbotsford's One Billion Rising event added a powerful voice with the recent inclusion of women's rights advocate Rumana Monzur. The event, co-presented by the Centre for Indo-Canadian Studies at the University of the Fraser Valley took place at Thunderbird Civic Plaza and The Reach Gallery Museum on International





Women's Day, March 8th, 2014. In addition to the Centre for Indo-Canadian Studies and Girlkind, other event partners included: The Reach Gallery Museum, Abbotsford, The Fraser Valley Coalition for Women, Abbotsford Community Services, Women's Resource Society of the Fraser Valley, Christine Lamb House, and The International Centre for Criminal Law Reform and Criminal Justice Policy.

#### January 2015

##### **CICS Presents, 'Duty, Honour, Izzat' Exhibition**

The Centre for Indo-Canadian Studies, in continuation of its partnership with the Indus Media Foundation of Canada ([www.imfc.org](http://www.imfc.org)), presented the exhibition launch of *Duty, Honour, Izzat: The Call to Flanders Field* on Tuesday, January 27th. The exhibition will be available for viewing at the CICS until April, 2015. The Centre for Indo Canadian Studies partnered with the IMFC earlier last year and the exhibition at the CICS is a culmination of that partnership. The launch was very well attended, with Abbotsford Legion Members, UFV faculty, staff and students, as well as community members attending. The launch featured a passionate lecture from the CEO of IMFC and curator of the exhibition, Mr. Steven Purewal.

#### January 2015

##### **Remembering a Forgotten Story: Exhibition Commemorates the individual stories of Canadian Sikh soldiers in WWI**

The Sikh Heritage Museum celebrated the launch of its seventh official exhibition on January 17, with over 120 attendees. The exhibition, titled *Canadian Sikhs in WWI: The Forgotten Story*, explored the individual stories of 10 Canadian Sikh soldiers serving in the Great War. The chief guest for the exhibition was Lt. Col. Harjit Singh Sajjan, who provided the keynote address. Other attendees included Mayor Henry Braun, Lt. Gen. Alexander Leslie, and UFV Provost and VP Academic Eric Davis, whose speech was particularly moving. "Without exhibits like this one, this story and their individual stories would be lost to us," Davis said. "And there would be no understanding, no recognition, that would stop us from making the same mistakes that led our ancestors to hate, exclude, and marginalize entire groups of people or, as we did a century ago, to stumble into war." The Centre for Indo-Canadian Studies advisory committee members, Abbotsford City Counsellors, and many local BC veterans also attended the launch. The exhibition was open for the general public until December 2015.





## April 2015

The Centre for Indo Canadian Studies welcomed its newest members of the Indo Canadian Community Advisory Committee this year. Since the formation of the Centre for Indo Canadian Studies and the BC Regional Innovation Chair in Canada-India Business and Economic Development in 2006, the role of the ICCAC has been to provide general advice to the University on the ongoing activities of the Centre for Indo-Canadian Studies, the Canada-India studies program, and the work of the BC Regional Innovation Chair on Canada-India Business and Economic Development.

New members to the ICCAC are:

**Terry Gidda:** Long time President of the Mission Sikh Temple, former City Councillor and Community Advocate

**Balbir Gill:** Librarian at the Clearbrook Library and Community Advocate

**Nash Gill:** Lawyer

**Amrik Narang:** Lawyer

**Bharathi Sandhu:** Financial Advisor

**Andy Sidhu:** Publisher of the Punjabi Patrika

**Jatinder Sidhu:** Businessman

**Rajnish Dhawan:** UFV, Faculty Representative

**Ishpreet Singh Anand:** UFV, Student Representative

We are pleased that long time members Ken Singh Uppal and Dr. Malwinder Dhani have continued their service to the ICCAC. We thank the following past member for their service and dedication to the Centre for Indo-Canadian Studies: Parmjit Singh Bains, Kelly Chahal, Tok Herar, Paul Wadhawan, Ram Singh Padwal, Kelly Khakh, Terry Sidhu and the late Dr. Dalip Singh Gill.

## July 2015

### **CICS Director Awarded Order of Abbotsford and Citizen of the Year**

Satwinder Kaur Bains, the Director of the CICS was one of three individuals awarded the Order of Abbotsford. The Order of Abbotsford recognizes and honours individuals who have served with the greatest distinction and excelled in fields of endeavor benefitting the residents of the City of Abbotsford. The 2015 Order of Abbotsford ceremony was held on July 1st during the Canada Day Celebrations in Abbotsford. Following the Order of Abbotsford Ceremony, the Citizen of the Year was awarded whereby Satwinder and George Peary were both designated with this title and honour.

## October 2015

### **CICS Collaborates to Bring 100 Year Journey Dialogue to UFV**

UFV's President and Vice-Chancellor Dr. Mark Evered collaborated with 100 Year Journey founder Rana Vig as he joined former Attorney General and pioneer, the Honourable Wally Oppal, Q.C, for a unique and ground breaking initiative – "Conversations Along The Way" – a discussion of South Asian pioneers, their contributions and our ongoing responsibility as the next generation of Canadians. The dialogue was moderated by CICS Director Satwinder Kaur Bains.

Local Abbotsford early migrants: Gurbaksh Dhaliwal, Nash Gill and Ossie Thandi also joined the panel to help reflect on the past while, Abbotsford native, community activist and founder of the successful Vancouver international Bhangra Celebration, Mo Dhaliwal, helped to give perspective to the present and future of the South Asian community in Canada.

## External Community Committees

Abbotsford Social Development Advisory Council  
South Asian Early Childhood Committee  
Fraser Valley Indo Canadian Business Association  
I CARE Mental Health Advisory Committee  
City of Abbotsford Diversity and Inclusion Committee



Shastri Indo Canadian Institute Fellowships Adjudication Committee  
 Sikh Heritage Museum Advisory Board  
 Arts and Heritage Advisory Committee-Abbotsford  
 Abbotsford Building Connections Committee  
 Punjabi Intercultural Advisory Committee Royal BC Museum, Victoria, BC  
 Komagata Maru Centennial Year Committee



## Internal UFV Committees

Indo Canadian Community Advisory Committee  
 South Asian Peer Network Association – Student Association  
 Racism and Anti-Racism Group  
 Teaching and Learning Advisory Group  
 Research Advisory Committee  
 Arts Curriculum Advisory Committee  
 Sikh Heritage Advisory Group  
 Canada India Study Program Curriculum Committee  
 Punjab Research Forum  
 Senate Graduate Committee  
 MA Citizenship and Migration  
 BA Peace Studies Curriculum Working Group  
 Undergraduate Education Committee



### Partners in the community:

South Asian Early Childhood Community Committee – United Way of the Fraser Valley  
 City of Abbotsford  
 Providence Health Care – Centre for Aging  
 Khalsa Diwan Society, Abbotsford  
 The Reach Gallery and Museum  
 OMNI TV  
 Abbotsford News  
 Punjabi Patrika  
 Fraser Valley Indo-Canadian Business Association  
 The Royal BC Museum  
 International Women’s Day-Fraser Valley Coalition for Women  
 Mehfil Magazine – 100 Year Journey  
 Dasmesh Punjabi School  
 Indus Media Foundation  
 Abbotsford Community Services  
 Mission Community Services

## Research, forums, projects and consultation studies that support the Vision of the Centre

### March 2014

#### **CICS Student Association SAPNA Presents Ehsaas Film Screening**

With the support of the Centre for Indo-Canadian Studies, its student group the South Asian Peer Network Association (SAPNA) was successful in being awarded the Global Citizenship Grant which allowed the students to organize a film screening of the Hindi language film ‘Peepli Live.’ The Global Citizenship Grant (GCG) is designed to support UFV student-led events, activities, projects, training sessions or other appropriate ventures that encourage the UFV student body to be Global Citizens and, in turn, contribute to the internationalization of UFV campuses. Director Ajay Bhardwaj was the chief guest and moderated discussions afterward. Ajay is a documentary filmmaker based in Delhi, currently pursuing a PhD in Asian Studies from the University of British Columbia in Vancouver.



### March 2014

#### CICS Co-Presents Holi with Student Groups at UFV

The Centre for Indo-Canadian Studies was proud to co-sponsor one of the biggest 'holi' events to date at the University of the Fraser Valley. Holi is a spring festival also known as the festival of colours and the festival of love. This year's holi, which took place on Friday, March 14th, was a student led initiative taken on by the student groups: South Asian Peer Network Association (SAPNA), UFV India, The Sikh Student Alliance, International Student Association and Student Life. The students were successful in organizing this event through their awarding of the Global Citizenship Grant (GCG). Students from a range of backgrounds came together to play the colourful game of holi on the green at UFV, which was then followed by some delicious samosas and sweets, and to end off the event some lively performances from the UFV Bhangra and Gidhaa teams. An open mic session also allowed some young talent to emerge and share their amazing singing skills.

### April 2014

#### UFV Celebrates its 40th Birthday in Canada and India

The University of the Fraser Valley began its 40th anniversary celebrations in the first week of April. The university, now with campuses and locations in Abbotsford, Chilliwack, Hope, and Mission, as well as Chandigarh, India, was first established as Fraser Valley College, on April 4, 1974. The university celebrated with recognition ceremonies in Mission and Hope on April 2 and Chilliwack and Abbotsford on April 4.

“Over the past 40 years, UFV has become a jewel within the Fraser Valley and a leader within Canada in so many areas,” said UFV Board of Governors Chair Barry Delaney. “The university is a major employer in our region, and it provides the pathway to a promising future for thousands of students. I love that UFV strives to provide the best undergraduate education in Canada. It is exciting to work with an organization that operates and plans on such an ambitious scale nationally. I know UFV’s next 40 years will continue to bring tremendous benefits to Fraser Valley communities, the province and the world.”

The Fraser Valley has shown UFV significant community support throughout the past four decades. Local communities rallied for Fraser Valley College to be established in 1974, for university-college status in 1991, and again for full university status in 2008.

### November 2014

#### CICS Commissions Komagata Maru Play





A year's worth of work to suitably commemorate the centenary of the Komagata Maru incident, came to fruition on Saturday, November 1st and Sunday, November 2nd with the two performances of the CICS commissioned play titled *That Land Beyond the Waves*. The play was written by Assistant Professor of English at UFV, Dr. Rajnish Dhawan and Directed by Associate Professor of English at UFV, John Carroll. The opening night was a sold out event with an audience enthralled by the moving performances of the actors and the stellar script which combined humour and emotion. The matinee performance was also sold out and included an opening address by the Honourable Minister of Finance, Mr. Mike de Jong and the Mayor of Abbotsford, Mr. Bruce Banman. The cast and crew received a standing ovation for their efforts at both performances. Dr. Mark Evered, Vice-Chancellor and President of UFV hosted a reception prior to the opening night to honour the commemoration of the centenary of the Komagata Maru.

#### **November 2014**

##### **CICS Commemorates 30 Years since the Anti-Sikh Pogroms in Delhi with an Exhibition**

The anti-Sikh pogroms of 1984 in India serves as a trigger of emotion for almost every Sikh around the world – a reminder of tragedy, betrayal and genocide. In order to gain an understanding of the events of 1984, and to come to terms with the fact that thirty years have passed without much resolution, the Centre for Indo-Canadian Studies hosted two events to mark the year. The first was an exhibition launch featuring the photographic essay of Delhi-based photographer, Mr. Sanjay Austa, titled *From Lost Childhood to Uncertain Future*. The exhibit displayed images of the survivors of the anti-Sikh pogroms, as well as the next generations in the hardest hit area of Trilokpuri, Delhi. The launch featured a thought-provoking keynote address from UFV Provost and Vice-President Academic, Dr. Eric Davis. Dr. Davis reiterated the need to continue to remember, saying: “For those who carry the traumas of the past in their bodies, on their skin, the world remains torn until both they and the world can heal. When we—you and I—fail to remember the traumas of the past, we tear the world all over again. Art like Austa’s, exhibitions like this one, are so important because they help us to practice Tikkun Olam [Jewish concept of healing, repairing and transforming the world]. They help us to heal, repair, and transform the world.”

#### **November 2014**

##### **CICS Commemorates 30 Years since the Anti-Sikh Pogroms in Delhi with Symposium**

In addition to the exhibition which was available for viewing for two weeks at the Centre, the CICS also hosted a symposium to allow for an academic response and reflection. The symposium, titled: *Justice Denied/Collision Denied 30 years later: Reflecting on 1984 anti-Sikh pogroms* featured a keynote address by Dr. Parvinder Kaur Mehta of Siena Heights University, USA. Dr. Mehta’s paper, titled “Repressive Silences and Whispers of History: Legacies and Lessons of 1984” looked at what mode of historicism can be adopted that can generate ethical imperatives of acknowledgement without essentially co-opting or appropriating docile victims and offering merely reductionist, ultra-nihilistic versions of traumatism for one minority. The second panel featured UFV scholars, Satwinder Kaur Bains, Nicola Mooney, Rajnish Dhawan and Kusum Soni. The third and final panel of the day featured graduate students. The symposium allowed for some very meaningful and powerful dialogues and a chance to reflect on 30 years and the ramifications of those 30 years hence.

#### **November 2014**

##### **CICS Hosts Lecture on ‘Punjabi Spiritual Music and Sacred/Secular Divide’ by Dr. Virinder Singh Kalra from the University Manchester**

The Centre for Indo-Canadian Studies was pleased to host Dr. Virinder Kalra, for a scholarly presentation on “Punjabi Spiritual Music and the Sacred/Secular Divide” on Friday, November 21st. Dr. Kalra’s lecture took the attendees on a virtual pilgrimage to India and Pakistan through his visual and musical audio clips which were incorporated into his presentation. Dr. Kalra, who is currently teaching at the Department of Sociology at the University of Manchester, has research interests in Punjabi popular culture and religion across the borders of India, Pakistan and the diaspora. He is a co-author of the book *Hybridity and Diaspora* and an editor of the collection: *A Postcolonial people: South Asians in Britain*.

#### **March 2015**

##### **Commemorating the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination at UFV**

It was out of tragedy that the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination was born. On March 21, 1966, police officers under South Africa’s Apartheid rule opened fire on an unarmed group of protesters, killing 69 men, women, and children, and injuring 180 more. The Sharpeville massacre serves as a reminder of the effects of polarized and racialized communities — a climate that has many critics of a



new piece of proposed legislation in Canada concerned. In commemoration of the day, the Centre for Indo-Canadian Studies hosted a well-attended and attentive panel on the proposed Zero Tolerance for Barbaric Cultural Practices Act (Bill S-7), which discussed the political, social, and racial implications of the legislation. The Act includes amendments to the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act, Civil Marriage Act, and Criminal Code.



### July 2015

#### **CICS Contributes to New Book: “Abbotsford: From Village to City, a Commitment to Excellence and Innovation”**

The Centre for Indo-Canadian Studies contributed the chapter entitled: “Sustaining Echoes of the Past: Building a Future—100 Years of Indo-Canadian History” in the book titled *Abbotsford: From Village to City: A Commitment to Excellence and Innovation*. The book was published by the MSA Museum Society. The CICS contributed chapter looks at the innovative, sustaining nature of Sikh migration to Abbotsford in the early 20th century as well as the creation of the first Punjabi-language private school (Dasmesh Punjabi School).

### September 2015

#### **CICS Presents Photo Exhibition on the Stories of Human Trafficking Survivors**

The CICS partnered with artist and photographer Tony Hoare and was successful in being awarded a \$20,000 Grant from *Violence Free BC: Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Human Trafficking of Vulnerable Girls and Women*. With the support from the funds the CICS was able to exhibit the photography of Tony Hoare which looked at the survivors of human trafficking around the world.

### October 2015

#### **CICS Curated Exhibition on Sikh Feminisms**



On Tuesday, September 29th at the UFV S’eliyemetaxwtexw Art Gallery, the Centre for Indo Canadian Studies curated and launched an exhibition on Sikh Feminism’s entitled: *(Mis)Interpretation: Sikh Feminisms in representations, texts and lived realities*.



The critical Sikh feminist ethnographic exhibition was created in partnership with the Visual Arts Department and the International Department at UFV and officially opened on September 29th at 5 pm at the S'eliyemetaxwtxw Art Gallery Building B Room 136 Abbotsford campus. The exhibition was available for viewing until October 20th. The exhibit artists were UFV students Ms. Suvi Kaur Bains and Ms. Rishma Johal.



The goal of this exhibit was to de-centre the notion of a normatively androcentric faith discourse and to (re)raise the textual and practical meaning of Sikh feminist thought and understanding. Leading feminist scholar Dr. Nikky-Guninder Kaur Singh of Colby College, USA provided a powerful keynote by bringing voice, praxis, understanding and sense-making to the exhibition highlighting how in-tune the exhibit was with her own reflections.



### **CICS funded research to be undertaken by Faculty Associates of the Centre in 2015-2016 academic year**

Nicola Mooney (2015)

#### *Land and Identity among Diasporic Jat Sikh Youth*

Nicola's project will explore the meanings of land and the ongoing relationships with and ownership of it among diaspora Jat Sikh youth. Data will be collected via surveys and focus group interviews among male and female Jat Sikh youth, and will further illuminate my ongoing work on my draft early-stage manuscript on land and the meanings of rurality among Jat Sikhs.

Garry Fehr (2015)

#### *Diversifying the Agri-Food Economy in Punjab*

Garry conducted in partnership with Prof. Kaur and Professor Ghuman from Panjab University, Chandigarh. The purpose of this research was to identify opportunities for Canadian agribusiness to expand operations in Punjab, India. To achieve this, the research was designed in four phases with coordinated objectives.

## **Student research**

### **April 2014**

#### **CICS Student Researcher Presents at Research Office Poster Day**

Donna Gomes, a student researcher at the Centre for Indo-Canadian Studies for the Summer 2013, Fall 2013 and Winter 2014 semesters was proud to present her research in the form of a poster at the annual Student Research Day Poster Presentation on April 10, 2014. Donna's poster presentation highlighted her work over the past year, including showcasing the 1906-1915 Daily Province Newspapers that she catalogued and digitized online. In addition, she presented the research on the dis-enfranchisement and the South Asian fight for the vote from 1907-1947. This annual event is a career-building opportunity for UFV students to showcase their range of research across campus. In addition to presenting her research, Donna was awarded the annual Undergraduate Research Excellence Award on June 7, 2014.

### **April 2015**

#### **Showcasing UFV's Undergraduate Researchers**

On April 8, the UFV community had a chance to pick up interesting tidbits from some of UFV's best student minds. In one afternoon, more than 90 students participated in a MicroLecture, poster presentation, or both. Topics ranged from invasive knotweed, crime in Abbotsford, and lichens as a measure of air quality, to Vancouver raves, distracted driving, and more. CICS student researcher, Sukhi Brar also presented at the student micro-lectures based on her research collecting the stories of South Asian migrant mill workers. Sukhi's talk, titled Indo-Canadians in British Columbia: The Sawmill Experience reflected on the stories she had collected over a short period of time and the struggles and triumph each worker experienced.

**Fall 2014**  
**Imroze Singh Deol**

Imroze worked as graphic designer during the CICS work to commission *That Land Beyond the Waves* which was a play based on the Komagata Maru story. Imroze designed all the related promotional materials for the play including the tickets, handbills, posters, etc., and also was the official photographer during the event. His photographs were displayed in the UFV Library rotunda for six months.

**Ishpreet Singh Anand**

Ishpreet Singh is a Chandigarh BBA Cohort student who undertook research on creating a database of Sikh Studies and scholars across North America. His work encompassed a thorough scan of North America, Asia and Europe for studies, research, scholarship and resources.

**Winter 2015**  
**Meena Bolla**

Meena Bolla recently completed her Diploma in Social Work and Human Services and has been accepted into the Bachelor of Social Work Degree program at UFV. Meena worked on the Sikh Ethnic Food History Project: A Join Project by Royal British Columbia Museum (RBCM) and the Centre for Indo-Canadian Studies (CICS). The work involved interviewing, transcribing and narrating the stories of South Asian men who worked in the mill and wood working industry in the early, mid, and later 20th century, BC. The RBCM will then be taking the research collated to produce a future exhibition.

**Sukhi Brar**

Sukhi is a student in the Bachelor of Kinesiology program (Exercise Science major, Extended Psychology minor) at UFV and also a member on the UFV Board of Governors. Sukhi also worked on the Sikh Ethnic Food History Project: A Join Project by Royal British Columbia Museum (RBCM) and the Centre for Indo-Canadian Studies (CICS). The work involved interviewing, transcribing and narrating the stories of South Asian men who worked in the mill and wood working industry in the early, mid, and later 20th century, BC. The RBCM will then be taking the research collated to produce a future exhibition. Sukhi presented her work and experience of interviewing South Asian millworkers at this year's student micro-lecture series hosted by UFV's Research, Engagement, and Graduate Studies Department.

**Anish Bahri**

Anish is in his final year of studies in the Department of Communications at UFV and completed his final practicum at the CICS. During his four month practicum, Anish assisted with two events: the launch of the Sikh Heritage Museum's seventh exhibition, Canadian Sikhs in WWI: The Forgotten Story and the Ehsaas South Asian Readers and Writers Festival featuring Shauna Singh Baldwin. Anish engaged in the marketing and promotions for each event and also wrote two articles for the local Cascade UFV newspaper.

**Anecia Gill**

Anecia, a Sociology Major at UFV has been working on creating the Komagata Maru Play Study Guide based on the CICS commissioned play that was performed on November, 2014. Anecia's project is interdisciplinary in nature as she works with archival materials and ephemera, historical data, personal narratives, the script of a play, a video of the actual play to develop an interactive study guide for grade 8 students. The project will provide a useful and user-friendly (age appropriate) study guide about an important topic in Canadian history that has been omitted or barely studied in Social Studies in BC. The study guide is made up of four lesson plans/units that include in them accurately placed/culturally appropriate historical data, student led exercises, video-graphed vignettes from the play that speak to historical moments/law/discrimination and cultural bias, foundational text, ephemera, photographs, teacher's notes, websites and resources. Anecia has produced a document that we will be approaching the Ministry of Education with for introduction into the school





curriculum. Anecia also presented her work at the UFV Wide Professional Development Day on April 27, 2015.

### **Rishma Johal**



Rishma Johal, a 2014 SFU MA Graduate and currently a Visual Arts student at UFV, is engaging in an extensive research project and literature review titled: *A Space for Female Agency: Giddha Dancers in the Diaspora*. This study adopted a South Asian Canadian feminist lens to examine perceptions of giddha as a strictly female dance form among Punjabi-Canadian women in the diaspora and their opinions about culture and female agency through its performance. The study adopted a qualitative feminist methodological framework to examine women's written or spoken words and observable experiences. Qualitative feminist methodology recognizes women's experiences as fundamental to develop an understanding of women's lives. In this study, qualitative feminist methodology gave women's voices precedence through in-depth interviews and focus groups. Feminists embrace subjectivity and the adoption of this framework provides a space for women's voices to be heard on their terms as subjects.



### **Alisha Soni**

Alisha, a Bachelor of Science Major at UFV has played a pivotal role in the Race and Anti-Racism ([ufv.ca/ran](http://ufv.ca/ran)) Postcards from the Margin campaign that looked at the occurrences of race-related incidents or experiences on campus. Alisha designed and disseminated the postcards and also collated all the data. The data produced will be used proactively to look for solutions on campus and will also be published by the CICS. The impetus for this campaign is to raise awareness about racial discrimination and provide a confidential, anonymous avenue for these stories/opinions/experiences to be heard and shared. RAN's goal is to understand incidents of discrimination based on race that occur on campus with an objective to have these issues emerge in the postcards. These postcards are being conceived as a form of record for the often silenced/silent issues of racial discrimination on UFV's campuses.

### **Fall 2015**

#### **Zaki Al-Dhamari**

Zaki collected, organized and collated the survey questions and data of a CICS Ethics Approved research project. Zaki collated approximately 300 pre and post tour survey questions based on student responses of their visit to the Sikh Heritage Museum and then created a report/excel sheet summary that contained thematic analysis of the data as well as summary analyses from student responses on the survey.

#### **Emily Seitz**

Emily Seitz is an English Major and worked on editing a fictional novel that the CICS will be publishing in 2016. The fictional novel, based on the experience of young Indo-Canadian men, has been written by a community partner of the CICS and will be published early in 2016.

#### **Eshaan Monga**

Eshaan is a BBA student from the Chandigarh Cohort. Her work included developing a research database on the legal ramifications of laws passed in the early 1900's by Canada against Indian immigration. She searched the National Archives and conducted a comprehensive study of discriminatory Canadian laws at the turn of the last century.

## Internationalization Projects

**October 2014**

### **Canada's International Trade Minister Ed Fast visits UFV India campus**

On October 17th, University of the Fraser Valley's President Mark Evered welcomed Canada's Minister of International Trade and MP for Abbotsford Ed Fast to UFV's campus in Chandigarh, India. Fast, along with Canada's Minister of National Revenue Kerry-Lynne Findlay, Canada's Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Justice Bob Dechert, Consul General of Canada in Chandigarh, Dr. Rajani Alexander, and incoming High Commissioner of Canada in India Nadir Patel toured UFV's campus and met with students. The group then joined an audience of 200 high school students and parents to watch the final round of QBiz Business Quiz competition, where the six top high school teams out of 160 competitors from across northern India battled for top honours.

**September 2015**

### **UFV Delegates Visit India**



In September of this year, two UFV Dean's, the College of Arts Dean, Dr. Jacqueline Nolte and the Dean of Professional Studies, Dr. Tracy Ryder Glass, joined Dr. Peter Geller Vice Provost/Associate Vice President Academic in a trip to Northern India. This was the first trip for both Dr. Nolte and Dr. Glass. The objective of the visit was to see the UFV Chandigarh operations and to meet with UFV Chandigarh Administrators, Faculty and Students. During the first few days of the trip, Dr. Nolte and Dr. Glass learned about campus operations, the history of the operation and were also provided presentations from the UFV India Global Education (UIGE) staff on academic administration, advising, scheduling, registrar services and Student Life. The UFV Canada delegation also had opportunities to meet with UFV Chandigarh Faculty, Staff and Students.

**November 2015**

### **CICS Opinion Featured on National Media**

With the recent appointment of the first turbaned Sikh, Mr. Harjit Singh Sajjan as Canada's Minister of National Defense on November 4th, 2015, many media outlets reached out to the Centre for Indo Canadian Studies, and its Director, Ms. Satwinder Kaur Bains on the significance of this moment. Ms. Bains' interview was featured on the CBC National Edition, CBC Radio as well as in articles in The Globe and Mail and The Toronto Star.







## Visiting Scholars and Dignitaries

**May 2014**

### **Consul General of Canada in Chandigarh, Dr. Rajani Alexander Visits the CICS**

The Centre for Indo Canadian Studies and colleagues of the CICS were pleased to welcome the newly appointed Consul General of Canada in Chandigarh, Dr. Rajani Alexander on May 29th. Dr. Alexander visited the CICS for a morning meeting with community leaders, students and UFV colleagues including UFV President and Vice-Chancellor Dr. Mark Evered. The morning discussions allowed for an opportunity to discuss our presence in India and the opportunities for further collaborations between UFV and the northern region of India. Dr Alexander presented a robust and vibrant pulse on the north of India and the opportunities that exist with our partners. Dr. Mark Evered presented Dr. Alexander with a gift from UFV before she continued her morning by touring the Sikh Heritage Museum located at the 102 year old National Historic Site Gur Sikh Temple and ended her morning by visiting a local blueberry farming operation.

**October 2014**

### **UFV hosts Premier Christy Clark and delegation in Chandigarh**



UFV hosted B.C. Premier Christy Clark and her international trade delegation at its campus in Chandigarh, India on Oct. 11. Clark is leading a nine-day trade mission to India. While visiting UFV Chandigarh, Premier Clark announced \$50,000 in funding for 20 scholarships that will enable students from Canada to study in India, and students from India to study in Canada. As part of the trade delegation visit, UFV partnered with Sanatan Dharma College to host an education roundtable, moderated by Satwinder Bains. BC Advanced Education Minister Amrik Virk addressed the audience, which included Consul General for Canada in Chandigarh Rajani Alexander, and senior leaders from Simon Fraser University, British Columbia Institute of Technology, Langara College, and other post-secondary institutions from BC and India. UFV offers its Bachelor of Business Administration degree in Chandigarh in partnership with Sanatan Dharma College Chandigarh (SDCC), a post-graduate affiliate of Panjab University.

**April 2015**

### **Ehsaas Readers and Writers Festival with Shauna Singh Baldwin at the CICS**

The Centre for Indo-Canadian Studies was pleased to host acclaimed Canadian author Shauna Singh Baldwin at this year's Ehsaas South Asian Readers and Writers Festival on Tuesday, March 3rd, 2015. Ms. Baldwin presented her talk, titled "Why Names Matter" where she addressed how the influence of someone's name and last name creates judgements about an individual's Character. She also mentioned in her talk that patriarchy is the longest running empire in the world, related to the last names of the people, which further differentiates gender, class and caste bias. She engaged the audience in a positive way by asking "what name would you give yourself? She suggested that some of us may silence our own names, change names, take androgynous names, pen names or respond differently with nick names and code names to hide our original identity for benefits or

public safety. In this talk Ms. Baldwin also brought to light the significance of legitimating the universal freedom of name identity and empowering people to use their matrilineal and creative names.

#### **April 2015**

##### **Historic Visit to BC by Indian Prime Minister**

Vice Chancellor and President Dr. Mark Evered and CICS Director Satwinder Bains attended a dinner hosted by Prime Minister Harper in honor of Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi on April 16th in Vancouver BC. The Prime Ministers both spoke of the power of the Diaspora and the community, social and trade connections between the two countries. Almost 500 people were in attendance at the event that brought an Indian Prime Minister to BC after 42 years. Premier Christy Clark was also in attendance and had met with the Prime Minister earlier in the day. Abbotsford MP Ed Fast, Minister of International Trade was one of the hosting MP's for the event. This was a historic visit of its kind because it was the first time in nearly five decades that India's Head of State visited British Columbia.

##### **Faculty Associates of the Centre**

CICS Faculty Associates support and contribute to the efforts of the Centre. As such, their contributions over the years have also been immensely valuable.

**Satwinder Kaur Bains**, Social Cultural Media Studies

**Nilufer Bharucha**, English Dept. University of Mumbai

**Adrienne Chan**, Associate Vice President, Research, Engagement and Graduate Studies

**Rajnish Dhawan**, English department

**Cherie Enns**, Geography department

**Garry Fehr**, Geography department

**B.S. Ghuman**, Dept. of Public Administration, Panjab University

**Ding Lu**, Economics department

**David Milobar**, History department

**Nicola Mooney**, Social Cultural & Media Studies

**Prabhjot Parmar**, English department

**For more information on the Associates, please visit our website: [ufv.ca/cics/faculty/](http://ufv.ca/cics/faculty/)**





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