

**INDICAN FRIENDSHIP CLUB**

**AUGUST**  
2022



# INDICAN FRIENDSHIP CLUB

Connecting and creating friendship  
between India & Canada



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Dear Members,  
A warm greetings to all.

I am quite sure you all liked our maiden Newsletter. As it matures you will find it to be more informative and interesting. ICFC, a concept conceived by me during the heavy covid days when movement was completely restricted and I was bound in the four walls of my house. Prior to Covid I used to visit different clubs almost on a daily basis, I felt crippled during covid days and conceived of ICFC, a virtual club. A club that is beyond everything, a club that networks, entertains, educates, supports and provides trustworthy services. That is the true definition of Indican Friendship Club, ICFC.

Another reason for the germination of the ICFC concept was my long association with Canada. I frequently travel to Canada and realized that it is like a second home for Indians. Once in Canada you don't miss the flavor of India, everywhere you find Indians operating shops, working in offices, watching movies in cinema halls, running food joints etc. Somewhere one feels extremely lucky to be staying in such a vibrant city but what makes the city vibrant, the reason is the sense of community that prevails all over the country. Canada always held a fascination for me not because of its six-month long winters, but because of its polite, warm and accepting citizens; those that welcome you into their lives and give you a home away from home.

If anyone is thinking of coming to Canada for a visit, education, jobs, research or anything else, Indican Friendship Club is the single point approach for all your solutions. ICFC is a platform that provides trustworthy services for all your requirements whether it is Counselling, Ticketing, Residency support or even knowing your future in Canada through astrology / numerology. I will request everyone to disseminate about ICFC to all your near and dear ones enabling them to connect and avail the trustworthy services. Membership is totally free. I will continue to brief you more about our services. Keep reading.

President  
INDICAN FRIENDSHIP CLUB



Surender Gupta  
President

Anmol Chawla  
Secretary

Sushil Kumar  
Vice - President

Radhika Khanna  
Treasurer

Subhashish Ghoshal  
Chief Executive officer



# Indians in Canada (History)

The Indian Canadian community began to form around the late 19th century, pioneered by men, the great majority of whom were Punjabi Sikhs, they were primarily from farming backgrounds. At that time Canada was part of the British Empire and since India was just as well under British Crown rule, Indians were also British subjects. In 1858, Queen Victoria had proclaimed that, throughout the Empire, the people of India would enjoy "equal privileges with white people without discrimination of colour, creed or race.

In 1897, a contingent of Sikh soldiers participated in the parade to celebrate the Queens Diamond Jubilee in London England. On their subsequent journey home, they visited the western coast of Canada, primarily British Columbia, which had very sparse population at that time. The Canadian government wanted to settle in order to prevent a takeover of the territory by the United States.



Queensborough,  
New Westminster Sikh temple, 1931



The BAPS Shri Swaminarayan Mandir  
Toronto in Etobicoke, Ontario

Indians at CPR station in  
Vancouver, c. 1914





# What conditions forced Indians especially Sikh community to settle in Canada

Indian soldiers upon retiring from the army found their pensions to be inadequate, and some also found their land and estates back in India were being utilized by money lenders. Deciding to try their fortunes in the countries they had visited, these men joined an Indian Diaspora, which included people from Burma, through Malaysia, the East Indies, the Philippines and China. The vanguard was able to find work within the police force and some were employed as night watchman by British firms. Others started small businesses of their own. Such work would provide wages that were very high by Indian standards.

They were guaranteed jobs by agents of large Canadian companies such as the Canadian Pacific Railways and the Hudson's Bay Company. Having seen Canada for themselves, Punjabis sent home letters to their fellow countrymen, recommending them to come to the New World. Though initially reluctant to go to these countries due to the treatment of Asians by the white population, many young men chose to go upon the assurance that they would not meet the same fate.



Punjabi Sikhs in  
Vancouver, 1908



Indians in Canadian Army  
Vancouver, 1985

Government quotas were also established to cap the number of Indians allowed to immigrate to Canada in the early 20th century. This was part of a policy adopted by Canada to ensure that the country retained its primarily European demographic, and was similar to American and Australian immigration policies at the time. These quotas only allowed fewer than 100 people from India a year until 1957, when it was marginally increased (to 300 people a year). In comparison to the quotas established for Indians, Christians from Europe immigrated freely without quotas in large numbers during that time to Canada, numbering in the tens of thousands yearly.



Canada had an estimated 100 persons of Punjabi Sikh origin by 1900, concentrated in the western province, i.e. the British Columbia Province. Canada's first relatively major wave of South Asian immigration arrived in Vancouver in 1903. These migrants had heard of Canada from British - Indian Troops in Hong Kong, who had travelled through Canada the year prior on their way to celebrate the coronation of Edward VII.

Upon arrival to British Columbia, the immigrants faced widespread racism by Canadians of European (Anglo) background, most of whom feared that migrant workers would work for less pay and that an influx of immigrants would threaten their jobs. (The same threat was perceived for the Japanese and Chinese immigrants before them. As a result, a series of race riots targeted the Indian immigrants as well as other Asian Group, such as the Chinese railroad workers, and Black Canadians—who were beaten up by mobs of angry white Canadians, though often met with retaliation.

Attracted by high Canadian wages, these migrants temporarily left their families in search of employment in Canada. In 1906 and 1907, a spike in migration from the Indian sub-continent took place in British Columbia, where an estimated 4,700 arrived, at around the same time as a rise in Chinese and Japanese immigration. This rapid increase in immigration totaled 5,209 by the end of 1908. With the federal government curtailing the migration, fewer than 125 South Asians were permitted to land in BC over the next several years. Those who had arrived were often single men and many returned to South Asia. Others sought opportunities south of the border in the United States.



# Events done by ICFC

## BAAT CHEET



## THOUGHT THRILL







**Surender Kumar Gupta: Meeting with honorable Embassdor of india to canada sh Ajay Bisaria Ji as on 20 th may 2022 , Regarding our project " Wonders of India " at water park golf club in Welland. He liked it very much and appreciated and has assured all help and support for this project.**



**The President of ICFC Mr. Surender Gupta and our Vice President Mr. Sushil Mallik had a meeting with Ms. Apoorva Srivastava, The Consulate General of India in Canada.**





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