

April 30, 2015

## A REPORT ON “EDUCATION EXPO – SASKATCHEWAN”

Cliff Wright Library Auditorium,  
1635 McKercher Dr, Saskatoon

Saskatoon, April 30, 2015– An Education Expo on promoting Saskatchewan education to the community at large and Indo-Canadian Community in particular was organized by Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute (SICI) and co-hosted by India Canada Cultural Association (ICCA) with the support from the Government of Saskatchewan on Thursday, April 30, 2015.

The meeting was attended by representatives from the Govt. of Saskatchewan’s Ministry of Advanced Education, University of Saskatchewan, University of Regina, St. Peter’s college, Luther College, Saskatchewan Polytechnic, North West College, members from the Indo-Canadian community. The event began with a light Indian buffet dinner. The welcome address was brought by Dr. Braj Sinha, former Shastri President and Professor, University of Saskatchewan who highlighted the areas of co-operation between Canada and India and the MOUs signed by the two Prime Minister’s during the recent visit of Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi.



*Ms. Mahmuda Aldeen, Program and Member Relations,  
speaking at the Plenary Session*

In her speech, Ms. Tammy Bloor Cavers, Assistant Deputy Minister of Sector Relations and Student Services mentioned that Government of Saskatchewan's post-secondary international strategy is designed to help increase the number of international students coming to the province and the number of students studying abroad. The strategy also promotes alignment with our post-secondary institutions. The Assistant Deputy Minister said that the ministry is working towards increased educational engagement with other countries, and in this context the partnership with Shastri Indo Canadian Institute is extremely important part of the Government's strategy.

The meeting comprised of plenary session followed by brief sharing of India engagement plans and experiences by Ms. Livia Castellanos, Director, UR International, University of



*Ms. Tammy Bloor Cavers, Assistant Deputy Minister of Sector Relations and Student Services, Ministry of Advanced Education speaking at the event.*

Regina, Dr. Diane Martz, Director, International Research and Partnerships, USASK and Mr. David Harvey, Associate VP, Business Dev SASK Polytechnic. At the conference, SICI was represented by Ms Mahmuda Aldeen, Program and Member Relations Officer and Mr. Sabu Alexander, Finance and Public Relations Officer. Ms Aldeen gave a brief presentation on Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute and its activities over the past forty eight years. The conference brought together the full spectrum of players ranging from the decision makers in the Government of Saskatchewan to organizations and individuals who play a significant role in executing the collaborative programs between Canada and India, University and college representatives and students.

The last session involved a presentation and panel discussion on India Canada academic collaboration at post-secondary level- trends, aspirations and benefits. Prof. Ajay Dalai, Professor and Canada Research Chair in Bioenergy and Environmentally Friendly Chemical Processing gave a short presentation on University of Saskatchewan, College of Engineering programs, goals, research themes, international partnership fund, research collaborations, list of MOUs and long term goals.

Dr. Brenna Dwayne, Professor and Shastri Alumni from University of Saskatchewan gave a presentation on "Mask and the Actor" workshop that was conducted at the University of Hyderabad and the future collaboration between University of Saskatchewan and University of Hyderabad which involves teaching a course on Indian Theatrical Traditions and to collaborate on a co-production of a Shakespearean play, which will amalgamate Indian and Western theatrical techniques.

Dr. Jafar Soltan, Associate Professor, College of Engineering, University of Saskatchewan and Shastri Alumni gave a presentation on “Emerging Pollutants in Water, Technologies for Removal”. Dr. Soltan acknowledged the role of a seed grant received from Shastri which went a long way in developing the research project.

Dr. Kalyani Premkumar, Associate Professor, Community Health & Epidemiology, College of Medicine, University of Saskatchewan spoke about the role of Shastri Mobility grant in forging collaboration between University of Saskatchewan and Christian Medical College and Hospital, Vellore in introducing “Use of Simulation for Instruction and Evaluation”. Dr. Kalyani also spoke about the Shastri Research to Dr. Solomon Satish Kumar, CMC Vellore that facilitated the project “A comparison of self-directed learning readiness of Indian and Canadian medical students: a mixed method study”.

Dr. Punam Pahwa, Department of Community Health Epidemiology, Canadian Centre for Health and Safety in Agriculture, University of Saskatchewan gave a presentation on a collaborative research project with Sharda University, India “An International Research Initiative to Reduce Indoor Biomass Fuel Exposure and Enhance Respiratory Health in Rural India”.

Dr. Raman Paranjape, Professor, University of Saskatchewan and Shastri Alumni gave a presentation on “The TransitLive Configuration”. The Project provides a very useful tool for the Transit riding public and also helps transit administration manage the difficult task of operating the service. TransitLive has been running successfully in Regina for over 2.5 years and has had over 5 million visits to its website.



*Guests at the event*

The participants in each session highlighted the need for synergy and sustained collaborations in multiple areas among different key players in promoting educational collaboration between Canada and India in General and Province of Saskatchewan in particular.

The meeting concluded with a thank you note from Dr. Suresh Kalagnanam representing India Canada Cultural Association. ICCA played an important role in facilitating the “Education Expo” event in Saskatoon by providing logistical support and marketing the event in Saskatoon.

- Further, an important aim of the Education Expo was to enable Saskatchewan's higher education institutes to showcase their programs to the potential students and parents of Saskatchewan community. In response, a number of individual 'Education Booths' were set up by various higher education institutions of Saskatchewan region, *namely: University of Saskatchewan, University of Regina, Saskatchewan Polytechnic Institute, St. Peter's College, Luther College and North West College*. These Education Booths provided the visiting targeted audience a one stop opportunity to glance through the various programs offered by these higher education institutions.

## *Education Expo*

**Thursday, April 30, 2015 (5:30 – 8:00pm)**

**Cliff Wright Library Auditorium**

1635 McKercher Dr., Saskatoon

### **Program Agenda**

| <i>Agenda Item</i>   | <i>Panelists - Speakers</i>  | <i>Time</i>  |
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| <b>Refreshments</b>  |  | 5.30 – 6.00  |
| Opening speech   | Dr. Braj M. Sinha- U of Saskatchewan   | 6.00 – 6.05  |
| Greetings from Saskatchewan Govt..   | Ms. Tammy Bloor Cavers - Assistant Deputy Minister of Sector Relations and Student Services, Ministry of Advanced Education  | 6.05 – 6.10  |
| Brief Sharing of India Engagement Plans and Experiences  | <p style="text-align: center;">Ms. Livia Castellanos, Director, UR International, University of Regina</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Dr. Diane Martz, Director, International Research and Partnerships, USASK</li> <li>- Mr. David Harvey, Associate VP, Business Dev. SASK Polytechnic</li> <li>- Ms. Mahmuda Aldeen, Program and Member Relations Officer, SICI</li> </ul>                                   | 6.10 – 6.40<br><b>(30 Min)</b><br>5 min<br>5 min<br>5 min<br>5 min<br>(10 min) Q/A                 |
| Panel discussions:<br><i>India Canada academic collaboration at post secondary level- trends, aspirations and benefits</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Dr. Ajay Dalai, U of Saskatchewan (Chair panelist)</li> <li>- Dr. Raman Paranjape – SICI Alumni from U Regina</li> <li>- Dr. Brenna Dwayne – SICI Alumni from U Saskatchewan</li> <li>- Dr. Jafar Soltan – SICI Alumni from U Saskatchewan</li> <li>- Dr. Punam Pahwa – SICI Alumni from U Saskatchewan</li> <li>- Dr. Kalyani Premkumar – SICI Alumni from U Saskatchewan</li> </ul> | 6.40 – 7.20<br><b>(40 Min)</b><br>5 min<br>5 min<br>5 min<br>5 min<br>5 min<br>5 min<br>10 min Q/A |
| Thank you note<br>Wrap up  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Dr. Suresh Kalagnanam, ICCA</li> <li>- Mahmuda Aldeen- SICI.</li> </ul>   | 7.20 – 7.25<br>3 min<br>2 min  |
| Visiting the Education Expo. Booths<br>+<br>Refreshments (Snacks)  | Education booths will be organized by Reps. from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- U of Saskatchewan.</li> <li>- U of Regina</li> <li>- Saskatchewan Polytechnic</li> <li>- St. Peter's College</li> <li>- Luther College</li> <li>- North West College</li> </ul>   | 7.25 – 8.00<br>35 min  |

*Thank you for being with us in promoting Saskatchewan Higher Education to the community*

