



## MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT



Dear Shastri Friends,  
Greetings!

The Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute is a unique bi-national organization, governed by its Indian and Canadian member institutions and funded by the two national governments. The year 2014-15 has been both exciting and challenging, and as President it was my endeavor to take forward the work of my predecessors and fulfill the mandate that has been set for the Shastri Institute – ‘to improve the quality of life of the peoples of India and Canada by building and strengthening intellectual and cultural linkages through research, dialogue and exchange’.

During the year, in addition to continued funding of collaborative research, faculty and student mobility programmes, library programmes and membership development activities, the Institute also organized a number of events with partners to improve the visibility of the Institute. We also focused our activities on areas that are considered priority areas by the governments of India and Canada in their bilateral relationships. Though many more challenges lie ahead, I am confident that with the support of the two governments, guidance from the Indian and Canadian member councils and the dedicated work of staff at the India and Canada Offices we are much better prepared to fulfill our mandate in the years ahead.

The Shastri Institute has always been known for its programmes that provide opportunities for faculty and students from both countries to work together. The India Studies Fellowships that were completed during the year provided an opportunity for Canadian scholars/students to work in a university/research institution in India or with expert in India in selected areas. Members in both countries also benefited from programmes funded by the Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development of the Government of Canada. These included the Scholar Travel Subsidy Grants (STSG), Shastri Research Grants (SRG), Shastri Partnership Seed Grant (SPSG) and Shastri Saskatchewan Internship Programme (SSIP). The Quebec Differential Tuition Fee Exemption Program which enables Indian students to study at the universities in the Province of Québec, Canada by paying the same fees as paid by the domestic students was also managed by the Shastri Institute this year and these benefited selected Indian students studying in Quebec.

The Institute also organized a number of events in partnership with other organizations. A Seminar on ‘Engaging Canada: Developing Sustainable Bi-national Partnerships’ was organized on November 12, 2014 at Federation House, Tansen Marg, New Delhi as part of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) Higher Education Summit 2014. The seminar was intended to inform participants at the Summit of opportunities for developing educational collaboration between India and Canada. The Institute also participated in the 4th Global University-Industry Congress & Higher Education Summit and Knowledgeexpo organized by the CII from November 20-21, 2014, at the India Expo Centre, Greater Noida. A pavilion at the Knowledgeexpo same here was also used for dissemination of information on the Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute’s programmes and activities.

Though the Institute has been successful in ensuring that many of the existing programmes were continued during the year, significant challenges remain. The signing of a three year contribution agreement with DFATD in 2014 has removed some

of the uncertainty regarding funding from the Canadian side. However, this will end next year and continued support of the Government of Canada to the Shastri Institute is critical for our future. The MoU with the MHRD in India will need to be renewed so that there is stability in the quantum of funding from the Government of India as well. During the year a fresh proposal for the Xth Addendum to the MOU between MHRD, Government of India and Shastri Indo- Canadian Institute was submitted to the MHRD. These include some new programmes in areas considered to be priority areas by the new government. I am hopeful that we will be able to sign the new Xth Addendum in the current financial year.

Despite the challenges ahead I am confident that the Shastri Institute will continue to play a significant role in India-Canada relations. The Institute is fortunate to have a dynamic Executive Council led by the new President, Professor Girish Shah and the Vice-President/President Elect Professor Suchorita Chattopadhyay at this critical juncture. They are supported by our Indian and Canadian members and dedicated staff at the India Office and Canada Office. I wish them all success in their efforts.

Professor Biju Paul Abraham

President, Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute 2014-15

## SHASTRI ACTIVITIES

### Dissemination Sessions on Quebec International Tuition Fee waiver Programme

In collaboration with Quebec government Shastri Institute organized two dissemination sessions at Jawaharlal Nehru University in Delhi on **12 March 2015** and at SNTD Women's University, Mumbai on **18<sup>th</sup> March 2015**. The sessions received very good response at SNTD with turn-up close to 150 students and administrators. However, at JNU the session was more focused with participation of 25 students and Professors.



The rationale and prime objective of this programme was to promote Institutions of higher learning of Quebec among Indian students in consort with Quebec International Tuition fee exemption programme for Indian Students. Mr. Alain Oliver, Director, Quebec office in India and Dr. Prachi Kaul, Programme Officer, Shastri Institute made presentations and interacted with students and administrators present.

### Education Expo – Saskatchewan” at Cliff Wright Library Auditorium

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.



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. 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.

### **Seminar on 'Engaging Canada: Developing Sustainable Bi-national Partnership'**

The Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute organized a Seminar Engaging Canada: Developing Sustainable Bi-national Partnerships and India event on November 12, 2014 at Federation House, Tansen Marg, New Delhi in collaboration with the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry's (FICCI) Higher Education Summit on Nov 13 & 14, 2014 in Delhi. The seminar was one of the programmes supported by the the Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade & Development (DFATD), Government of Canada through the Shastri Institute this year. The Seminar featured Canadian and Indian speakers who highlighted current opportunities for developing academic links between Indian and Canadian higher educational institutions. The panelists shared the successes of their research/academic networks, collaborations and articulated some of the challenges of developing sustainable international partnerships in higher education



### **4th Global University-Industry Congress & Higher Education Summit and Knowledgeexpo**

The Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute participated in **4th Global University-Industry Congress & Higher Education Summit and Knowledgeexpo** on November 20-21, 2014 organized by CII at the India Expo Centre, Greater Noida and also had a pavilion at the Knowledgeexpo for dissemination of information on the Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute's programmes and activities. The Higher Education Summit featured industry-government policy round-tables, thematic sessions and partnership sessions.

The President of the Shastri Institute, Professor Biju Paul Abraham was a panelist at the session on 'Global Partnerships in Indian Context'. Professor Abraham spoke about the importance of developing global partnerships and highlighted the Shastri Institute's contributions to building sustainable partnerships between Indian and Canadian universities and research institutions. He also identified some of the critical success factors for developing sustainable international education partnerships.



Professor Shanthi Johnson, Associate Dean (Research & Graduate Studies), University of Regina and Past-President of the Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute spoke on the importance of developing entrepreneurial skills in our education systems and also on the role that community colleges were playing in providing vocational education in Canada.



A large number of participants also visited the Shastri Institute pavilion at the Knowledgeexpo to get information regarding the Shastri Institute's programmes and activities. Ms. Sanghamitra Jana Chatterjee, Programme Officer and Ms. Reshma Rana Verma, Library-in-Charge, of the India Office briefed them about current and upcoming programmes of the Institute.

## Canada-India Education Conference

A conference on the theme “Canada-India Education” was jointly organized by Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute (SICI) and co-hosted by Université Laval with the support from Department of Foreign Affairs Trade and Development (DFATD) on



Friday, May 15, 2015. This was the first major Pan-Canadian meeting of major stakeholders in Canada-India Education sector since the joint declaration on 16th April 2015 by the two Prime Ministers: Stephen Harper of Canada and Narendra Modi of India to and maintain strong educational links between the two countries in April 2015.

The conference comprised of plenary session followed by three specific sessions devoted to (i) Canada-India Educational links; (ii) Building synergy among different partners in Canada-India Education sector; and (iii) Challenges and Rewards for Institutional Collaborations between Universities in Quebec and India. The conference brought together the full spectrum of players ranging from the decision makers in the three Governments (India, Canada and Quebec) to organizations and individuals who play a significant role in executing the collaborative programs between Canada and India, University representatives and students.

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 the two countries. This event, in important ways builds on the momentum gained by Engaging India events organized in the recent past by Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute in Halifax, Ottawa, Saskatoon, Calgary, Vancouver, Montreal, Engaging French Canada event held in Pondicherry and the Engaging Canada events held in New Delhi. The conference also received the financial and logistical support from Université Laval, and the Neuroscience axis of the CHU de Quebec Research Centre.



Letters of greetings were sent by the Honourable Jason Kenney, Minister of Multiculturalism, Honourable Chris Alexander, Minister of Citizenship and Immigration, Madam Christine St-Pierre, Minister of International Relations and La Francophonie and Honourable Deepak Obhrai, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Foreign Affairs. In his letter



Minister Jason Kenney quoted “Through the Canada India Education Conference educators from both countries can work together to open avenues of cooperation, to the benefit of both of our countries. It is also an excellent way for participants to exchange ideas and collaborate to move together by complementing the strengths of each country.” The Minister thanked the members of the Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute for their ongoing work in support of cooperation between Canada and India in the field of education.

## NEW PROGRAMMES ANNOUNCED

**SICI Canada office is open to receive applications for the following programme/ grants for 2015-16:**

**Shastri Research Grant (SRG) 2015-16**

**Shastri Scholar Travel Subsidy Grant (SSTSG) 2015-16**

**Shastri Student Internship Program in Aid (SSIP in Aid) 2015-16**

**Shastri Membership Development Grant (SMDF) 2015-16**

## INDIAN MEMBERS COUNCIL

This year Indian Member Council meeting was held on Saturday 02 May 2015 at Magnolia Hall, India Habitat Centre, New Delhi. The meeting was attended by 32 representatives from member institutions. There were four new joinings in SICI for the year 2015-16. Prof. Suchorita Chattopadhyay was elected as 'Vice- President & President Elect' of Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute, Prof. Jamuna Duvvuru was elected as 'Chair- Nominations Committee', Prof. Armstrong was elected as 'Chair- Canadian Studies Committee'.

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM) & CANADIAN MEMBERS COUNCIL (CMC)

The Canadian Member Council meeting (CMC) and Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute was held on May 16, 2015 at Pavilion Gene-H.-Kruger (GHK), Room 2320-2330 Université Laval 2425, rue de la Terrasse, Québec (Québec) G1V 0A6. In CMC held on May 16, 2015 three new members were elected. These three new joinings in SICI was for the post of President, Secretary Treasurer and India Studies Chair. Prof. Shah was elected 'President' and Prof. Boisvert was elected as 'Secretary Treasurer' of the Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute.

The AGM considered the Report of the Executive Council, the Financial Statements of the Institute, the Report of the Auditors and the Re-appointment of the Auditors.

## NEW EXECUTIVE COUNCIL OF SICI

### **Prof. Girish Shah (President SICI)**



Dr. Girish M. Shah has been elected as the new President for 2015-2016. He is a Professor of the Faculty of Medicine at Université Laval in Québec City (QC) Canada. He is a senior researcher of the CHU-Q Research Centre of the Quebec Hospitals and Chief of the Laboratory for Skin Cancer Research at the CHUL campus of CHU-Q Research Centre. Prof. Shah sits on as board of directors of the Carcinoid NeuroEndocrine Tumor Society of Canada (CNETS Canada) and is also serving as President of CNETS since 2014. Professor Shah has been a representative of Université Laval in the Canadian Member's Council of the Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute (SICI) since 2011. He served as Secretary-Treasurer since June 2014 and also as interim Vice-President of the institute.

### **Prof. Suchorita Chattopadhyay (Vice-President SICI)**



Dr. Chattopadhyay has been elected as Vice- President & President Elect for 2015-16. She is the founder and coordinator of the Centre for Canadian Studies at Jadavpur University. She has organized 12 national and international seminars and conferences on Canadian Studies and has edited 5 volumes on Canadian Studies. She is a Professor at the Centre for Translations of Indian Literatures at Jadavpur University and also serves on their Academic /Advisory Committee. She is also an Executive Committee member of the Comparative Literature Association of India. She was the joint co-ordinator of the XIth Biennial International Conference of the Comparative Literature Association of India held at Jadavpur University, Kolkata in January 2013.



### **Prof. Mathieu Boisvert (Secretary- Treasurer)**



Dr. Mathieu Boisvert has been a Professor at l'Université du Québec à Montréal since 1992. He has completed a BA in Religious Studies at McGill University (1981-84), a diploma in Pali language at Siddharth College of Mumbai University (1984-85), Master's in South Asian Studies at the University of Toronto (1985-87) and a Doctorate in Pali and Sanskrit at McGill University (1987-91). He now works as the director of graduate programs in religious studies at UQAM and he is the director of the Research Centre on India and South Asia.

### **Prof. B. Hariharan (Member- at -Large)**



Dr. B. Hariharan is a Professor at the Institute of English, and Director of the UGC Area Study Centre for Canadian Studies, University of Kerala, Thiruvananthapuram. He has completed a Major Research Project funded by the UGC. As member of the editorial team prepared introductory course material on Canadian Studies hosted at [www.canadastukeralauniv.edu.in](http://www.canadastukeralauniv.edu.in). He has recently published book on the novels of Robert Kroetsch; co-edited books apart from translating from Malayalam. His area of interest includes theatre, diasporas, translation, Canadian novel. He is SICI Graduate Fellowship Recipient in 1992-93.

## **MEMBERS ACTIVITIES**

### **Papers Presented/published**

- 1) Prof. Arti Nanavati, Maharaja Sayajirao University, Vadodara presented a paper titled, 'Nature and Determinants of Trust in Multicultural Canada', at the International Conference on, 'Knowledge, Culture and Economy', University of Western Sydney, Sydney, Australia. 3-5 Nov 2014.
- 2) Prof. Faizan Mustafa, who is Vice Chancellor in NALSAR University of Law and is also LPAC-Chair, Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute wrote an article "**Death penalty is not a deterrent, abolish it**" for daily newspaper Hindustan Times which got published on 31<sup>st</sup> July 2015. [Read more](#)
- 3) Prof. Arti Nanavati, 'Paper titled, ' Socio-Economic and Demographic Determinants of 'Perception' in Canada, accepted for presentation at the 7th Triennial International Conference of the Central European Association for Canadian Studies, on , 'Beyond the 49th Parallel: Canada and the North-Issues and Challenges'. 9-10 October, 2015, Zagreb, Croatia.

### **Seminars/Workshops/lectures**

- 1) "The Centre for Canadian Studies, Himachal Pradesh University, Shimla had organized International Conference on, " National and International Concerns for Gender Justice: India and Canada ", 27th-28th March, 2015 at Himachal Pradesh University, Shimla
- 2) Prof. Arti Nanavati had organized national seminar under UGC Area Studies Programme, on ' A Comparative Perspective on Social Work Practices in India and Canada, with Faculty of Social Work, 13 & 14 March 2015.

- 3) Prof. McAndrew, University of Montreal has been invited by Centre for Canadian, US and Latin American Studies, SIS, Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), as Visiting Professor during the Monsoon semester in 2015. She will be visiting CS Centre from September to November 2015. She will be holding public seminars, interacting with students and giving lectures." For more details please contact Dr. Priti Singh at pritisingh@mail.jnu.ac.in
- 4) Dr. K.M. Joshi, a twice Shastri CS fellowship recipient recently visited Nagoya University, Nagoya, Japan. He was associated with the Centre for the Studies of Higher Education (CSHE) as a visiting Professor. He had delivered lectures in couple of universities in Japan. On 23rd June, 2015, Professor Joshi was invited to deliver a talk on 'Faculty Development Programs in Indian Higher Education' Osaka University, Osaka, Japan. Later on 3rd July, 2015, Professor K.M. Joshi presented a paper on 'Changing Landscape of Indian Higher Education', 'Research Institute for Higher Education (RIHE), Hiroshima University', Japan. Prof. Joshi also delivered a lecture in the prestigious 76th Visiting Professor Seminar at Centre for the Studies of Higher Education (CSHE), Nagoya University, Nagoya, Japan.

### **Book Published**

- 1) Ravi Vaitheespara. University of Manitoba. "Religion Caste and Nation in South India". Maraimalai Adigal, the New Saivite Movement, and Tamil Nationalism, 1876-1950". Oxford University Press, 2015.
- 2) Sameer Deshpande. University of Lethbridge. "*Social Marketing in India*". Sage Publications, 2013.
- 3) B. D. Dua, University of Lethbridge, M. P. Singh, and Rekha Saxena, Delhi University (contributing editors), *The Indian Parliament: The Changing Landscape*. Manohar, 2014

### **UPCOMING EVENTS IN INDIA AND CANADA**

IIT Bombay and Society for Surface Protective Coatings in Collaboration with TANFAC are organizing a State of Tech Art International Symposium on SURFACES - Surface Engineering, Organic Coatings, Surface Exploration and Bio-surfaces on Oct. 7-9, 2015 at NCR New Delhi. For more information please write to Prof. A.S.Khanna at anandkh52@gmail.com.

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#### **Reach Us**

