



Indo Canadian Sun

Anupam Sharma



On November 6, 2013, Hon. Dr. Lloyd Axworthy/President and Vice Chancellor of the University of Winnipeg and Hardev Sandhu/President of the India Association of Manitoba signed a memorandum of understanding to establish the India Centre- Academic, Business and Community Excellence. The signing was witnessed by Hon. Greg Selinger/Premier of Manitoba and, in attendance, the approximately 150 people from the Indo-Canadian community and, those from the business, education and political sectors of the Province.

The UW-IAM Memorandum of Understanding that guides the India Centre is of five-year duration. For the future, our aspiration is that the India Centre may be known for its outlook and work across Canada. It should strive to be "one stop" place for matters pertaining to India and, India-Canada- initiatives encompassing specific projects, policy and a resource-base.

The establishment of the India Centre is about the undertaking of initiatives in a more coordinated, formalized and institutional setting. The "India Centre" will raise awareness among peoples of Canada and India about the common outlooks and values that promote liberal democratic and multiculturally diverse societies. The partners, the University of Winnipeg and the India Association of Manitoba Inc. are both committed to availing for mutual benefit the opportunities between our two countries and, also recognizing the contributions of the Indo-Canadian community in Manitoba. Established in 1965, India Association of Manitoba Inc. -with its national perspective and outlook- is the longest serving organization as a hub where exchange and sharing take place for the benefit of members of the larger Indo-Canadian community of Manitoba.

Activities and operations of the Centre are governed by the Board of Directors chaired by Dr. Sylvie Albert, Dean of Faculty of Business and Economics. The University of Winnipeg and the India Association each appoints three members

and, there are three external independent members. The Board consists of the following members - **Mr. Anupam Sharma**, Director of Operations, Dakota Ojibway Tribal Council; **Mr. Robert Daniels**, Chief Executive Officer, Dakota Ojibway Tribal Council; **Mr. Terry Duguid**, Director, Northern Prosperity Initiative, The University of Winnipeg; **Mr. Sachit Mehra**, Vice-Chair, Winnipeg Downtown Biz; **Dr. Manish Pandey**, Associate Professor, Department of Economics, The University of Winnipeg; **Mr. Jean-Pierre Parenty**, President and CEO, Parenty Reitmeier Inc.; **Mr. Hardev Sandhu**, President of India Association of Manitoba and **Dr. Pawan Singal**, Professor and Director, Institute of Cardiovascular Sciences University of Manitoba.

Prior to and subsequent to its establishment, the partners (UW and IAM) have worked together to set a strong foundation and starting point for the Centre. Prior to the Centre, major initiatives have encompassed "The Year of India in Canada", India Pavilion and, the Public Forum on "The Charms of Political Life". The India Centre, has already undertaken two significant initiatives- FICCI Trade Delegation from India (November 20, 2013) and, the Public Forum on "Science within Spirituality" (January 29, 2014). To date, the "business" and "community" components have been addressed.

Since its establishment, the Centre has undertaken three major activities namely- hosting two major incoming delegations from India focusing on small business and trade (November 20, 2014) and, higher education (June 19, 2014). The trade delegations were organized by Federation of Indian Chambers of Industry and Commerce- a major national business organization that has a membership of about 250,000 companies and/or organizations. In between, in partnership with the Dakota Ojibway Tribal Council, the Centre convened a Public Forum on "Science within Spirituality" (January 29, 2014).

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