



Canadian Federation of Fiji Organizations

2022

COMMUNITY AWARDS GALA





Welcome to Canadian Federation of Fiji Organizations (CFOFO) 2nd Community Awards Gala, where we celebrate the meritorious services and achievements of our Fiji-Canadian community members.

This year, we have the pleasure of presenting the following categories:

- Community Leader Award
- Organization Leader Award
- Youth Volunteer Service Award
- Youth Post-Secondary Scholarship Award
- Wedding Anniversary Award

The CFOFO Executive Committee would like to congratulate all nominees and award recipients! Your contributions and achievements to your respective communities are invaluable. Our Executive Committee would also like to thank all of those attending our gala function to join us in celebrating our awards recipients and our volunteers for helping out with the event.

A special thank you to our event sponsors and donors:

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SEPTEMBER 29, 2022

It is my privilege once again to be able to participate in this year's CFOFO awards and recognition ceremony. On behalf of the Consulate's office and the Fijian diaspora in British Columbia, I would like to congratulate the team which has once again excelled. The past few years have not been kind to the world. Every human being has been affected to some degree due to the pandemic and COVID has really evaluated our resolve. It is heartening to see that despite the tragedy of the last few years, this group has managed to maintain their objectives.

At its core, their objective has remained the same and that is to promote youth initiatives. CFOFO has assisted many youths from our Fijian community to pursue their dreams. They have played an integral part in guiding our youth, co-ordinating Educational Seminars, Career Workshops and offered Scholarships.

CFOFO's role has expanded to helping our beloved Fiji in times of their need. They have rallied the Fijian and non-Fijian communities in their fundraising endeavour and in turn have received acknowledgement from the highest levels of the Fijian Government.

The four awards that are now being considered are of the highest importance in the evolution of an individual's growth and development. I think that each have equal merit and I want to congratulate not only the recipients of these various awards but those who were nominated.



Bobby Naicker
Fijian Honourary Consul

CITY OF SURREY

MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR



DOUG
McCALLUM
MAYOR

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On behalf of Surrey City Council, it is my distinct pleasure to send greetings to the Fijian Canadians being recognized at the 2022 Community Awards Gala hosted by the Canadian Federation of Fiji Organizations (CFOFO).

CFOFO celebrates the dedication and meritorious service by Fiji-Canadian individuals, businesses and organizations that promote culture and community in Canada. In addition, CFOFO also recognizes the Fiji-Canadian businesses that innovative and lead in their sector.

I am delighted that this event is being held in Surrey, because not only does Surrey have a large and vibrant Fijian community, but we are a city that takes great pride in our diversity. As a city that thrives on multiculturalism, Surrey sets a positive example for communities across Canada.

On behalf of Council, I would like to congratulate all the nominees and award winners. Thank you for going above and beyond in serving our community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Doug McCallum". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Doug McCallum
Mayor
City of Surrey

2022 Community Awards Gala Program

Cash Bar Opens & Appetizers Served

Program Commencement

Opening Remarks by Emcees

Wedding Anniversary Awards

Youth Scholarship Awards

Keynote Speaker: Atish Ram

Youth Volunteer Service Awards

Lunch Break

Keynote Speaker: Bobby Naicker

Community Leader Awards

Organization Leader Awards

Group Pictures

Closing Remarks

CFOFO Executive Committee



Chairperson
Shannon Permal



Vice-Chairperson
Vidya Sharma



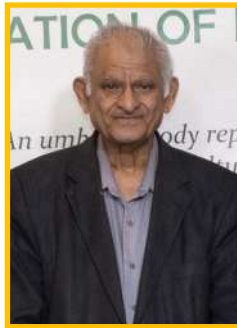
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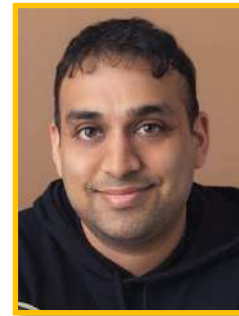
Executive Member
Sanjay Maharaj



Executive Member
Sarda Naicker



Executive Member
Arvind Prasad



Executive Volunteer
Calvin Lal

Are you interested in joining
our CFOFO Executive Team or
becoming a member?
If so, kindly connect with us!

Email: info.cfofo@gmail.com
Website: cfofo.ca

  : @cfofo_

CFOFO Chairperson's Address

On behalf of the Executive Committee of Canadian Federation of Fiji Organizations (CFOFO), I take great pleasure in welcoming you to our second Community Awards Gala.

As an umbrella body organization, CFOFO is designed to bring together Fijian-Canadians from various sectors: Religious & Cultural, Social & Sporting, Businesses, Trades, Professionals & Independents. Our organization has continued to thrive since its incorporation in 2004 due, in no small part, to the work of our Committee Members who all share a burning passion to service others above selves.

In our service to the community, our Executives have developed and carried out a number of innovative programs over the years that educate our community, recognize the accomplishments of various age groups, and foster mutual respect and admiration amongst one another. That being said, we have launched the Community Awards Gala as a special event to build on these objectives.

After an incredibly successful run last October, we are excited to be bringing this event to the community once again. Today, we are gathered to celebrate the local and international contributions and achievements of our Fijian-Canadian community members and allies. In recognizing those who have started their volunteer services either back in Fiji or in Canada, we hope you feel more connected, engaged and inspired by others in our own community. Congratulations and thanks to you all!

Finally, I would also like to express my sincere gratitude to all our sponsors, volunteers, nominators, audience and the CFOFO Executive Committee: all of you have contributed greatly to make this a yet another memorable event.

-- Shannon S. Permal



CFOFO is a registered non-profit and non-governmental organization (NGO) comprised of Fiji-Canadian organizations from all sectors, including Religious and Cultural, Social and Sporting, Businesses, Trades and Professionals. We act as a unified body representing our various organizations. A few of our aims and objectives include: pooling resources among various organizations and providing aid and assistance to others; recognizing those who provide meritorious and exemplary services to the community; promoting world peace, harmony and democracy; and affiliating with recognized world bodies that represent and advance the interest of our various organizations, Fiji-Canadians and Fiji residents.

2021 Community Awards Gala Highlights



On October 24, 2021, local and international contributions and achievements of Fiji-Canadian community members and organizations were celebrated. Individuals and organizations were nominated by the community at large for the following categories: Youth Volunteer Service Award, Community Leader Award, and Organization Leader Award. CFOFO also recognized those celebrating 50 or more years of marriage and the two successful recipients of the 2021 CFOFO Post-Secondary Scholarship.



Wedding Anniversary Celebrations



Mr. & Ms. Basaiya

Mr. and Ms. Basaiya had an arranged marriage on March 25, 1961. They proudly share that despite it being an arranged marriage, it has thrived for the past 61 years! After getting married, the couple had four children, consisting of one son and three daughters. Their advice to others would be to always aim to give your 100% in a marriage, because 50% does not cut it. It takes a lot of trust and respect for each other, and do not compare your relationship to anyone else's ever.



Harjit and Jagendar Chand

Harjit and Jagendar Chand were both born and raised in Fiji. After completing secondary education, Harjit went to England to further his education in Business Administration. Upon becoming well-educated, Harjit gained employment in Canada within a manufacturing company. Jagendar, after gaining her credentials, worked in the Healthcare sector. Both Harjit and Jagendar migrated to Vancouver, Canada where they both were married on March 8th, 1972. Soon thereafter, they became parents to three children. Now in their retirement, the selfless couple have lent helping hands in past CFOFO events and contribute to the charity and welfare of Canadian seniors.



Prem and Indar Chand

Prem and Indar Chand met when he was 17 and she was 14. The two got married on July 15th, 1961 in Lautoka, Fiji, and had 3 children: Mohini, Bimal and Roshni. The couple worked hard to support their family and put their children through school. They eventually chose to migrate to Canada in 1974, where they first settled in the city of Richmond. Sometime later, they purchased a house in East Vancouver together. Prem worked as a heavy-duty mechanic for most of his life while Indar worked at the movies. Now, they are blessed with 5 beautiful grandchildren: Vikash, Talisha, Mitesh, Akash and Sahil, and grand cat Max.

Wedding Anniversary Celebrations



Naresh and Lajja Kumar

Naresh, formerly from New Dehli, India, was an active member in the Indian Air Force and later pursued his studies in the banking industry, working for the Bank of India. In Canada, Naresh worked for Scotiabank for 25 years. As a keen sportsman, he was also a member of the Indian Airforce Cricket Team. Born in Fiji, Lajja gained a Red Shield in the hospitality industry and worked for Woodward's and Renfrew Care Centre, where she quickly gained Managerial positions and assisted many new Canadian arrivals. Both Naresh and Lajja were matrimonially united in 1972 in New Dehli and migrated to Canada in 1988. The dedication to help others is a quality that the couple share. Lajja has assisted CFOFO in the past with fundraising and youth events while Naresh helps the needy in the building industry.



Manikam and Parvati Naicker

Manikam and Parvati Naicker were married on October 31st, 1954 and are now onto celebrating their 68th year of wedded bliss. Both Manikam and Parvati spent their lives working hard in the fields back in Fiji to ensure that their children were well supported. After building a beautiful family of 6 children, they chose to start a new chapter of life by migrating to Canada in 1988. From then onwards, their family grew and they are now blessed to be grandparents to a total of 16 grandchildren. Having a big family can keep anyone busy, but the couple thrived off of each other's support in ensuring the family always had what they needed and to be loved and supported. Now they reap the rewards of their hard work by spending all of their time with their grandchildren.



Paidanna and Maheshwari Naidu

Paidanna and Maheshwari Naidu got married in Raki Raki, Fiji on December 27, 1969. While in Fiji, Paidanna served as a school teacher while Maheshwari worked as a registered nurse in Fiji. On December 4th, 1974, the couple migrated to Canada with their son, Paul Naidu. Having first settled down in Vancouver, they later moved to Burnaby, and now reside in Surrey, BC. Paidanna pursued his career as an owner operator of FCS Logistics division of BC Bearings for 36 years until retirement. Maheshwari continued her nursing career working at Delta General Hospital, Mt. St. Joseph Hospital, Vancouver Coastal Health and George Derby Vetran's Hospital for over 35 years until retirement. Furthermore, the couple also served on the Executive Board of CFOFO in the past. Today, they are blessed with a daughter-in-law, Sanjeshni Naidu, and granddaughter, Talia Naidu.

Wedding Anniversary Celebrations

Divakaran (Mani) and Margaret Reddy



Divakaran (Mani) and Margaret were both born and raised in Fiji. Mani immigrated to Canada in 1969 at a very young age and established a career in aviation with CP Air (now Air Canada). Margaret went to Chennai, India to pursue her university BSC degree in Physics. She later returned to Fiji and taught at AD Patel High School. In September 1986, Mani decided to go to Fiji for a visit after many years of being away. While visiting one of his cousins in Ba, Margaret showed up there as well, on her lunch break from school. At first sight, he fell for her and when the taxi came back to pick him up, he sent the taxi away. He told Margaret that he would cancel his trip and stay back if she returned that evening. And yes, Margaret came back! Mani extended his vacation for 6 weeks, to spend more time with Margaret and the rest is history. The couple were married on January 3rd of 1987 and Margaret returned to Canada with Mani in February. Now, they are blessed with 2 children and 3 grandchildren. Their passion to travel took them to many places around the world. They both have contributed a lot to the community through their work and personal life.



Narayan and Sarda Reddy

When Narayan met Sarda for the first time in Nadi, Fiji Islands, he thought she was very sweet. After looking around for awhile, he found Sarda in Salovi and knew that she was the one for him. The couple celebrated their wedding on March 25, 1961. Now, they are looking forward to celebrating 61 years of wedlock bliss. They share that the keys to a successful marriage is to always show respect and great understanding for each other and to not sweat about the small stuff!

Sambhu and Mardamma (Rhoda) Reddy



Sambhu and Mardamma (Rhoda) Reddy fell in love in Martintar, Nadi and were later married on April 7th, 1957. After getting married, they lived in Sambeto for some time. With hopes for a better life for themselves and their family, they ventured off to England with their one son and settled down there. After eight and a half years in England, they migrated to Canada to attain bigger dreams. Once they settled in Canada, they did everything to support the migration of every family member on both sides who also wanted to live the Canadian dream. Through all their adventures in life, they remain very much in love. They have been blessed to be parents to 3 children who were born in 3 different countries, 2 grandchildren and 4 great grandchildren.

Wedding Anniversary Celebrations

Jagdish and Vidya Shankar



Jagdish and Vidya Shankar had an arranged marriage on June 1st, 1974. Shortly after their wedding, Jagdish migrated to Canada in July of 1974. After settling into the new country, he sponsored Vidya, who joined him nine months later to start their new life together in Vancouver. Eventually, Jagdish started his own automotive detailing and undercoating business, while Vidya worked at the University of British Columbia. Concurrent to full time work, Jagdish was a part of the Ramayan Mandali at an early age in Fiji and continued to participate in various Ramayan Mandalis in the Lower Mainland area in Canada afterwards. Jagdish served as a board member of Sanatan Dharm Cultural Society for many years and Vidya joined him as a volunteer and cook for the society as well. While spending their time together carrying out selfless service to the community, they also have been blessed and enjoy spending time with their daughter and two grandchildren.



SOUTH ASIAN YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH (SAYMH) AMBASSADOR TRAINING

Youth Ambassador Training for Fijian and Caribbean South Asians, ages 16-29.

Join the SAYMH Ambassador program and receive:

- » Mental Health Training
- » Overdose Response & Naloxone Training
- » Wellness, Cultural Safety & Community Engagement Workshops

For more information contact: Shilpa Narayan: shilpal926@hotmail.com

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CFOFO Youth Programs

Our Mission

The Canadian Federation of Fiji Organizations (CFOFO) aims to support young people within our communities through engaging and meaningful community projects. CFOFO is hopeful that the participation of youth through our initiatives will not only help encourage and empower youth, but will also divert youth from becoming susceptible to undesirable elements and distractions. CFOFO's programs enable youth to identify role models, become mentors, and display leadership skills. With your support, our activities will continue to bring betterment to our communities today and in the future!



2022 Youth Programs Highlights

South Asian Youth Mental Health (SAYMH) Ambassador Training

Since December of 2019, CFOFO had the pleasure of teaming up with South Asian Mental Health Alliance, 3E Organization, and Empower the Future to bring together a variety of mental health programming and cultural education to local Indo-Fijian and Indo-Caribbean youth over the years. From virtual workshops to outdoor training picnics, the programming has included mental health education and resources, overdose response training, cultural wellness and safety workshops and outreach. In the near future, we hope to successfully bring back the mental health camp retreat exclusively for Indo-Fijian and Indo-Caribbean youth after having to postpone the original dates due to the pandemic.



Youth Committee

CFOFO welcomes all youth to join our Youth Volunteer Committee! This youth led group actively comes together to assist in various CFOFO projects and events along with supporting one another in their own goals and projects. Youth within this committee gain a network of positive role models and friends, lots of internal and external opportunities, opportunities to gain various leadership roles, skill development, and professional references.

2022 Youth Programs Highlights



17th Annual Youth Talent Show

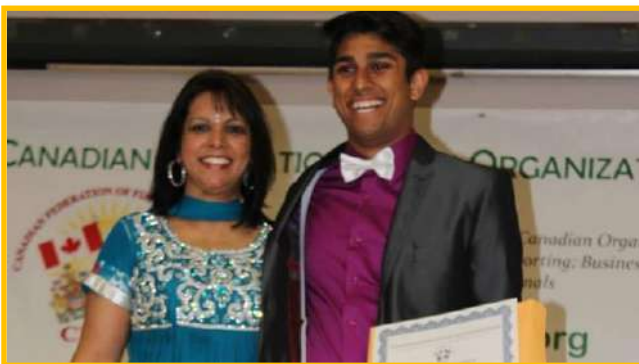
Launched in 2004, CFOFO held its first ever Youth Talent Show (YTS) at Bonsor Community Centre in Burnaby. This event invited youth across the Greater Vancouver region to take the stage and showcase a range of talents such as dancing, singing, devotional items, motivational speeches and more! Furthermore, young visual artists and writers are also invited to showcase their creative works. After gaining immense popularity and demand, CFOFO has continued to work with its various organizations along with youth volunteers to make YTS an annual family friendly event where all generations of a family can come together and enjoy entertainment brought to you by our local youth. On May 28, 2022, CFOFO was proud to have hosted its 17th Annual Youth Talent Show at Khanna Banquet Hall in Surrey, BC.



CFOFO's Youth Awards Programs

Youth Volunteer Service Awards

Following the discontinuation of the Canadian Federal Government's Canada Day Award Program, CFOFO initiated our own Volunteer Service Award program in April of 2011. CFOFO's Volunteer Service Award was designed to recognize and reinforce the positive contributions of youth to their respective communities and, by extension, for the betterment of Canada. Any youth who has dedicated a minimum of 100 hours towards community service are eligible to apply and receive the award.



Post-Secondary Educational Scholarship Awards

CFOFO established its post-secondary educational scholarship program in 2004 with the goal of motivating youth to pursue higher education. To-date CFOFO has awarded 47 scholarships, totalling over \$28,000 over the years. This year, we are proud to award another three students with funds to further pursue their post-secondary education!

2022 Post-Secondary Education Scholarship Award Recipients

Jasmine Jeet

Jasmine Jeet is currently pursuing her first year of post-secondary education at Douglas College. In her pursuit of higher education as of January 2022, she has been studying Humanities and Social Studies. Jasmine also happens to be a past youth participant of CFOFO's Annual Youth Talent Show event back in 2012. As she continues her studies, her goal for the future is find a career within the field of Psychology.



Adelyn Prasad

Currently enrolled as a first-year student at Simon Fraser University, Adelyn Prasad is pursuing her educational journey in Criminology. She currently is working towards a career within the legal field. Outside of school, Adelyn volunteers at her local church's children ministry, where she aims to create a safe environment for the children she works with while teaching them about the world of Christianity.



Kaveel Singh

Kaveel Singh is completing his Master of Management at the University of British Columbia's (UBC) Sauder School of Business. During his undergraduate career, Kaveel has also spent numerous hours volunteering as a committee member and Co-Chair of UBC's Enrolment Services Student Advisory Committee. He shares that his proudest accomplishment was being able to develop UBC's Financial Wellness Peers Program, which aimed to empower and teach students financial literacy.



Youth Volunteer Service Award Recipients



Shiva Naicker

Since his young age, Shiva Naicker has served the Indo-Fijian community through his passion for arts and culture. Shiva has been associated with several community and music groups throughout the years, but now serves as the Music Director for the Saraswati Gyan Prakash Ramayan Mandali. 24-year-old Shiva enjoys spending his free time with TISI Sangam Educational and Cultural Society, where he helps organize various prayers and events and the teaching of Terekuttu Naach. Shiva believes that volunteering is meant to connect you to your passions and is a pathway for youth to expand their knowledge.



Jolene Prasad

20-year-old Jolene Prasad believes that volunteering from a young age allows youth to gain a sense of responsibility and an understanding that personal actions can be used to create a happy and healthy environment for all. Amidst the pursuit of helping others, she shares that volunteering has helped her gain social networking skills and work experience. Jolene has been a past recipient of CFOFO's Post-Secondary Scholarship Award in 2021 and continues to volunteer as a member of CFOFO's Youth Committee. Outside of CFOFO, Jolene also volunteers her time as a peer mentor with Simon Fraser University's Pathways to Education Program, an attendant for Dueck Auto Group and as a television host for Viti Vibes.

Youth Volunteer Service Award Recipients



Shivneel (Shivy) Reddy

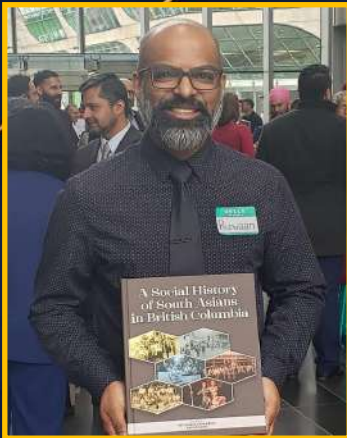
23-year-old Shivy Reddy seeks joy in empowering individuals across several South Asian communities by acknowledging the struggles faced within these communities, and providing advocacy and peer support to help revitalize their cultures and identities. Shivy volunteers his time with the South Asian Youth Mental Health Alliance, South Asian COVID Task Force, South Asian Healing Network, Delta Youth Council, and the Saraswati Gyan Prakash Ramayan Foundation. Shivy hopes to continue creating a better sense of community through supporting individuals with mental health issues, education, fundraising for marginalized individuals and their families.



Jasmeen Sran

Jasmeen Sran is a 17-year-old first-year student at Simon Fraser University. Having dedicated over 500+ hours to volunteering within the last year alone, she proves herself to be passionate about giving back to others. For many years, Jasmeen had volunteered as a Biology and Chemistry Lab Assistant at Khalsa Secondary School, undertaken charitable projects through Progressive Intercultural Community Services, SIYSCorps at PICS and Khalsa Leo Club. Pursuant to this, Jasmeen became the Founder and President of BC's Childhood Cancer Society, a non-profit organization where funds are raised to help families who cannot afford their child's cancer treatment. Jasmeen's high level of commitment to volunteering has led her to being awarded four community service scholarships as well as a recipient of the Board of Trustees Award for Citizenship from Khalsa Secondary School.

Community Leader Award Recipients



Rizwaan Abbas

Born in the small town of Sparwood, BC to parents who emigrated from Tavua, Rizwaan Abbas (BA, P.Sc & M.Sc) has led a successful career in Archeology. It wasn't until his father's passing away in 2020 that the desire to learn about his heritage, explore his own ancestry and share that back to the local community became a mission. In 2021, Rizwaan curated a prolific community exhibit at the Surrey of Museum titled "The Indo-Fijians: Surrey's Pocket of Paradise" and has written a chapter in the book 'A Social History of South Asians in British Columbia' leading to a series of radio and television interviews, including CBC radio and a featured article in The Fiji Sun. Rizwaan continues to champion the documentation and reclamation of Indo-Fijian culture here in Canada.



Calvin Lal

At 36 years old, Calvin Lal is one of very few individuals who have succeeded at all three levels in the Architectural, Engineering, and Construction community with Fijian Ancestry. Some notable contributions Calvin has within the industry include: leading \$65 million worth of Construction in publicly funded education and municipal buildings; maintaining a perfect "on-time" and "on-budget" record on municipal projects; and bringing new HVAC technology to BC. His innovative impact has led to him being named one of the Top 40 Under 40 in Canadian Construction. Beyond his work, Calvin is also a volunteer speaker at the British Columbia Institute of Technology for Mechanical Engineering Systems, a volunteer marker of Math Challengers Exams for Engineering and Geoscientists of BC, an active speaker and presenter at high schools for Vancouver Regional Construction Association, a mentor to future engineers in training and a recent CFOFO Executive Volunteer.



Subra Mani

Subra Mani has been a member of the TISI Sangam Educational and Cultural Society since 1984. Subra Mani has served the society in several capacities of their Executive Board of Directors including the strong leadership roles of Trustee and Vice President of General Building Maintenance until present day. He is an invaluable Director of TISI Sangam Society's Management Board.

Community Leader Award Recipients



Permal Naicker

Permal Naicker is the owner of Roop Shingaar Jewellers. Back in Fiji, Permal started working in a jewellery store with his uncle, where he was responsible for cleaning the store and getting tea and coffee for the staff members while also watching and learning how to fabricate jewellery. Starting from the bottom, he slowly began to train with some of the best jewellers in Fiji until he was soon enough gaining community recognition for his own work. In 1987, he migrated to Canada to start a new journey for himself. After working a few odd jobs, he went back to working as an in-house jeweller for some of the most popular Indian jewelry stores while also working from his personal workshop and building his own clientele. In 2002, he finally achieved his dream of opening a jewellery shop with his wife Somitri Naicker. Permal has been able to connect his passion for jewellery making and helping the community through his generous donations to many events and fundraisers.



Paidanna Naidu

Paidanna Naidu is strongly involved in cultural and educational services since 1983. He served as a Director of TISI Sangam Educational and Cultural Society intermittently from 1983 to-date as the Vice President, Treasurer, Assistant Secretary and currently as a Trustee. In 1993, Mr. Naidu was first elected President and one of the founders of Valibar Sangam Association of BC, where he served on the board for approximately 15 years. He was also the Chairperson of the Sports Committee when Vancouver hosted the first World Cup games in Queens Park, New Westminster. Mr. Naidu has also served Subramaniya Swamy Temple of BC from 1996 to 2018 continuously as the President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, and Trustee. Under his leadership and with help from Sadasiva Gurukkal (Pujari Salesh Gaunder), the society held several major fundraising events to pay down the temple's mortgage.



Babu Ram Pal

Upon moving to Canada from Fiji back in 1970, Mr. Babu Ram Pal became a member of Shiv Mandir and was actively involved in sewa at the Mandir. Throughout the years, Babu Ram Pal has done numerous carpentry and constructions for the temple. Some of his notable work includes helped in building the dining hall at the Napier Street building in Vancouver in 1984, building the stage in the Mandir at the new location at 5600 Dorset Street in Burnaby in 2010, and having installed all the cabinets, tiles and sundry carpentry work at both locations. In addition to his handy work, he always was known to lend a helping hand in the kitchen of the mandirs and help the Mandir's Mandali as well. As a Trustee, His continued involvement with Shiv Mandir led to him becoming a Trustee in 1995 and he continues to hold that position to-date. Babu's quiet and efficient leadership in supporting the board as a Trustee and sewa at the Mandir is recognized by the board and the community.

Community Leader Award Recipients



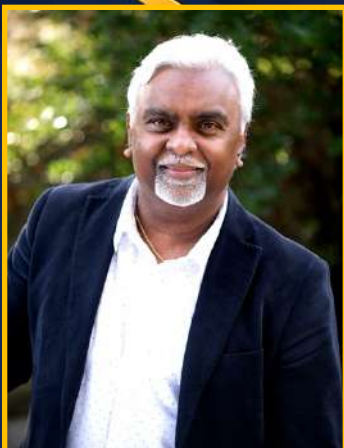
Edward Palad

As a Leader and District Scouts Commissioner in Fiji, Edward Palad has contributed towards youth development and led group contingents to local and overseas jamborees. As a Guild Master of 9th B.P. Guild comprising of retired leaders in Canada, he has led groups to the South Pacific and to the Guild World Conference in New Delhi, India. For his service to the Fijian Canadian community, he was awarded Life Membership to the Fiji Canada Association and to the Fiji Canada Senior Citizens Council. Through these institutions, he has promoted Fijian arts and culture and hosted many local and abroad travel tours for seniors. As one of the original founders of the Canadian Federation of Fiji Organizations (CFOFO), Edward continues to help with many fundraising activities for youth initiatives, cultural development, and natural disaster relief. He has also helped in raising funds for hospitals and Red Cross Society and Seniors Help Age group in Fiji.



Kiren Patel

A man who hold a high regard to serving people with a warm heart, Kiren Patel is a hardworking, dedicated and cheerful individual that enjoys the satisfaction of helping others in every community. Being the owner of one of the most popular Indo-Fijian stores, Fiji Island Supermarket, Kiren still makes time to give back to the community as much as he can. He is very respected in the community because of his will power in making everyone happy, Mr. Patel treats each and every customer like they are family and makes 100% sure that they are satisfied with everything. This individual is a person that brings joy to anyone that walks in his store, he also helps a lot of organizations that need help with fundraising and or with their youth-based events.



Atish Ram

Immigrating from Fiji to Canada at the age of seven, Atish Ram has always held onto his passion for being in the entertainment field. Atish created a television show called *Zindagi* which would allow young aspiring journalists to have a voice and to promote the South Asian community. For years, Atish would go on to mentor dozens of volunteers who now work in mainstream media as radio hosts, reporters, anchors, producers, and award-winning Hollywood actors. A year after launching *Zindagi*, he also launched an annual live telethon to raise funds for BC Children's Hospital and served as Chairperson for BC Children's Hospital Foundation. A World of Smiles Telethon in its fifteen year broadcast, raised over 5 million dollars with the support of the community. For the last 25 years, Atish, his wife and three kids continue to organize fundraising events for BC Children's Hospital such as "A Night of Miracles" gala, "Hoops for Kids" basketball tournament for high school students, "Mother's Day Tea" and much more.

Community Leader Award Recipients



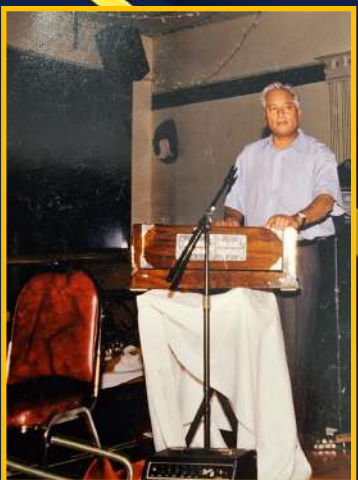
Anita Reddy

As a nurse by profession, it has always been in Anita Reddy's nature to help others. Outside of work, Anita has been involved with a number of community groups and organizations in her pursuit of carrying out charitable work. Some of these organizations include: Surrey Police, Radio Fiji Mirchi, Fiji Disaster Relief Society and with Canadian Empowered Women of Fiji Foundation. Currently, she serves on the board of Canadian Empowered Women of Fiji Foundation as the Secretary.



Margaret Reddy

Margaret Reddy's community work dates back to her time in Fiji, where she was President of the Ba Jaycees. This passion carried on with her when she came to Canada. Margaret has generated great impact towards financial literacy in the Fijian community. For 30 years with Vancity Credit Union, she has supported many individuals with their financial and life goals. From newcomers to Canada to long term residents, she has taken her personal time to educate and provide the tools to be financially successful in Canada. From assisting with the purchase of the first homes or teaching about RRSP's, she strives to pass her knowledge going forward. Prior to her retirement from Vancity Credit Union, she has been a part of several community initiatives including fundraising for the Heart and Stroke Foundation. Now, she volunteers her time at the Subramaniya Swami Temple of BC, where she has taken on the roles of Treasurer and Secretary.



Dr. Leslie Samaroo

Formally from Trinidad, Dr. Leslie Samaroo is a devotee of inherited Indian art and musical culture. He is associated with the Fiji Canadian community through his medical practice and through his membership with Fiji Canada Association (FCA). Dr. Samaroo has been instrumental in the establishment of a Musical Arts and Culture Committee, where he organizes gatherings of interested citizens within the Canadian mosaic to learn about arts and culture. For over three decades, Dr. Samaroo has hosted monthly events at FCA hall in Surrey and has shared his vast knowledge and improved the cultural performance skills of many participants. Moreover, he has been an active participant and provided his musical instruments at religious gatherings as well as served as a judge for many other cultural events. His passion for music and culture has brought many Canadian diversified communities together.

Community Leader Award Recipients



Bimla Veer Singh

As a former teacher in Fiji, Bimla Singh has a good command of the Hindi language and possesses an in-depth understanding of Sanatan Dharm. Upon coming to Canada in the early 1970s with her husband, she became a Board Member of Shiv Mandir. In her positions as Assistant Secretary, Chair of Mahila Mandal and Education Director, she led many educational and cultural programs at the temple. These activities became big fundraising events for Shiv Mandir. With programs such as the Diwali Show, she was coaching students in drama, music performance and reciting prayers, organizing Charity Queen, selling tickets and fundraising. She also had over fifty students registered in her Hindi classes. When Vedic Mandir was built in Richmond in 1991, Bimla served as Secretary of the board for 20 years and continues to assist as a Director.



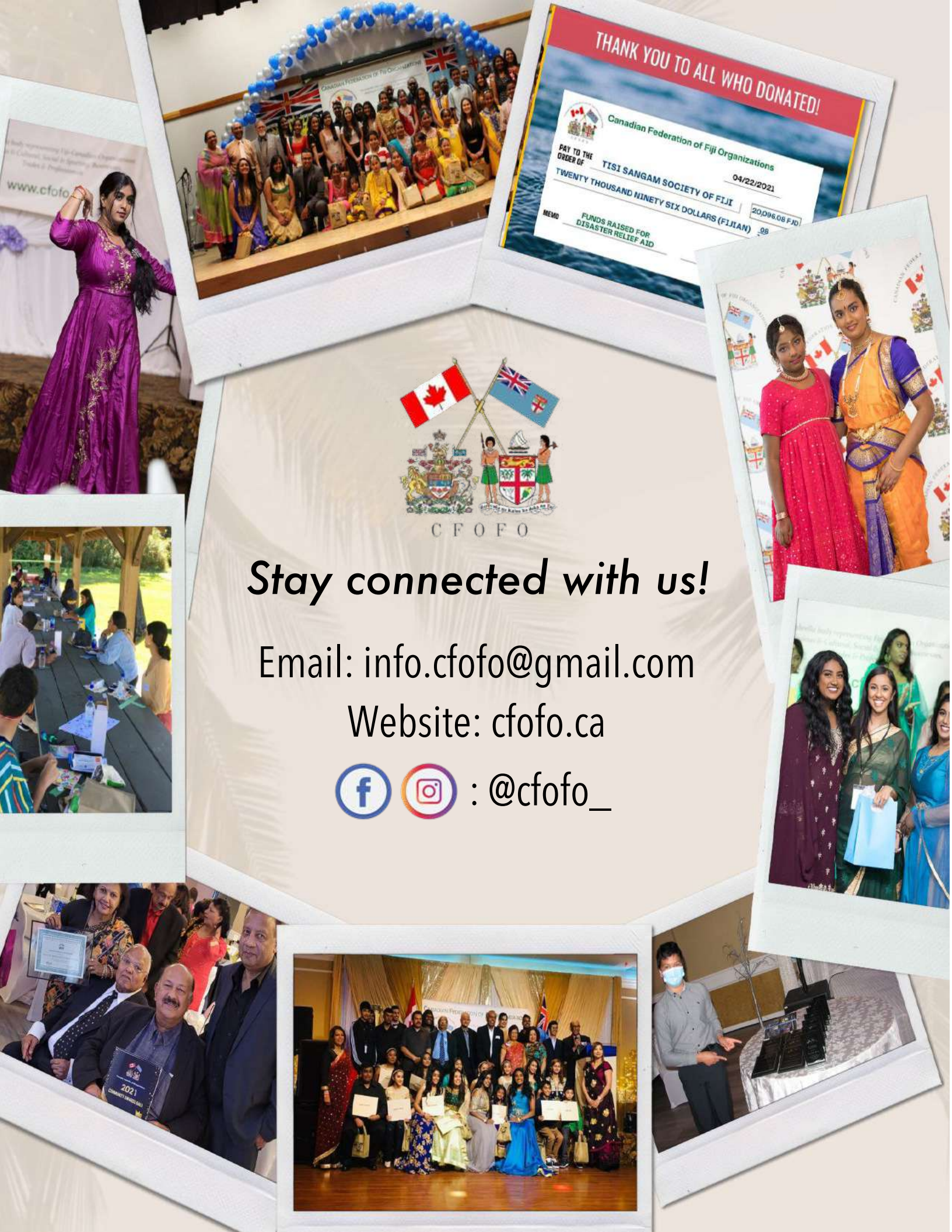
Malti Ritka Singh

Malti Ritka Singh came to Canada in 1975, settling in Richmond, BC with her husband and two children. For 20 years, she worked at Vancouver General Hospital. Through work, she met Lynn Sen in 1982, and together they learned to sing Sai Baba bhajans. Malti met with Guruji Chakaardhari and along with the late Mr. Chandar Sen, they founded Vedic Community Temple. They started off hosting prayers in the basement of a house that Mr. Chandar Sen purchased on Odlin Street in Richmond. Once registering the society as Vedic Cultural Society of British Columbia, the society sold the Oldin Street property and began fundraising to build a new Mandir on No. 5 Road in Richmond, BC. Her tireless efforts had led to the building of a beautiful two storey Mandir. Over the years, Malti has served in numerous positions for the board and is considered the pillar of Vedic Cultural Society.



Anil Suranna

Anil Suranna is one of the founding members of TISI Sangam Society. Over the years, he has served the society as a Director, Assistant Treasurer, Treasurer and Vice President. Currently, he serves as a Trustee. He has been instrumental in mentoring new directors to continue the aims and objectives of the Society. Additionally, he provides support with fundraising activities and assistance during religious functions at the temple. Not only this, but he was the initiator of the Golf Tournament and encouraged the younger generation to get involved with the sport, which has now become a great annual social fundraiser event! Mr. Suranna was also an active member of the Sangam Social Club, which has raised funds for various emergency relief.



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Organization Award Recipients

Asian Pulse

Established in 1998 by community activist and media figure Kamilla Singh, Asian Pulse is a television show that has been bringing in individuals from across numerous communities and amplifying their voices in the media for over the last 23 years. With new weekly episodes of news, special guests, entertainment and much more, the Asian Pulse team aims to educate and grow the networks of its viewers as well. The show runs on the Shaw Multicultural Channel and is broadcasted in British Columbia and Alberta reaching thousands of viewers weekly. In addition to this, Asian Pulse aims to promote and empower South Asian women from our local community, by having an all female hosting team.



CANADIAN EMPOWERED WOMEN OF FIJI FOUNDATION

Registered Non- Government Organization (NGO)

Canadian Empowered Women of Fiji Foundation

Canadian Empowered Women of Fiji Foundation (CEWFF) is a registered, non-governmental organization that serves to provide poverty relief in the form of providing food and other basic necessities of life to low-income individuals or families and victims of disasters. CEWFF values diversity, integrity, respect towards others, service and transparency. In its short time of existence, the organization has raised over \$4,500 towards Ukraine's humanitarian relief and the BC flood relief.

Organization Award Recipients

Fiji Island Supermarket

Established in 2005 by Mr. Kiren Patel, Fiji Island Supermarket is a well-known one stop shop for Fijian goods and religious prayer items. Aside from providing excellent service to their customers, this business and its owner have remained actively committed to giving back to the community and supporting its members in any way possible. For 17 years, the business has supported numerous Fijian organizations, including several of CFOFO's events. Whether it be through food donations or other in-kind donations, they have always been open to helping towards charitable causes.



TISI Sangam Society

The Then India Sanmarga Ikyā (TISI) Sangam Educational and Cultural Society was officially inaugurated on August 8th, 1982. From originally starting off with a few individuals, the Society has grown exponentially to consist of over 600 members, including Paid Life Members and Honorary Life Members. The organization was formed with a particular interest in providing education and culture to the local community. Many individuals had come together to raise funds for buying a property in Richmond, BC, so that members of the public could come and partake in morning and evening prayer sessions with a resident priest. In 2009, they moved properties but continued to deliver various religious, cultural, and educational programs in Delta, BC. The TISI Sangam Society recently celebrated their 40th year anniversary since formation.

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