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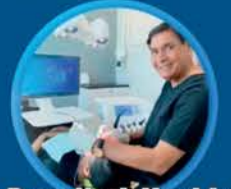
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VOL.51 No 47 FREE Saturday Nov 25, 2023 www.thelinkpaper.ca 604.591.5160

Surrey's Payal Business Centre attacked two days in a row

Surrey RCMP is warning business owners of attempted extortions. If you are targeted in an extortion attempt, do not engage with the suspect and do not send any money, instead contact police immediately, says police. (Read Full story on Page 10)



of two separate attacks, according to media reports a money exchange business was robbed and the shots were fired at a jewelry store.

SURREY: One of Surrey's busiest business plazas bustling with shoppers was under attack two days in a row this week. On November 22, there was an armed robbery and the next day early morning there were confirmed reports of shots fired at a business.

Although the police have not released details of the businesses that were targets

Located on 8100 block and 128 street, the plaza is home to South Asian especially Punjabi business owners. The Surrey RCMP first informed public on November 22 that there was an armed robbery in Payal Business Centre in broad daylight.

Without naming the business,

Continued on page 10

Surrey Mayor refuses to accept Province's orders on policing, takes another step to stop transition

The battle between the City of Surrey and the province over the beleaguered policing transition in Surrey seems far from over. Every time BC's Public Safety Minister Mike Farnworth moves forward with a concrete step to put an end to this confusing situation, Surrey's Mayor Brenda Locke comes up with a counter-step to stop the transition.



The latest in this battle is Mayor Locke's announcement to challenge the Province's recent amendments to the Police Act in court. This Monday, the Mayor in a press conference announced that the city will amend its original B.C. Supreme Court petition to challenge the constitutionality of the provincial government's recent amendments to the Police Act.

The City first filed a petition with the Supreme Court for a judicial review of BC's order of July 19, 2023 that asked the city to continue with the transition to the Surrey Police Service. The province then introduced changes to the existing Policing Act which specified that the City of Surrey must provide policing services through a municipal police department, giving the

Continued on page 11

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US prevented plot to kill Gurpatwant Singh Pannun: Media report

The US authorities "averted" an attempt to kill India-designated terrorist and Khalistani separatist Gurpatwant Singh Pannun, according to the UK media. A news report published in Financial Times claimed that the US had protested to India about the alleged conspiracy, shortly after PM Narendra Modi's state visit to Washington in June.

According to report, the people familiar with the case, who requested anonymity because of the sensitive nature of the intelligence that prompted the warning, did not say whether the protest to New Delhi led the plotters to abandon their plan, or whether the FBI intervened and foiled a scheme already in motion.

Besides a diplomatic demarche, the report said US federal prosecutors had filed a sealed indictment against at least one



alleged perpetrator in a district court. The US Department of Justice is weighing whether to make the allegations public or wait until Canada finishes its investigation into Hardeep Singh Nijjar's murder. The report said one person charged in the indictment might have left the US but did not say whether there were others.

Continued on page 09

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18-Year-Old Charged In Fatal Stabbing Of Mehakpreet Sethi Outside Tamanawis Secondary

An 18 year old man has now been charged in relation to the 2022 stabbing of 18-year old Mehakpreet Sethi. As the suspect was a Young Offender at the time of the homicide, his name was not released publicly.

On November 22, 2022, at approximately 12:08 p.m., the Surrey RCMP responded to a report of a stabbing in the parking lot of Tamanawis Secondary School, located in the 12600-block of 66 Avenue,

Surrey. Officers located an 18-year-old, later identified as Mehakpreet Sethi of Surrey, suffering life-threatening injuries. Despite the best efforts of responding officers, the victim sadly succumbed to his injuries shortly thereafter. As a result of the quick action of the Surrey RCMP, a 17-year old who was identified as a suspect by witnesses, was located and taken into custody. The Integrated Homicide Investigation Team

(IHIT) took conduct of the investigation and continued to work closely in partnership with the Surrey RCMP, the RCMP Forensic Identification Service and the BC Coroners Service.

On November 21, 2023, the BC Prosecution Service charged the suspect, now 18-years old, with second-degree murder, in relation to the death of Mehakpreet Sethi. IHIT's investigative team has remained committed to this investigation over the past year.

We would like to thank the Surrey RCMP, the staff and students at Tamanawis Secondary School and the entire community, for their support throughout this investigation, said Sgt. Timothy Pierotti of IHIT. Serious incidents such as this have a profound impact on all those involved. IHIT and the Surrey RCMP will continue to support the community and all those affected by this senseless tragedy. Anyone in need of support as a



result of this incident is asked to contact the Surrey RCMP Victim Services at 604-599-7600 or by email at Surrey_Victim_Services@rcmp-grc.gc.ca.

India Resumes E-Visa Service For Canadian Nationals

India this week resumed issuing electronic visas for Canadian nationals after suspending it following a diplomatic row over Ottawa's accusation of possible Indian government involvement in the murder of Hardeep Singh Nijjar.

The Indian High Commission in Ottawa issued a notice on X, saying Indian eVisa facility has been restored with effect from 22 November 2023, for all eligible Canadian citizens holding Regular/Ordinary Canadian passports.

"Holder of any other category of Canadian passport will need to apply for regular paper visa, in accordance with the existing modalities - details may be found on the respective websites of High Commission of India, Ottawa; Consulate General of India, Toronto and Consulate General of India, Vancouver," it said.



eVisa may be applied at <https://indianvisaonline.gov.in/evisa/tvoa.html>, the notice said.

India suspended new visa services for Canadians in September and asked Canada to reduce its diplomatic presence

after Prime Minister Justin Trudeau cited that Canada had credible evidence of a potential link between Indian agents and the murder of Surrey Gurdwara president Hardeep Singh Nijjar.

But faced by mounting pressure, India announced the resumption of several types of visa services from High Commission of India (HCI) in Ottawa and other consulates in the country from October 26.

Visa services resumed for entry, business, medical and conference visa. Tourist visa and e-visa, popular categories amongst Canadians, however was not mentioned in the list issued by the High Commission.

MP Chandra Arya Shares Video Claiming to Create Trouble at Surrey Temple

Canadian Member of Parliament Chandra Arya shared a purported video of Pro-Khalistan supporters in Surrey claiming they wanted to create trouble at the Hindu Laxmi Narayan Mandir there.

Along with the video that he shared on X, Arya called on the Canadian authorities to take action.

He wrote, "Last week, Khalistan supporters verbally abused a Sikh family outside a Sikh Gurdwara in BC, according to some reports. Now it appears the same Khalistan group wants to create trouble at the Hindu Laxmi Narayan Mandir in Surrey."

"All these are being done in the name of freedom of speech and expression.



Like a broken record, I am again asking Canadian authorities to step in and take action," he added.

Underscoring that Hindu temples have remained targets for attacks over the past few years, Arya said, "Hindu temples have been attacked many times during the last couple of years. Hate crimes are being committed against Hindu-Canadians."

Continued on page 10

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PICS Society Inaugurates International Student Union Office

Progressive Intercultural Community Services Society (PICS) announced the grand opening of the International Student Union (ISU) office within PICS premises. This is a significant step towards fortifying support systems for international students in the community. The ceremony attended by Surrey Mayor; Brenda Locke, Counsel General of India in Vancouver; Mr. Manish,



Anita Huberman; President & CEO of the Surrey Board of Trade, Jashanpreet Singh; President of ISU; PICS Board members and other leaders of the society. The establishment of the ISU office signifies a milestone in PICS Society's commitment to fostering a welcoming environment for international students in British Columbia. "I am grateful to PICS for providing this space, services and programs to the International Students Union. This will certainly provide employment and settlement services to tens of thousands of students who call Surrey their home.

These young people come to our country with hopes and promises for their future. This space by PICS, and their ongoing programs will help them find resources, understand cultural norms and keep them safe," said Mayor Locke. CGI, Mr. Manish said, "about 25% of all International students come to British Columbia and large chunk of them settle around Greater Vancouver area and it is a very commendable to see that PICS has taken this initiative to forge this partnership and provide mentorship to international students."

Continued on page 12

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Victor Ghirra Toy Drive Kicks Off A Season Of Giving

It was a weekend of giving for the Victor Ghirra Toy Drive committee who wanted to kick off the holiday season right. The team was out in full force across the Lower Mainland looking to make a difference in memory of the man with a Golden Heart: Victor Ghirra.

Victor, who passed away in 2007, was involved in many charitable initiatives. But one charity that Victor was really touched by was the BC Children's Hospital. A heartwarming story that depicted Victor's character was when he bought thousands of dollars of toys every Christmas and donated them to Children's Hospital to needy children anonymously. When they would ask, "Who are you and where are these toys from?" Victor would simply reply, "It doesn't matter who I am or where I am from, these toys are for the kids and that's all you need to know."

It was later found that Victor had made trips to the hospital for over a dozen years. Victor was just being Victor. He didn't tell anyone what he was up to. "In his memory, a toy drive was started by our good family friend: Harvey Kooner and we all work together with local businesses, groups and schools to give back to good causes," said Bobby Ghirra, Victor's brother. Over the last 16 years, Victor's toy drive has collected over 47,650+ toys for dozens of charities across British Columbia and around the world. For the 17th year of the toy drive, the committee wanted to start giving back early. On Saturday, Victor's Toy Drive donated \$1,000 to the Richmond Christmas Fund at the 9th Annual Richmond RCMP Toy Drive at Lansdowne Mall. It was a wonderful event that brought the community of Richmond together for a great cause, supporting by Richmond Cares, Richmond Gives.

On Sunday, the Ghirra family, Riverside Banquet Halls & the Victor Ghirra Toy Drive team made their way to the Scottsdale Save On Foods location to donate \$5,000 in food and gift cards for the Surrey Food Bank Society. With sky-high inflation rates, families are in need of support during the holiday season. "Surrey Food Bank appreciates this donations which will help many families this holiday season. We are still in need of baby food, such as baby formula, diapers, baby cereal, 100% juice boxes, and fruit cups. It costs the food bank over \$250 per baby per month to provide baby food, for more information please visit our social media pages 'surreyfoodbank' on Facebook and Instagram or visit our website www.surreyfoodbank.org," said Vijay, Surrey Food Bank Society.

After reviewing the list of items most needed in the community, \$4,000 in groceries were gathered by Save On Foods staff and \$1,000 in gift cards were given to support Surrey Food Bank Society's efforts.



The Ghirra family, Riverside Banquet Halls & the Victor Ghirra Toy Drive team made their way to the Scottsdale Save On Foods location to donate \$5,000 in food and gift cards for the Surrey Food Bank Society.

Kids Play Foundation were also invited to pick up a buggy full of groceries for their outreach in the Lower Mainland. "Save on Foods is an active member of the community; being involved and giving back is something we take a lot of pride in the communities that we serve. We are proud to

support community initiatives," said Jas Athwal, Director of Merchandising – Ethnic, Save on Foods.

The 17th Annual Victor Ghirra Toy Drive event will be taking place on Sunday, December 10th at Riverside Palace Banquet Hall, 14431 Knox Way,



On Saturday, Victor's Toy Drive donated \$1,000 to the Richmond Christmas Fund at the 9th Annual Richmond RCMP Toy Drive at Lansdowne Mall.

Richmond. From 12:00 pm to 2:00 pm, everyone is invited to the Palace. It's a family-friendly event that will be collecting toys for over 17 good causes in the community. We encourage you to bring a new, unwrapped toy and enjoy holiday cheer, accompanied by treats, music and a photo

booth. This year the toy drive will be striving to hit a milestone of 50,000+ toys collected.

For more information on how you can get involved and make a difference in the community, contact Harvey Kooner at 604-671-4180 or harveykooner1@gmail.com.

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Surrey School Survey Ideas on Dealing With Overcrowding Raise Eyebrows

Solution to Surrey's growing school population is more schools - not shifts, hybrid models, or busing out of local catchment areas -- Councillor Linda Annis

Recently Surrey School District launched an online survey to consult parents about strategies that the district can use to increase school capacities.

While it sounds optimistic to solve the increasing population in Surrey schools, the options in the survey are drastic.

Ideas include fully online or hybrid classes for secondary students, moving to a trimester system or even extending school days or dividing them into shifts, with some students starting in the early morning and others finishing in the late evening.

The proposals come as the district faces an enrolment crisis. Surrey Schools welcomed more than 2,400 new students in the last



two years - compared with 800 students per year historically - a 200% increase in new student enrolment. This rate of increase is not sustainable as the current number of schools in the district cannot accommodate the rapidly growing student body. According to Surrey School District, "This

enrolment growth continues to significantly outpace the district's only source of funding from the province, placing unprecedented pressure on the district and creating challenges with respect to capacity, available space, and staffing. As a result, the district must consider a number of mitigation strategies aimed at optimizing school space and safeguarding the continued delivery of high-quality education. Potential strategies being considered include tri-semester schooling, school "shifts," busing students to out-of-catchment schools, and hybrid online learning models."

Surrey First Councillor Linda Annis says that asking parents to weigh in on options such as tri-semester schooling, hybrid online learning, and busing children to out-of-catchment schools reinforces just how bad the situation has become in our city. "It's clear that the situation has gone far beyond just adding ever-increasing numbers of portables. It has become more serious each school year. The province has put our school board, and our city and its

families in a precarious position when it comes to educating our city's students," she said.

"Being forced to look at different education options isn't the answer to our growing school population, only new schools can solve the issue. The province, city and school board must work faster and harder to build new schools, and it can be done if the province is serious about education in its largest school district. If the provincial government wants to build new schools faster it can be done, but the willpower has to be there. From the city's perspective we should be pushing our local MLAs to demand that more schools be funded immediately and built faster, and that includes being more creative about planning and construction. Where there's a will, there's a way."

Annis said the growing school population has been an issue for years, with "temporary portables" as the short-term remedy, and the province's recent push for more housing will only stretch overworked infrastructure even more.

"Portables have become permanent and now even they cannot keep up," said Annis. "The idea that we have to canvas parents now about looking at alternatives to neighbourhood schools speaks volumes and emphasizes just how big the problem really is. Second best should not be an acceptable education option for our city and its families, and our city and its taxpayers need to speak up. The need for new schools has been obvious for years, but it has been neglected and ignored, and now we are suffering the consequences of years of inaction. The fact is the provincial government is not keeping up when it comes to building schools in our city."

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Public Warned About High-Risk Offender Who Will Be Living In Surrey

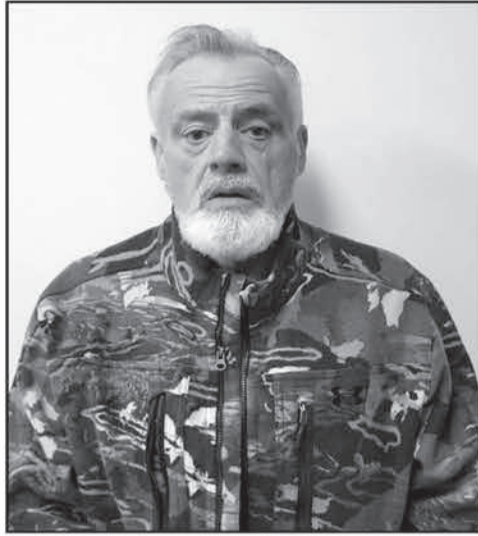
Surrey RCMP has issued a public interest warning under the Privacy Act of Canada regarding a dangerous sex offender who poses a high risk to re-offend.

Brian Abrosimo was released from prison on November 23, 2023 in the Lower Mainland and is residing in Surrey.

Abrosimo, 61, completed an 18-year prison sentence for sexual assault, kidnapping, unlawful confinement, assault with a weapon, sexual assault with a weapon, and forcible confinement in 2020 at which time he was placed on a 10-year Long Term Supervision Order which expires in October 2030.

Abrosimo poses a risk of significant harm to the safety of adolescent and adult women, including strangers, and acquaintances.

He is bound by the terms of his Long-Term Supervision Order which includes a number of conditions. Abrosimo is to abide by a curfew and he will have an electronic su-



Brian Abrosimo

pervision agreement. Surrey RCMP informed that it will be working in partnership with the Correc-

tional Service of Canada's Community Corrections and other stakeholders to monitor Brian Abrosimo's progress.

Surrey Mayor while expressing outrage at the release of this offender said in a statement, "It is outrageous that a convicted violent sex offender that is deemed to be at a high-risk to re-offend is being released into Surrey, a city that has more children per capita than anywhere in the province. Brian Abrosimo is a child predator that raped an 11-year-old girl in Langley. A judge called Abrosimo's offences 'the most heinous and grave crimes known to our society' and it is reprehensible that this dangerous sex predator is being released into our community. Abrosimo's release into Surrey is yet another blatant example of what is wrong with our justice system. I ask that our residents to be extra vigilant and take safety precautions, as Abrosimo poses a significant risk to children and women in Surrey."

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Road Widening and Improvements to Surrey's 80 Avenue Completed

The City of Surrey has completed the second phase of road widening and other improvements to 80 Avenue, a key east-west corridor in Newton. As part of this phase, the road has been repaved and widened from 2 to 4 travel lanes between 120 and 128 Streets. Other improvements included the installation of a new traffic signal at 122 Street, a new pedestrian crossing at 126 Street, and two-way left-turn lanes, where possible, to allow full movement access to the commercial businesses along the corridor. New multi-use paths for



safer cycling and walking have also been completed. "I'm happy to see these vital upgrades completed to 80 Avenue

in Newton, which serves our City's most populous town centre," said Mayor Brenda Locke. "Improvements along this corri-

dor were needed to help reduce congestion, prepare for future growth, and increase access and road safety for all road users including cyclists and pedestrians. I thank TransLink for their support on this much-needed project." Click here to see a map of the improvements. "TransLink proudly helps to make sustainable transportation easier by investing in cycling and walking paths throughout Metro Vancouver," said Kevin Quinn, CEO of TransLink. "This upgrade will not only encourage people of all ages to walk and cycle more – but it will also help

Newton residents more easily connect with the new R6 Rapid-Bus on Scott Road and 80 Avenue." The first phase of the project involved widening to 4 lanes on 80 Avenue from 128 to 132 Streets and was completed in 2018. Now that phase 2 is complete, the third and final phase of the project is set to begin in early 2024 and will involve widening to 4 travel lanes from 132 Street to King George Boulevard. The project total cost for this segment is \$11M. For more information on 80 Avenue Improvements projects, visit surrey.ca/80Avenue.

Surrey People Want Transportation, Policing And Public Safety As Top Budget Priorities

The City of Surrey recently completed public engagement for the 2024 budget, reaching over 50,000 community members through an online survey, in-person open houses, and a variety of digital outreach efforts. The engagement included sharing information on the budget process, as well as gathering vital community input on spending priorities and preferred funding approaches. An engagement summary report was received at the Regular Council Meeting on November 20. "Ensuring open and effective community engagement as part of our budget planning is a high priority for this Council," said Mayor Brenda Locke. "It's important to ensure we have good processes in place that provide opportunities for the community to share input on priorities and future directions and tell us what matters most to them as we begin work on the 2024 budget." The combined open houses and online surveys generated over 3,300 in person visits and

responses. Additionally, more than 50,000 community members were informed about the project by visiting the engagement webpage, receiving an e-newsletter, or viewing posts on the City's social channels. According to City of Surrey, "Engagement findings revealed that respondents' top priorities for the upcoming budget include transportation, policing and public safety and engineering infrastructure (including roads and transportation). Key emerging priorities to consider were housing supply and affordability, homelessness and sustainable transportation." Respondents also provided feedback on funding options for the budget, with the highest level of support shown for maintaining existing programs and services with a combination of increasing user fees and property taxes. Survey results revealed that awareness of the budget and process was 8% higher than the previous 2023 budget engagement held in January.

Continued on page 12

Robert Costanzo appointed as New Surrey City Manager

Surrey Council has appointed Robert Costanzo as the City of Surrey's new City Manager. "On behalf of Council, I am delighted to announce that Robert Costanzo has been appointed as the new City Manager for the City of Surrey," said Mayor Brenda Locke. "Rob has an impressive 30 years of dedicated service, giving him a diversity of operational knowledge and deep understanding of the City's values, goals and priorities. He has played a pivotal role in shaping Surrey's growth and success over the years. A proven leader and is undoubtedly the right person to lead Surrey into the next chapter of our City's evolution. Council and I look forward to working with Rob to bring Surrey to even greater heights. Please join me in congratulating Rob in his well-deserved new role." Prior to taking on the acting role of City Manager, Rob Costanzo was

the General Manager of Corporate Services for six years, overseeing areas of Bylaw Services, Human Resources, Information Technology, Legislative Services and Legal Services. Mr. Costanzo has also held different positions, including senior leadership roles within the Engineering Department. "It is with the utmost gratitude that I step into the role of City Manager," said Rob Costanzo. "I want to express my sincere thanks to Council for this incredible opportunity. With my wide range of experience and extensive knowledge of the City, I look forward to working together with Council to make continued positive impacts in Surrey and pave a bright future for our citizens." Rob Costanzo has been Acting City Manager since August 2023. He was appointed after Vincent Lalonde announced his retirement after 26 years with the City of Surrey.



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Man Charged In Murder Of Indian Food delivery driver

A young person has been arrested and charged in relation to the murder of an Indian international student. The Youth Criminal Justice Act (Y.C.J.A.) prohibits the release of the name of a Young Person and, therefore, the identities of the Young Persons charged in this investigation are protected. On Sunday, July 9, 2023, at 2:10 a.m., the victim, Gurvinder Nath, from Brampton, was working as a food delivery driver in the area of Britannia Road and Creditview Road in the City of Mississauga. Upon arriving at the delivery address, the victim was confront-

ed by unknown suspects who attempted to take his vehicle when a physical altercation occurred. The suspects fled the scene in the victim's vehicle, leaving the victim at the side of the road with life-threatening injuries. The victim was transported to a trauma centre, where he later succumbed to his injuries.

Police arrested a young person in relation to the homicide. He has been charged with Second Degree Murder and held in custody to appear before the Ontario Court of Justice in Brampton. A GoFundMe page was created to raise money for his funeral.

The page mentioned that Nath came to Canada in 2021 as an International Student. His address in India is VPO Karimpur Chahwala, Balachaur, SBS Nagar, Punjab, India.

Peel Region Police said, "This remains an active investigation; anyone with information or video footage (dashcam or otherwise) is urged to contact investigators in the Homicide and Missing Persons Bureau at 905-453-2121 extension 3205. Anonymous information may also be submitted by calling Peel Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477) or by visiting peelcrimestoppers.ca."



Surrey's Prabhraj Rai Charged In Real Estate Fraud

The Surrey RCMP Financial Crimes unit (FCU) conducted an investigation that has resulted in a man being charged with fraud allegedly involving millions of dollars. On January 14, 2021, the Surrey FCU began an investigation into a fraud spanning from 2015 to 2021 after a victim came forward to police, alleging they had lost several million dollars in real-estate investment opportunities.

Police gathered information and evidence as part of a long-term investigation and determined that between October 9, 2015 and July 20 2018, the 34-year-old man allegedly committed large scale financial frauds.

On November 21, 2023, Prabhraj Rai was arrested and charged with Fraud Over \$5,000.

Prabhraj Rai has been released by the courts on conditions while awaiting his next court appearance.

Continued from Page 01

US prevented plot to kill Gurpatwant Singh Pannun:...

There was no official comment from the US DoJ, Federal Bureau of Investigation and the National Security Council (NSC).

The report did not specify whether the conspiracy was abandoned or foiled. Pannu was in the news here after the National Investigation Agency booked him for asking Sikhs not to fly on Air India planes because it was "life threatening". "It has been raised by the U.S. Government with the Indian Government, including at the senior-most levels," NSC spokesperson Adrienne Watson said in

the statement when asked about the FT report.

"Indian counterparts expressed surprise and concern. They stated that activity of this nature was not their policy. Based on discussion with senior U.S. Government officials, we understand the Indian government is further investigating this issue and will have more to say about it in the coming days," Watson said, adding that the Biden administration had "conveyed our expectation that anyone deemed responsible should be held accountable."

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Police Warn Business Owners Of Attempted Extortions

The Abbotsford Police, Surrey RCMP and the Vancouver Police Department have received reports, or heard rumours on social media and radio stations, about business owners receiving extortion threats. Surrey RCMP has become aware of extortions targeting business owners throughout the Lower Mainland and is encouraging anyone who may be a victim to call police. "If you are a business owner in Surrey and have received any threats either directly or indirectly, we strongly encourage you to call Surrey RCMP," says Surrey RCMP Media Relations Officer Corporal Sarbjit Sangha. "It has come to our attention that some potential victims have spoken with local media and have

not made police reports. In order for police to investigate these incidents, they must be reported." Surrey RCMP is actively liaising with partner agencies throughout the Lower Mainland. If you are targeted in an extortion attempt, do not engage with the suspect and do not send any money, instead contact police immediately. Over the last week, the Abbotsford Police too has become aware of multiple businesses receiving the same letter requesting they pay money in exchange for protection from future violence. The letter cites recent reported events in Abbotsford, yet no connection has been confirmed. "Our preliminary investigation indicates that these letters may

have been sent en masse to commercial businesses. The letter is generic in nature and does not specify the business recipient or indicate a method of payment, contact, or communication. Based on the nature of the letter, the AbbyPD wants to remind members of our community not to engage with suspect(s). In this instance, the letter targets multiple businesses in the hopes that one will engage with the suspect(s)," Cst. Art Stele Media Relations Officer, Abbotsford Police Department. The AbbyPD Major Crime Unit has assumed conduct of the investigation and asks any other businesses or victims who may have received this letter to contact the Abbotsford Police Department at 604-859-5225.

Continued from Page 03

MP Chandra Arya...

"Allowing these things to continue openly and publicly is not acceptable," he said. Maninder Singh Gill, CEO, Radio India, said, "I strongly condemn this terrorist threat to Hindu place of worship. I urge the Government of Canada, RCMP & CSIS to take preventive steps to stop these criminals from attacking the Lakshmi Narayan Mandir on 29 November, 2023. This threat should be seen considering the fact that Lakshmi Narayan Mandir has already been a target of hate crimes twice in the past few weeks. The Government of Canada and security agencies should restore confidence in



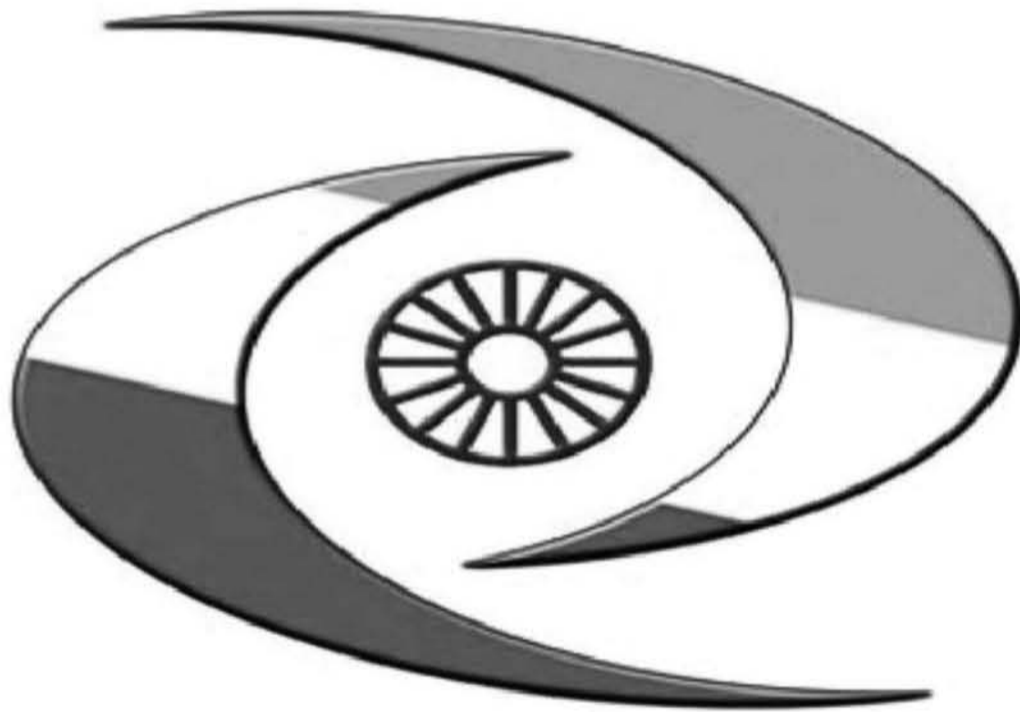
Maninder Singh Gill, CEO, Radio India

the Hindu community that the law of the land will be upheld."

Continued from Page 01

Payal Business Centre attacked

the police said, at approximately 11:08 a.m. Surrey RCMP received the report of an armed robbery at a business located in the 8100-block of 128 Street. One person sustained non-life-threatening injuries and was transported to hospital. Frontline officers arrived on scene within minutes of the call, and additional officers began making patrols in surrounding areas. The suspects were not located, and based on the initial information, police believe that the suspects fled in a dark coloured pick-up truck. On November 23rd in early morning hours shots were fired at another business in same plaza. Surrey RCMP received a report that a business located in the 8100-block of 128 Street had been shot at. Police attended the scene and located evidence consistent with a shooting. The police informed that the business was closed at the time of the incident and no injuries were reported. Initial information indicates that this was a targeted incident the police said. At this point in the investigation there is no evidence to linking it to the robbery that occurred in the same area on Wednesday morning. "We are aware that two recent incidents within the same complex raises concerns in our community," said, Surrey RCMP Media Relations Officer, Corporal Vanessa Munn. "Our South Community Response Unit has been engaged, will be increasing patrols in the area as well as meeting with local businesses to discuss their concerns." Anyone with information is asked to contact Surrey RCMP at 604-599-0502.



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Guru Nanak Food Bank Honored with Community Impact Award



TSAWWASSEN, Delta: Guru Nanak Food Bank was awarded the prestigious Community Impact Award at the Delta Chamber of Commerce Excellence Awards 2023.

The award was presented to the organization in recognition of its outstanding contributions to the community and its relentless efforts to combat hunger and food insecurity.

The award ceremony took place on last night at Tsawwassen Delta and was attended by a distinguished gathering of individuals and dignitaries, including Mayor of Delta Georgie Harvie, MLA Ian Paton, DPD officer Jaspreet (Jessy) Sahota, and many others who have played an integral role in the community.

The Board of Directors of Guru Nanak Food Bank, including Narinder Singh Walia, Inderjit Dhillon, Anup Loodu, Bill Sandhu, Neeraj Walia, and Surinder Manj, were present at the event to accept the award on behalf of the organization. In

his acceptance speech, GNFB Secretary Neeraj Walia expressed heartfelt gratitude to the dedicated volunteers who have tirelessly worked to ensure that no one in the community goes hungry.

Neeraj Walia also emphasized the crucial role played by Guru Nanak Food Bank and extended gratitude to Mayor Harvie for the unwavering support of the City Council and the Mayor's office, without which their mission would not have been possible.

The Community Impact Award serves as a testament to the significant and meaningful work undertaken by Guru Nanak Food Bank in addressing hunger and food insecurity within the community. The organization remains committed to its mission of making a positive impact and enhancing the well-being of those in need.

Guru Nanak Food Bank wishes to extend its heartfelt thanks to the Delta Chamber of Commerce for recognizing their dedication and impact on the community.

Continued from Page 01

Surrey Mayor refuses to accept...

minister the authority to cancel the existing agreement between the Province and the City of Surrey for the RCMP's services and providing government the ability to appoint an administrator to assume the functions of the Surrey Police Board to manage the Surrey Police Service.

Last week Farnworth announced the appointment of Mike Serr as the administrator of the Surrey Police Board to assume the functions of the board. All members of the Surrey Police Board of which Mayor Locke was chair were suspended.

Locke in retaliation announced that the city will be amending its original petition and challenging the Province's amendments to the policing act and suspension of the Surrey Police Board. The change to the legal documents shows the city is also asking the court to quash B.C. Solicitor General Mike Farnworth's appointment of Serr last week. "This government does not have the right to run roughshod on every local government that doesn't bend to their will," she said.

"The province continues to take drastic measures to force Surrey into an expensive police transition, now removing civilian and local oversight of policing in spite of the will of voters and their elected

government," said Locke.

"This takeover of policing by the province will cost Surrey taxpayers hundreds of millions of dollars, and result in a double-digit, NDP imposed tax increase."

Over the next decade, the province's police transition is estimated to cost at least \$464 million with no additional public safety benefit to the residents of Surrey.

Locke said residents could be facing a 20 per cent tax hike to change to a municipal force, adding that the costs would not be a one-time increase but "generational."

She said the province had previously said on several occasions that the decision on Surrey policing was up to the city, and that led Locke to run for mayor.

"Now, they have removed civilian oversight on policing and installed another police officer to carry out this expensive, disorganized transition," said Locke.

Ironically, the mayor's only argument for keeping the RCMP in Surrey is to save tax payer's money. Whereas the Mayor is being criticized for wasting tax payer's money in procrastinating the policing transition from RCMP to Surrey Police Service. Every counter step to stop the transition is putting an extra burden on Surrey residents as they are paying to maintain two police forces in one jurisdiction.

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AWARD WINNING PHOTOGRAPHY BY Kulbir Mahi

Gaba Travel Announces New Branch in Surrey



Gaba Travel, a well-known name amongst travelers since 1976, has announced the soft opening of its latest branch located at Unit 105 – 9288 120 Street, Surrey, BC. According to the company, this expansion not only signifies Gaba Travel's growth but also reestablishes its presence in Surrey, demonstrating a commitment to bringing top-notch travel services closer to the community.

"Our new Surrey branch represents our enduring dedication to exceptional travel services," stated Ravinder Gaba, President of Gaba Travel. "This launch marks a significant step in our journey, bringing personalized and unforgettable

travel experiences closer to our clients."

The new Surrey branch is dedicated to creating unforgettable travel experiences, offering a wide range of services from peaceful vacation packages to essential business trips and adventurous global escapades, added Ravinder Gaba.

He informed that the expert team in Surrey is equipped to provide personalized travel solutions. Gaba Travel is known for its emphasis on building lasting relationships with clients, ensuring each journey is tailored to individual preferences and needs.

Gaba Travel is inviting customers to visit the new Surrey branch,

the only Gaba Travel location in the area. "Our team of friendly travel consultants is eager to assist clients in exploring a comprehensive range of travel services and planning their next adventure," he said.

It's important to note that the new location at 9288 120 Street is the sole Gaba Travel branch in Surrey. Gaba Travel has been connecting clients to the world since 1976 and is excited to continue this journey from its new Surrey location. For more information or to start planning your travel, contact Gaba Travel at 604 954 3336 or visit our Surrey location page. The company looks forward to welcoming clients to its new

Surrey home.

Gaba Travel, a family-owned business, has been a symbol of trust and quality in travel services since 1976. With over 45 years of experience, Gaba Travel has become a trusted name in travel, not just for trips to India but for a wide array of destinations and experiences worldwide.

From special destination weddings to family vacations on sun-kissed beaches, Gaba Travel offers unique travel experiences. Catering to diverse needs, our services include Alaskan, Bahamas, Mediterranean and global cruises, vibrant bachelor or bachelorette parties, and tranquil honeymoons. We provide a range

of options from bustling cities to serene beach retreats.

"Driven by customer satisfaction, our team helps turn travel dreams into reality, crafting joyous stories and lasting memories. For personalized travel solutions and to learn more, visit our social media page. Contact us to explore the perfect vacation, connecting you to the world in memorable ways," said a release from the business.

Continued from Page 04

PICS Society Inaugurates...

"We have heard multiple stories of international students and they are very challenging and some even lead to death because they just give up. PICS is committed to ensure a supportive ecosystem for students, no matter where they are coming from" said Anita Huberman.

In addition to the unveiling of the ISU office, PICS showcased an array of free programs and services already in place for international students:

1. International Credential Recognition Program
2. Foreign Credential

- Recognition (FCR) Loans Program
3. RBC Helping Youth Preparing for Employment (HYPE) Program
4. PICS Intercultural Volunteer Hub (IVH) Program
5. Access to Legal Empowerment (ALE)
6. BCSIS Settlement & Integration Program
7. International Student Support Program
8. Skills for Success Survey Project

"We want to break the barrier that international students have with the local community,



Support from PICS, City of Surrey and SBOT means a lot to us," mentioned Jashan. The CEO & President of PICS Society, Mr. Satbir Cheema said; "Despite the challenges of limited government funding, we have been unwavering in our dedication to international students, offering eight diverse programs and services to help them secure jobs and settle

successfully in Canada. This initiative of providing a dedicated space to the International Student Union at PICS premises, marks a significant step in expanding our impact. We believe that this collaborative effort will further propagate our mission, fostering success and integration for international students in Canada."

Continued from Page 08

Surrey People Want...

This outcome supported one of the City's primary goals: to broaden awareness of the budget process among all community members.

The full engagement results were included in a corporate report submitted to Surrey City Council on Monday, November 20. The 2024-2028 Five Year Financial Plan will be drafted for Finance Committee review and consideration. The draft financial plan will be available for public comment before Council considers final adoption in early 2024 (target timeframe).

View the full engagement report and learn more about the budget engagement process at surrey.ca/budget2024.



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Celebrating Prakash Utsav of Guru Nanak Devi on April 14



By Dr. Kala Singh

Though Sikhs around the world celebrate Vaisakhi on April 14, Prakash Utsav of Guru Nanak is also April 14. Shiromani Gurdwara Prabandhak Committee website also says the same. For some reason, it is celebrated on Kartik Purnima. This article is to create awareness of celebrating Prakash Utsav of Guru Nanak on April 14.

Guru Nanak travelled extensively for 25 years of his life teaching people the message of one God who dwells in every one of His creations and constitutes the eternal Truth. He set up a unique spiritual, social, and political platform

based on equality, fraternal love, goodness, and virtues.

There are 974 Shabds of Guru Nanak in the Guru Granth Sahib, with some of the major being the Japji Sahib, the Asa Di Vaar and the Sidh-Ghost. They give answers to the religious and social problems of that time and even today.

He rejected all the old beliefs, rituals and practices of that time and needs to be rejected even today. His teachings are universal for humanity, which are as relevant today as they were at that time.

When Guru Nanak was born Moguls were ruling over majority Hindu population of India. Moslems being rulers considered themselves to be superior to Hindus. Hindus themselves were also divided among themselves based on their castes.

All of this was causing tension and stress and mental health prob-



lems in society. First sermon of Guru Nanak in 1499 AD was: "No one is Hindu or Moslem. We all are children of one God, so are equal." He declared the brotherhood of mankind and the fatherhood of God. Thus Guru Nanak laid the foundation of 'Human Rights for All' at that time. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights was adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations on 10 December 1948. Even

today people are being tortured, massacred everywhere in the world because of their religion, caste, race, colour and gender.

When asked in Mecca by Hajjis is Hindu great or Moslem, Guru Nanak replied that neither Hindu nor Moslem is great. It is your deeds, that make you great, not the religion. Even today atrocities are being committed in the name of religion. Many are suffering from mental health issues because of this discrimination.

The majority of world religions had placed women in a secondary position to men. This had been a major cause of conflict, frustration and stress among women. Guru Nanak gave women social equality and religious freedom. He said, "Why call woman low who, give birth to kings and all." Colorado in USA was the first state to adopt an amendment granting women the right to vote in 1893. Mich-

igan, South Dakota, Oklahoma were last in 1918. Guru Nanak gave them equal rights in 1499.

Even today women all over the world are considered second class citizen and are even paid less than a man for the same job. Still atrocities like rape, burning alive for dowry, are being committed on women.

Guru Nanak neither accepted other's viewpoints forcibly nor forced His ideas onto others. He always reasoned and made others understand His viewpoint. He visited numerous places of Hindu and Moslem worships to explain and expose through His reasoning and preaching, fruitlessness of their ritualistic practices.

Today again there is need to reason and not to force our ideas onto others. If all of us and more so world leaders adopt this, many of our conflicts and that of the world at large with accompanying mental health problems can be prevented and solved as well. This can be used at family level also. Our children want to reason about everything we do and we should explain rather forcing them. This can reduce the conflict between parents and children.

Guru Nanak lived by example. Whatever He preached, He lived by that. It teaches us that we should be role models for others. We should live the life we want others to live. That is true for parents and leaders in the society.

Guru Nanak taught us that we should give up our pride, ego, Haumai and be humble. He said that Haumai is a chronic disease. Most of the conflicts in the world today and at our homes are due to Haumai, ego. Ego-bound individuals get stress and mental health problems and give stress and mental health problems to others. Learning to control ego, Haumai, by accepting humility as prescribed by Guru Nanak can directly improve the mental health of the individual and the community as well.

Conclusion: If the human race is not divided on the basis of caste, creed, color, religion and gender and there is equality of all human beings; if we can give up ego, pride, haumai and be humble as taught by Guru Nanak, many of our problems can be prevented and resolved.

We should respect other cultures and deliver services in culturally sensitive way as prescribed by Guru Nanak. If everyone practices these values, stress, wars and conflicts with their accompanying mental health problems like Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), Depression and Anxiety we are witnessing today could be prevented and even solved. These are a few of many teachings of Guru Nanak which are even relevant today. The need of the day is to enable these to reach mankind all over the world.

Dr. Kala Singh MBBS from Delhi University, India. He gives Sikh religious and spiritual counseling and psychotherapy to clients with stress and mental health problems. For more information, he can be contacted at 604 327 5253.

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<p>14103 110 AVE., N.SURREY</p>  <p>SOLD</p> <p>Truly delightful home on a large lot. Home sits on rectangular lot 11 bedrooms & 10 washrooms built in 2017. Main floor has 5 bedrooms & 4 full washrooms. Kitchen & spa kitchen. Ground level has a media room with bar & washroom for upstairs. Home has 3 spacious ground level basement suites (3 bed, 4 bed & Lachelor suite). Total rent of the suites is \$3500/month. Very nice tenants. Easy access to Pattullo bridge, Port Mann bridge & shopping center. Motivated sellers. Easy to show.</p> <p>\$1,779,000</p>	<p>26964 28 AVE., LANGLEY</p>  <p>SOLD</p> <p>Truly delightful entry home sits on rectangular lot in desirable Langley Meadows. Home features 3 bedrooms, new windows, new kitchen with granite counters, new tile new cabinet, new washrooms & much more. Newly built 3 bedroom unauthorised to be rented. Suite with rear separate entry. Excellent renovated covered 333 sq ft patio & deck. Landscaped front & fully fenced back yard. Storage shed. Walking distance to both schools, shopping, community center with pool, water park, ice arena, playing fields to all major routes. A must see to appreciate.</p> <p>\$920,000</p>	<p>5235 UPLAND DRIVE</p>  <p>SOLD</p> <p>This 4 bed / 4 bath on a large lot has outstanding 2nd floor views all the way to the Shore. Above garage reno added in 2001 and original no. 2014 including solarium, upstairs bathroom, master bedroom with a like ensuite. No expense spared with 2 way see through fireplace with jetted Chromotherapy/Arthrotherapy tub. Large walk in shower with rain head and body sprays. Enjoy the outdoor view in a private back yard with mature Palm and bamboo trees while you lounge around the concrete pool with attached hot tub. Pool is solar heated as well as gas and the yard is</p> <p>\$1,635,000</p>
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<p>62 15175 62A AVENUE</p>  <p>NEW LISTING OPEN HOUSE NOV 26 FROM 2-4 \$919,000</p> <p>FULLY RENOVATED! Beautiful 3 bed townhouse with TWO entrances 1st entry from 62a ave through backyard with no stairs - All new kitchen high end appl., granite waterfall countertop, backsplash, country sink and faucets. Elegant wide plank vinyl flooring resists kids, pets and spills! New electric fireplace and custom built walnut wall unit perfect for entertainment and storage. Upstairs features 3 good size beds, lush bedroom, and updated washer/dryer.</p>	<p>19913 72 AVE LANGLEY</p>  <p>NEW LISTING</p> <p>House with basement suite and a coach home Potential rent \$5000 or more per month (3 separate rental units)</p> <p>\$1,849,000</p>	<p>UNIT 34 - 1010 EWEN AVE NEW WEST</p>  <p>NEW LISTING OPEN HOUSE NOV 25 FROM 2-4 \$849,000</p> <p>Hot location in New Westminster! Just minutes from Walmart shopping outlet and restaurants, 10 min to Richmond, 10 min to Metrotown. Walking distance to Queen Elizabeth School. Corner unit townhouse w/spacious layout. Spacious 3 bedroom and 2.5 bathroom. Shows beautifully! Living and dining room faces inside of complex and the other side has kitchen, family room and a den with large balcony for family entertainment.</p>
<p>217 20696 EASTLEIGH CRESCENT</p>  <p>NEW LISTING \$699,000</p> <p>Welcome to The Georgia, Langley's newest collection of homes centrally located in Langley City close to shops, restaurants, parks, schools and walking distance to the future Skytrain. Modern open concept designs, featuring inviting 9ft ceilings, high-quality laminate flooring, air conditioning in the master bedrooms, and granite stone kitchen countertops. Contact sales for more information! Don't miss out, only a handful of homes remaining!</p>	<p>19917 72 AVE LANGLEY</p>  <p>NEW LISTING</p> <p>House with basement suite All rent potential approx \$3000 per month Open house Sunday 1-4</p> <p>\$1,599,998</p> <p>SOLD</p>	<p>11516 PARKWOOD PLACE DELTA</p>  <p>NEW LISTING \$1,499,000</p> <p>Check out this well maintained, beautifully updated basement entry home in the Heart of North Delta. Main floor boasts 3 bedrooms, 2 bath, spacious living room/dining room, beautiful kitchen, sundeck. Downstairs features 2 bedroom legal suite with separate entry. Single garage and driveway can fit up to 4 cars. Steps away from Qualmer Elementary and Burnside Secondary, Sun God Rec Centre, transit, shopping and parks.</p>
<p>5105 ABERDEEN ST., VAN</p>  <p>\$1,495,000</p> <p>Beautiful Corner House in the most desired area of Collingwood. Upstairs features three bedrooms and two full bathrooms. Open with a good size family room with fireplace and a large dining area. Ground level has a media room and a bathroom. Full basement with 2 bedrooms and 1 bathroom. Comes with a large fenced backyard. Walk in closets. Below is very large recreation room with a 4th bed and comes with a full bath. Large backyard approx 300 SQ FT. Double side by side car garage, additional 1 car parking. New Paint, Professionally Cleaned Carpet. Close to all amenities, superstore, restaurants and very easy access to the highway as well. This is a must see.</p> <p>SOLD</p>	<p>#37-8358 121A ST., SURREY</p>  <p>\$699,000</p> <p>Welcome to Kennedy Trails. This house checks all the boxes. Cost effective & environmentally friendly. BETHERTHAL Heating System, E-Star windows. Three large bedrooms, 2 full bath, large dining area. Granite counter tops, large kitchen with granite island and a breakfast bar. Master Bed, walk in closets. Below is very large recreation room with a 4th bed and comes with a full bath. Large backyard approx 300 SQ FT. Double side by side car garage, additional 1 car parking. New Paint, Professionally Cleaned Carpet. Close to all amenities, superstore, restaurants and very easy access to the highway as well. This is a must see.</p> <p>SOLD</p>	<p>9750 128 ST., SURREY</p>  <p>\$999,900</p> <p>Sold 6 bed and 2 bath home in the heart of Surrey. A perfect starter home for first time buyers, large lot, 5 bedrooms, 2 full bath, kitchen with granite island, master bedroom with ensuite laundry room. Freshly painted, Downstairs comes with 3 bed, 1 den, 1 bath and kitchen. Lots of parking at the front and back. Detached garage. Some recent reno include roof, windows, paint.</p> <p>SOLD</p>
<p>#51-7090 180 ST., SURREY</p>  <p>SOLD</p> <p>Sold in 7 days \$185,000 over asking</p>		



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Richmond Multicultural Community Services Celebrates Diwali

By Balwant Sanghera

Richmond Multicultural Community Services (RMCS) celebrated Diwali on Tuesday, November 14 with a great deal of excitement. This community organization has been serving the residents and new-comers to Richmond since 1985.

Its volunteers enjoy helping out with various activities and programs. Like every other celebration, the RMCS staff and management worked very hard in making this year's celebration a great success.

It was a truly multicultural audience. The entire premises were brimming with enthusiasm. The audience consisted of all ages children and adults. Co-ordinator of Settlement Programs for RMCS, Ashok Rattan, welcomed the attendees and gave a brief overview of the program.

A number of elected representatives including MPs Wilson Miao, Parm Bains, MLAs Henry Yao, Kelly Green, Teresa Wat, school trustees Rod Belleza, Alice Wong and David Yang and many others graced the occasion.

All of them brought greetings and presented certificates of appreciation to the RMCS. It was a great honour for me to give a brief overview of Diwali celebrations in different communities and its significance in the current situation in the world. This festival of lights is the South Asian version of Christmas. This celebration



Richmond MLAs-Kelly Green, Teresa Wat and Henry Yao (first on right) as well as Richmond School Trustee Rod Belleza, keynote speaker Balwant Sanghera and other guest at RMCS Diwali Celebrations

signifies the victory of light over darkness, good over evil and knowledge over ignorance.

For Hindus, it represents the return of Lord Rama to his kingdom of Ayudhya in central India after spending 14 years in exile. Sikhs celebrate the festival as Bandi Chhor Divas or the Prisoner Liberation Day. On this day, guru Hargobind ji, the sixth Guru of the Sikh faith returned to Amritsar after being released from the Gwalior Fort prison. When Mughal Emperor Jehangir realized his mistake of imprisoning Guru ji on falsehoods, he respectfully released him from prison along with 52 chieftains. As such, it is known as the Bandi Chhor Diwas by the Sikhs.

Jains celebrate this day as it signifies the attainment of Moksha or salvation by their founder Mahavir. Similarly, this day is also celebrated by many other communities including Newar Bud-

dhists must be commended for celebrating special festivals and days like this.

Like previous years, this year's celebration also attracted a large number of people. A lot of New Canadians including international students were also present for the festivities.

The RMCS staff did an excellent job in providing very enjoyable entertainment and delicious food for the attendees. In the current environment of turmoil and conflict in the world celebrations like this have added significance. On such occasions we realize as to how fortunate we are to live in a peaceful, welcoming and inclusive country like Canada.

Balwant Sanghera is a retired School Psychologist and Community Activist



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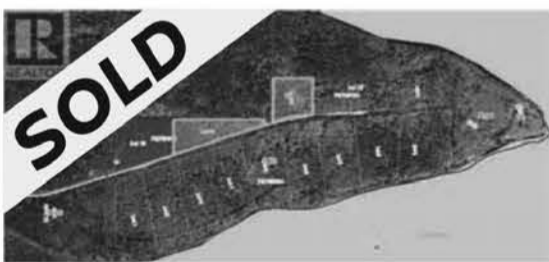
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Dhahan Prize Announces First Female Winner Of \$25K Award, Two Finalists Of \$10K Each

The world's signature prize for Punjabi fiction announced its first female winner, Deepti Babuta, of a \$25,000 CAD award. Alongside her, Jameel Ahmad Paul and Balijit were awarded \$10,000 CAD each as two finalists. The Dhahan Prize is the largest international literary award for fiction books in the Punjabi language.

"In Punjabi arts and literary circles, women are often underrepresented," says Barj Dhahan, founder of the Prize. "We started this award with an open system to consider any new works of fiction in the Punjabi language, from any author of any background. We are proud to say that after 10 years, we are announcing our first female winner, based solely on the quality of work produced."

Awardees were presented with their awards, along with a hand-crafted trophy, during the 10th annual Dhahan Prize for Punjabi Literature ceremonies, held November 16, 2023, at Northview Golf and Country Club in Surrey. Part of the ceremony included Minister of Education and Child Care Rachna Singh and City of Surrey Mayor Brenda Locke presenting Proclamations of "Punjabi Literature Week" in their respective jurisdictions.

Babuta (Mohali, Punjab, India), received the winning award for her short story collection, 'Bhukh Eon Sah Laindi Hai' ('Hunger Breathes Like This'). Babuta said, "Words are my life. But today I am speechless. This achievement is not



mine alone. It is of every woman who starts fighting the war of her dreams from home. Then, she fights for opportunities in the world and shows she can succeed." Ahmad Paul (Lahore, Punjab, Pakistan), came in as a finalist for his short story collection, 'Mendal Da Qanoon' ('Mendelian Rules'), written in the Shahmukhi script.

Ahmad Paul shared, "The happiest day in my life was when Zubair Ahmad and then Barj Dhahan phoned me with the news I had been waiting to hear... Writing in Punjabi has been my meditation. And more so now because my book of stories has been awarded the Dhahan Prize."

Balijit (Mohali, Punjab, India) was a finalist for his short story collection, 'Uchian Awazan' ('Clarion Calls').

Continued on page 24

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Cop Killed As Nihangs Clash Over Gurdwara Takeover In Punjab's Kapurthala



A Punjab Police cop died after being hit by a bullet on Thursday morning as he was on duty to check the ongoing tension between two groups of Nihangs over taking possession of Gurdwara Akal Bunga, Tribune Reported.

The gurdwara is located in front of the historical Gurdwara Ber Sahib. According to Tribune report, "The gurdwara was under the control of Baba Budha Dal led by Nihang Balbir Singh for the past few years. His two sewadars, Nirwair Singh and Jagjit Singh, were deputed here. On November 21 morning, Nihang Maan Singh, who leads a

splinter group of the same jatha of Nihangs, entered the gurdwara premises, took both sewadars captive, and tried to take over the control of the gurdwara. On a complaint by Jagjit Singh, a case was lodged against Nihang Maan Singh and 15-20 of his accomplices."

A Nihang, who had positioned himself on top of a tree, is learnt to have fired shots, one of which hit havildar Jaspal Singh, who was on duty there. The cop hails from Maniala village of Kapurthala. Several other cops also got injured. Senior police officials reached the spot after the incident.

41 Workers Trapped In A Collapsed Tunnel In India

The rescue of 41 construction workers who have been trapped in a collapsed tunnel in Uttarkashi in northern India for nearly two weeks ran into another delay during what was described as the final phase of digging to reach them, officials said.

The platform of the drilling machine got destabilized while piercing through rock debris, and technicians need to fix it before the rescue operation can resume, Kirti Panwar, a spokesperson for the Uttarakhand state government, said.

The workers have been trapped since Nov. 12, when a landslide caused a portion of the 4.5-kilometer (2.8-mile) tunnel they were building to collapse about 200 meters (650 feet) from the entrance.

Engineers have been digging for days to drive a steel pipe through 57 metres (187 feet) of earth, concrete and rubble that has divided the men from freedom since a portion of the under-construction tunnel caved in on 12 November, in the state of Uttarakhand.

After days of painfully slow progress, engineers with a powerful drilling machine made a sudden rapid advance on Wednesday, before being slowed, with just 12 metres to go, when metal rods blocked the route.

Uttarakhand chief minister Pushkar Singh Dhami said the work was on a "war footing", with a "team of doctors, ambulances, helicopters and a field hospital" set up.

Continued from Page 23

Dhahan Prize Announces First Female Winner Of \$25K Award...

He noted, "Every Punjabi writer, whether living in West and East Punjab, or other corners of the world, dreams to have the Dhahan Prize come knocking on their door. As a writer and an ordinary man, I am happy and proud to have my book... be a finalist for this year's Dhahan Prize."

Since its launch in 2013 by the Canada India Education Society (CIES) and the University of British Columbia (UBC), the Prize has garnered critical acclaim and significant exposure for aspiring and established writers, setting the stage for their books to reach broader, multilingual audiences.

The Dhahan Prize was established in

Vancouver, British Columbia, where Punjabi people, language, and culture have a rich history. Punjabi is now the 3rd most spoken language in Canada, and is a strong thread in the multicultural fabric of the nation.

The Prize's presenting partner is RBC Foundation. Barj and Rita Dhahan, along with their family and friends, are primary funders. 2023 sponsors included RBC Dominion Securities - Harj & Darshan Grewal, G.L. Smith Planning and Design Inc., Westland Insurance, CIBC, Adrian Keenan Personal Real Estate Corporation (ReMax, Mayne-Pender), Esso and Tim Hortons.



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Legislative Changes To Bring Fairness To App-Based Gig Workers

VICTORIA – BC has introduced a new legislation to bring in better working conditions and extend minimum employment standards for app-based ride-hailing and food-delivery gig workers.

The changes address the priority concerns workers have raised such as low and unpredictable wages, being cut off from the job without warning and a lack of workers' compensation coverage if injured on the job.

Amendments will be made to the Employment Standards Act (ESA) and the Workers Compensation Act (WCA) to define online platform workers and to ensure that ride-hail and food-delivery workers will be considered employees, specifically for the purposes of the ESA and WCA. App-based food-delivery workers include those who deliver food or other goods through an app that matches customer orders with a delivery courier. Government estimates there are currently approximately 11,000 ride-hailing drivers and 27,000 food-delivery workers in B.C.

These proposed legislative amendments do not require formal employment relationships between app-based workers and the platform companies. Instead, the amendments outline that these workers will be considered employees for the purposes of Employment Standards Act and Workers Compensation Act, whether they are employees or independent contractors. A set of employment standards will be established to bring fairness and predictability to these types of jobs through new regulations that can be reviewed over time and improved if needed.

"Last week, I announced several proposed solutions that respond to the needs



Harry Bains, Minister of Labour

of the workers who deliver our meals and drive us where we need to go," said Harry Bains, Minister of Labour. "Today, I am tabling a bill in the house to establish the legislative authority for those protections so that the regulations can be developed as quickly as possible."

"This is the first and a very crucial step towards recognizing us as hard-working individuals. We can look forward to receiving a fair resolution process, pay that reflects our hard work and basic rights and benefits like any contributing member of society," said Inder Raj Gill, a ride-hailing driver in Vancouver.

The new standards and protections will come into effect after the legislation is passed and new regulations are developed, and once companies have had time to update their technology to implement the new requirements.

Province expands Speculation tax to 13 new communities

VICTORIA - The Province is taking action to fight real estate speculation and turn more empty units into homes for people by expanding the speculation and vacancy tax to 13 new municipalities.

"There is a housing crisis across the country and it is creating economic challenges, including people feeling pushed out of their communities and labour shortages," said Katrine Conroy, Minister of Finance. "With so many people struggling to find secure housing, we have to keep taking action - we can't afford to pull back. The speculation tax is one of the ways we can help increase affordable housing options for people and communities."

Expanding the speculation tax is part of B.C.'s Homes for People plan that includes actions to fight speculation, deliver more homes within reach for people, and speed up delivery of new homes.

"There's something wrong when people are buying up investment homes and keeping them empty while others are living in vehicles and can't find housing," said Ravi Kahlon, Minister of Housing. "Homes are meant to be lived in by people in our communities, not used for speculation. While some would cancel the speculation tax - giving a handout to speculators and turning homes back into empty condos - we know that people can't afford that. We're taking action to make more homes available for people throughout the province."

An independent review released in 2022 found that the tax had helped deliver more than 20,000 homes in Metro Vancouver alone. The report included recommendations that government consider taking a phased approach to



Katrine Conroy, Minister of Finance

expanding the speculation and vacancy tax to additional communities to build on the success of the measure and deliver more homes for people.

The speculation and vacancy tax will be applied to the following municipal boundaries to help ensure more empty homes are made available for the people who work and live there: Vernon, Coldstream; Penticton, Summerland; Lake Country, Peachland; Courtney, Comox, Cumberland; Parksville, Qualicum Beach; Salmon Arm; and Kamloops.

Residential property owners in these communities will need to declare for the first time in January 2025 based on how they used their property in 2024. This gives owners in the new areas time to decide how to meet exemption requirements before the tax takes effect. Exemptions include primary residences, properties with a long-term tenant and life events, such as separation or divorce.

More than 99% of people living in B.C. are exempt from paying the tax.

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LOOKING FOR BRIDE

Canadian Citizen, Jatt Sikh Brar Boy lives in Surrey, 28 years old, 6' Looking for a family oriented girl. Girl should be Canadian citizen or PR. Study based, work permit can be considered. Vancouver and Calgary families will be preferred.. **604.818.5780**

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Ranbir Kapoor Says Father Rishi Kapoor Was The Reference For His Animal Role

At the trailer launch of Animal, Ranbir Kapoor revealed the role his late father Rishi Kapoor played in informing his fierce character.

Actor Ranbir Kapoor on Thursday at the trailer launch of his upcoming action thriller film Animal revealed that his fierce role in the film reminded him of his late father Rishi Kapoor. He revealed that the Bobby actor was a reference for him to play the relentless titular role in Sandeep Reddy Vanga's film. (Also Read: Twitter has a lot of feelings about that showdown between Ranbir Kapoor and Bobby Deol in Animal trailer)

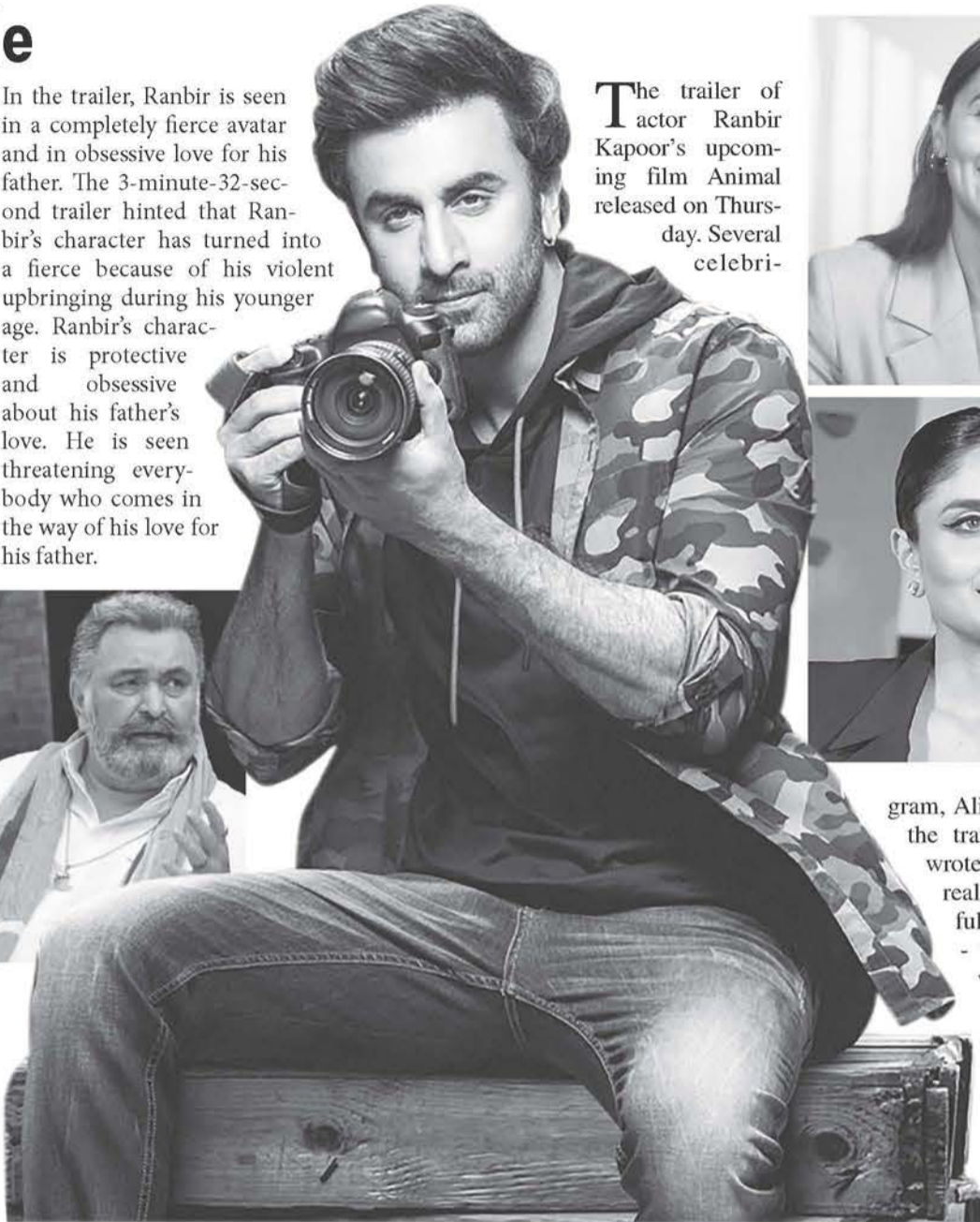
What Ranbir said

During the trailer launch event in New Delhi, Ranbir remembered his father late actor Rishi Kapoor and said, "Whenever I met Sandeep Reddy Vanga, I always told him to give me a reference. I have never heard or felt like this. I think eventually subconsciously, I thought of my father, the way he used to speak, he was a very passionate and aggressive man."

Both Rishi and Ranbir have maintained that they weren't best buddies as father and child and had a restrained relationship. The two of them have worked together in Abhinav Kashyap's 2013 cop comedy dud Besharam, which also starred Ranbir's mother Neetu Kapoor. Rishi died due to cancer in 2020.

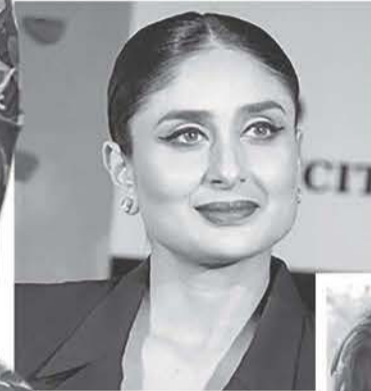
Ranbir in Animal trailer

In the trailer, Ranbir is seen in a completely fierce avatar and in obsessive love for his father. The 3-minute-32-second trailer hinted that Ranbir's character has turned into a fierce because of his violent upbringing during his younger age. Ranbir's character is protective and obsessive about his father's love. He is seen threatening everybody who comes in the way of his love for his father.



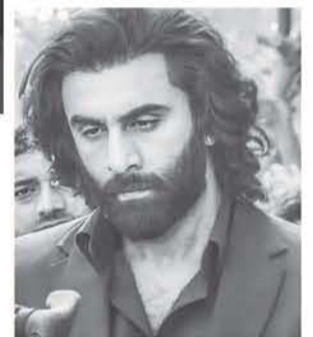
The trailer of actor Ranbir Kapoor's upcoming film Animal released on Thursday. Several celebri-

Alia Bhatt, Kareena Kapoor Can't Stop Praising Animal Trailer



ties, including Ranbir's wife-actor Alia Bhatt, mother Neetu Kapoor, Kareena Kapoor, Prabhas, and Soni Razdan among others reacted to the trailer. At the trailer launch event, Ranbir spoke about complex roles and why it is important for a performer to learn the art of switching on and off.

Alia, Neetu react to Animal trailer Taking to Insta-



gram, Alia posted the trailer. She wrote, "Can't really type a full caption - too busy watching this

trailer for the 7000th time. My mind is officially blown. I need to watch this movie. Like now. Animal: setting cinemas on fire from the 1st of December. Brace yourselves." Neetu Kapoor also shared the video and wrote, "Goosebumps."

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Upcoming Program

- 25th November Saturday** at 10:00 am, Sahaj path bhog on the anniversary of late Manohar Lal Dhari followed by kirtan and langer.
- 26th November Sunday** at 10:00 am, Sukhmani sahib path, Kirtan and langer sewa by Ravinder Gill family.

The program for the birth anniversary of the founder of Sikhism, Sri Guru Nanak Dev Ji, will be as follows:

- 25th November Saturday** 5:00 pm, Sri Akhand Path starts
- 27th November Monday** 5:00 pm, Bhog Sri Akhand Path followed by kirtan darbar. Sikh scholar will present ideas regarding Guru Ji's life and teachings.

Langer will be served all the three days. Please come with family and friends.

- 29th November Wednesday** at 2.30 pm, Sahaj path bhog and antim ardas of late Supinder Singh Minhas by Minhas family.
- 1st December Friday** at 10.00 am, Anand Karj ceremony will be performed by Jaswinder Singh Dhot family.
- 3rd December Saturday** at 10:00 am, Sahaj path bhog, kirtan and langer sewa by Simranjit Singh Bala family on the anniversary of late Gurcharan Singh Bala.
- 3rd December Sunday** at 5.00 pm, Sukhmani sahib path, kirtan and langer sewa by Sandeep Singh Punia family.

Special Note: Punjabi classes have started at Gurdwara Sahib.
For registration of children please contact at 604-274-7479.
Every Tuesday at 10.00 am, Sukhmani Sahib Path by women.

Daily Program: 5:00 am Prakash Guru Granth Sahib, 6:00 am to 6:45 am Nitnem, 7:00 am to 7:30 am Kirtan Dewan, 7:30 am to 1:45 am Katha, 7:45 am to 8:00 am Ardaas
 Evening Diwan: 6:00 pm to 6:25 pm Rahras Sahib, 6:25 pm to 6:45 pm Kirtan, 8:00 pm Sukhaasan Seva!

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box

SUPER SPECIAL

Fresh Ginger
ਤਾਜ਼ਾ ਅਦਰਕ



\$1.99
lb

SUPER SPECIAL

Bartlett Pears
ਔਨਚੂ ਨਾਸਪਤੀ



99¢
lb

Almond Oil 1 L
(Indican)
ਇੰਡੀਕੈਨ ਬਦਾਮ ਦਾ ਤੇਲ



\$12.99
bottle

Red Lentil Whole, Red Lentil Split & Black Chana 4 lbs (Indican)
ਧੋੜੀ ਮਸਰਾ ਦੀ ਦਾਲ ਮਸਰਾ ਦੀ ਸਾਬਤ ਦਾਲ, ਕਢੇ ਛੋਲੇ (ਇੰਡੀਕੈਨ)



\$3.98
bag

Russet Potatoes Snoboy 10 lbs
ਆਲੂ ਰਸਟ ਸਨੋਬੁਆਏ



\$3.98
bag

Rapini (Sarson da Saag)
ਸਰਸੋਂ ਦਾ ਸਾਗ



\$2.98
bunch

Masala Gur 2 lbs Shell
ਮਸਾਲਾ ਗੁੜ



\$2.99
pkg.

Red Lentil Split
ਧੋੜੀ ਮਸਰਾ ਦੀ ਦਾਲ



88¢
lb

Green, Red, Yellow & Orange Peppers BC
ਸ਼ਿਮਲਾ ਮਿਰਚਾਂ (ਹਰੀਆਂ, ਲਾਲ, ਪੀਲੀਆਂ ਅਤੇ ਸੰਤਰੀ)



99¢
lb

Gala Apples US #1
ਗਾਲਾ ਸੇਬ ਯੂ.ਐਸ. #1



99¢
lb

Spinach
ਪਾਲਕ



\$1.29
bunch

Swarna Chakki Atta 20 lbs
ਸਵਰਨਾ ਚੱਕੀ ਅੱਟਾ



\$17.99
bag

Fri Nov 24, 2023 - Wed Nov 29, 2023

22 LOCATIONS TO SERVE YOU IN BC & ALBERTA

Head Office: 7676 Anvil Way, Surrey
604-502-0005

We reserve the right to limit the quantities while they last
Specials valid for Lower Mainland only



BUSINESS HOURS
9 AM - 8 PM
7 DAYS A WEEK

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| Newton ----- 13783 72nd Ave. Surrey ----- 604-590-2080 | Fleetwood ----- 15230 84 Ave. ----- 236-317-6272 | Abbotsford ----- 2785 Bourquin Crescent W. ----- 604-744-0328 |
| Newton ----- 13174 64th Ave. Surrey ----- 604-598-9220 | Surrey ----- 12990 72nd Ave. ----- 604-503-5510 | Abbotsford ----- 31205 Maclure Rd. ----- 604-504-5877 |
| Scott Road ----- 12047 80th Ave. Surrey ----- 604-591-5032 | Surrey ----- 12788 76A Ave. Surrey ----- 604-597-1676 | Port Coquitlam ----- 2807 Shaughnessy St. ----- 604-464-0822 |
| Scott Road ----- 104-7028 120th St. ----- 604-590-8864 | Surrey ----- 16788 64 Ave. ----- 604-372-2023 | Vancouver ----- 6257 Fraser St. ----- 604-321-9931 |
| Cedar Hills ----- 12867 96th Ave. Surrey ----- 604-588-6620 | Surrey ----- 101-7228 192St. ----- 604-575-3750 | Richmond ----- 4101 No.5 Rd. ----- 604-244-9520 |
| Fleetwood ----- 101-15933 Fraser Hwy ----- 604-593-5163 | New Westminster ----- 101-331 6th St. ----- 604-395-3595 | |



Product images may differ from the actual product.