

## [Interview with Mohinder Singh Atwal]

### Mohinder Singh Atwal

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Mohinder Singh Atwal currently lives in Surrey, British Columbia with his wife Jasvinder Kaur Atwal.

Mohinder Singh Atwal was born in his maternal village, Langot in Punjab, India on July 30<sup>th</sup>, 1940. His paternal village is Khurdpur, in district Jalandhar in Punjab, India. His parents are Radan Kaur Atwal (mother) and Hardev Singh Atwal (father). His father was the first Canadian born Sikh. There were 8 children born in the family, 3 sisters and 5 brothers; Mohinder Singh being the eldest. His other siblings in order of their age are: Harjinder Singh Atwal, Harvinder Pal Singh Atwal, Rajinder Kaur Atwal, Davinder Kaur Atwal, and Kuljeet Kaur Atwal.

Mohinder Singh Atwal's parents were married in 1938 or 1939 in India. He was born in 1940 in India and his two brothers were also born in India, around 1947 and 1949 (although he does not remember the exact years). His sisters were born in Canada.

Mohinder was 13 years old when he immigrated to Canada along with his mother. Prior to moving to the country, he lived in Village Khurdpur along with his mother and two brothers. All his siblings are currently living in Canada. He now lives in Surrey and two of them live in Duncan. One of his brothers passed away in an accident, so he is left with only one brother who also lives in Duncan.

His father, Hardev Singh used to visit India occasionally and he was in India between 1951 to 1952. In his absence, Mohinder Singh, his mother, and the two brothers lived in his maternal village, Langot and later immigrated to Canada.

Mohinder remembers his childhood in Punjab where he was born, grew up and played with his friends. He missed his village a lot after immigrating to Canada, especially in the initial years when he was not very fluent in English, even though he used to play with "Bharu" (Bhiku) kids, he did not enjoy that much as he

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