

## [Narrative of Tarlochan Singh Lally]

### Saw Mill Worker Stories

#### Tarlochan Singh Lally Narrative

Interview Date: November 27<sup>th</sup>, 2014

Tarlochan Singh Lally was born on 11<sup>th</sup> September, 1962 in Village Ucha, District Jalandhar in Punjab, India. He immigrated to Canada on June 11<sup>th</sup>, 1982 when he was 20 years old under the family class regulations. Tarlochan Singh's elder sister, who was already living in Canada, had sponsored him to immigrate to Canada. Today, he is now a Canadian Citizen.

Before immigrating to Canada, Mr. Lally lived in the same village where he was born and was studying in college all while at the same time helping his parents in farming. Although he was studying for his B.A. degree, he had to leave his studies with his incomplete B.A. at the time of immigration to Canada. Mr. Lally remembers that he had started helping his parents in farming when he was very young, about 13-14 years of age when he was physically able to do so.

When he first arrived to Canada, Mr. Lally didn't like it much because as a newcomer it takes time to feel at home, it is hard to find work and it was also a recession period in the early 1980's. He felt lonely especially when he wasn't able to find work. Things started getting better when he first began working as a general labourer, in a farm and nursery, and eventually began working in a mill in 1984. Because of the recession taking place at the time, Mr. Lally really worked hard to keep his job going as they had a fear of being laid off every day. Many mills were being shut down during the recession period and as such, many labourers were unemployed.

In addition to working at the Mission Shale and Shingle Mill, he also worked for three years on the railway from 1988 to 1990. He used to take the summer time off and work in the railways and would go back to work in the mill again during the winter months. He heard of the railway work through his friend who also happened to be working there. Though the work was hard, the money was much better than what he received in the mill. In the end of 1990 he had to leave the Railway job as it required him to move out of town which was something he was not willing to do.

Mr. Lally's first mill related job after the odd and end work he did was at the Indian owned Mission Shale and Shingle Ltd. where he would work for ten years from 1984 to 1994. During the last three years in the company, he was promoted to the position of a supervisor. According to Mr. Lally, the shingles that were used for roofing were saw cut by the machines which he then operated in order to make shingles. Working on the shingle saw machines could be dangerous at times, but he did it. As such, many men didn't learn the job because it was dangerous to work on the machines. The men who were new on the job suffered many accidents, for example, someone would cut their hand or many

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