



University of Fraser Valley launches new initiatives to showcase South Asian Canadian contributions to British Columbia

By **Team Link** - April 23, 2022



Six new resources aimed at reducing racism through education are now available across British Columbia. Launched by the South Asian Studies Institute at the University of the Fraser Valley, the South Asian Canadian Legacy Project aims to raise awareness and knowledge of the valuable contributions of South Asian Canadians to British Columbia's diverse cultures, history, heritage, economy, and society.

"The South Asian Canadian Legacy Project empowers British Columbians to discover, learn, research, and share the rich and robust histories of South Asian Canadians who helped build this beautiful province," said Dr. Satwinder Kaur Bains, Director at the UFV South Asian Studies Institute.

Propelled by a \$1.14 million grant from the Province of British Columbia and with support from the Abbotsford Community Foundation, the project is part of the government's response to community consultations on racism and hate conducted in 2019.

The initiative includes Saffron Threads — a new learning resource for BC K-12 teachers exploring South Asian Canadian history, culture, and heritage. Saffron Threads includes detailed activity plans and resources, developed in partnership with Open School BC, that will help teachers bring important topics for all students into the classroom including migration and settlement, discrimination, identity, and culture.

Teachers and parents can find Saffron Threads resources available via digital download for free at www.saffronthreads.ca.

"The South Asian Canadian communities in B.C. have been calling on government to share the rich history of South Asian Canadians, both the challenges and contributions. It is a key piece of my mandate to start work establishing Canada's first-of-its-kind museum to document the history, art and contributions of South Asian people in B.C.," says Melanie Mark, Minister of Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sport.

Rich archives that tell the stories of South Asian migration and contributions to Canada have found a new life as part of the Legacy Project. The UFV South Asian Studies Institute has methodically digitized thousands of photos, documents, and videos from privately held collections to create the South Asian Canadian Digital Archive (SACDA). Find it at: www.sacda.ca.

"In order for students to become engaged global citizens, education must include the stories and voices of our multicultural society", noted UFV President and Vice-Chancellor Dr. Joanne MacLean. "I am pleased the South Asian Canadian Legacy Project will provide valuable resources for learning and reflecting on the many contributions made by B.C.'s South Asian community." T

he South Asian Canadian Legacy Project also includes a physical travelling exhibit that will be visiting all regions of B.C. over the next four years. The bilingual exhibit titled Haq and History —

