



INDIA CANADA FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE

...forging close ties among Canadians with an interest in India

announces its lecture event

**on Sunday, 19 April 2015, 3:00 – 5:00 PM (Registration from 2:45 pm)
at Palki Cuisine of India, 1060 Ogilvie Road, Gloucester**

India – A Pharmaceutical Giant. Are your Medicines Safe?

Atul Aggarwal



India is a global powerhouse in pharmaceuticals and one of the most important links in the global pharmaceutical supply chain. Did you know that almost every medicine, whether it is an over the counter or prescription drug, has a “part of India” in it, if not all active pharmaceutical ingredients from India in the entire pill?

Over 1/3 of all pharmaceuticals are manufactured in India and sold in almost every country, including Canada. Every major generic pharmaceutical company in Canada imports generic drugs and/or ingredients from India.

But are these drugs safe? Concerns about Indian quality control have emerged and recent changes were made to Canada’s Drug regulations. Why is this happening? Is it a situation unique to India and what does the future hold for pharmaceuticals in India and Canada?

Over 10% of all healthcare costs originate from drug products so all governments, which need to reduce healthcare costs, are promoting and encouraging the use of generic drugs. At the same time, governments need to assure the public that the drugs are safe and effective.

Find out more about the key role India plays in the global pharmaceutical supply chain and how and why drug products from India are safe.

About the Speaker: Born in India, Atul Aggarwal moved to Canada when he was two months old and grew up in Ottawa. He obtained his B.Math from the University of Waterloo, his MBA from Wilfrid Laurier University and then became a Chartered Accountant. At the age of 28, Atul co-founded A & A Pharmachem Inc., Canada’s first importer, primarily from India, and distributor of pharmaceutical ingredients. In 2005, Atul founded Canada’s first Virtual Generic Drug company - International Pharmaceutical Generics Ltd. (IPG) - which exclusively develops and imports generic drugs, primarily from India. In 2012, he founded Marcan Pharmaceutical Inc., which sells generic drugs directly to pharmacies across Canada, including Shopper’s Drug Mart, Pharmasave and Rexall.

Atul has established himself as a leading expert in Canada on the pharmaceutical industry in India and has been invited to speak on the topic of “Doing Business in India” at Queen’s University, the University of Ottawa and Carleton University.

He has an insider’s perspective on Health Canada’s concerns and key issues with Indian pharmaceutical manufacturers since IPG has been directly affected by recent changes to Health Canada regulations with respect to quality concerns from foreign manufacturers. Two of their key Indian suppliers are subject to a recent Health Canada import ban.

Atul is past Chair of the Young Presidents Organization – Ottawa Chapter, the leading International organization of CEOs around the world, and is also active with various charities and organizations in Ottawa.

About India Canada Friendship Circle

India Canada Friendship Circle (ICFC), a non-profit Canadian organization, operating in Ottawa since 2004 and conducting lectures by prominent speakers, encourages dialogue on India in a non-religious, non-partisan and harmonious environment. The words “friendship” and “circle” in its name, convey an explicit desire to forge and maintain close ties among Canadians with an interest in India.

ICFC’s mission is to promote an intercultural relationship between India and Canada in the areas of philosophy, history, literature, the arts and sciences through prominent speakers.

For further details and online registration, please visit our website: <http://icfc.ws>