



INDIA CANADA FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE

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



...announces its lecture event
Growing Ottawa through International Partnerships - Connecting with India
by His Worship Jim Watson, Mayor of the City of Ottawa

Lecture followed by a Special Program Commemorating Canada 150 and ICFC with:
His Worship Jim Watson, Mayor of the City of Ottawa
His Excellency Vikas Swarup, High Commissioner of India to Canada
Mr. Donald Bobiash, Assistant Deputy Minister, Asia Pacific, Global Affairs Canada

Sunday, 17 September 2017, 2:30 – 6:00 p.m. (lecture begins at 3:00 p.m.)
at Hilton Garden Inn Ottawa Airport, 2400 Alert Rd, Ottawa

Please register at Eventbrite: icfc.ws/Canada150



Synopsis: In 2016, Mayor Jim Watson led a trade mission to India to attract investment for Ottawa businesses and build opportunities with 35 delegates in the areas of Smart Cities, technology, education and tourism. Mayor Watson will share insights from his trade mission, as well as his vision for growing Ottawa through international partnerships in innovation, industry and talent.

About the ICFC Speaker: Mayor Watson has dedicated most of his career to public service in Canada's Capital. He was elected City Councillor from 1991-1997 and subsequently became the youngest Mayor in Ottawa's history with 82% of the popular vote. In 2000 he served as President and CEO of the Canadian Tourism Commission, a federal crown corporation. In 2003, he was elected as the Member of Provincial Parliament for Ottawa West-Nepean and appointed to cabinet as Minister of Consumer and Business services. Jim Watson returned to municipal politics and was elected Mayor of the City of Ottawa on October 25, 2010 and re-elected in 2014.

Special Program: The ICFC lecture will be followed by a special program to commemorate Canada's 150th anniversary and honor ICFC's current and former volunteers, speakers, board members and friends. The High Commissioner of India to Canada, H.E. Vikas Swarup, will join the Mayor of Ottawa in celebrating this special occasion. Global Affairs Canada will also be represented at the event by Assistant Deputy Minister, Asia Pacific Mr. Donald Bobiash.



About the Special Guest: His Excellency Mr. Vikas Swarup joined the Indian Foreign Service in 1986. In his career spanning more than 30 years, he has served in diplomatic assignments in Ankara, Washington DC, Addis Ababa, London, Pretoria and Osaka-Kobe. At Headquarters, Mr. Swarup served as Desk Officer for Southern Africa, US & Canada, Director (Pakistan), Director (Nepal & Bhutan) and Director in charge of the Office of the Minister of External Affairs (MEA). After serving as Joint Secretary United Nations (Political), he was appointed the official spokesperson of the MEA in April 2015 and in March 2017 became High Commissioner of India to Canada. Mr. Swarup is also the author of three novels: *Q&A*, which was adapted as the multiple Oscar-winning film *Slumdog Millionaire*; *Six Suspects*; and *The Accidental Apprentice*. His books have been translated into more than 40 languages.

The India Canada Friendship Circle is a non-profit Canadian organization operating in Ottawa since 2004. Its mission is to conduct lectures by prominent speakers to enhance awareness of the Canada-India relationship in various areas of history, philosophy, culture, industry, economy, arts and sciences. It 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 of ICFC to forge and maintain close ties among Canadians with an interest in India.

Please visit our website - <http://www.icfc.ws/>

Individual Event Sponsors: Mr. Aditya Varan Singh Thakur, Ashok K. Koul (Life Prediction Technologies Inc.)