



INDIA CANADA FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE

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

announces its lecture event

COMMON PURPOSE AND THE HUMAN SPIRIT

by Prakash Diar

on Sunday, 27 May 2018, 3:00 – 5:00 PM



Synopsis: The Indian Diaspora has made significant contributions on a global scale, including those of Prakash Diar, a world-renowned human rights lawyer based in Ottawa. Mr. Diar will talk about his personal experience of life in apartheid South Africa and a little about his experience in Canada. Through his personal experience he will talk about oppression and the human spirit. Not only to survive, but to thrive. Difficult and dangerous times call for commitment, thinking outside the box and action. The lecture is to inspire and remind people that a single person can certainly make a difference but working in alignment and with a common purpose with others can move the proverbial mountain.

About the Speaker: Mr. Diar has practised law in the area of human rights in South Africa and Canada and is internationally known for his defence of the “Sharpeville Six” in apartheid South Africa who were innocent but convicted of murder and sentenced to death. He testified at the UN which passed two Resolutions condemning the apartheid government for the impending execution of six innocent people. He also launched an international campaign which got Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, President Reagan and Chancellor Kohl to personally intervene in an attempt to save the Six. During this period in the mid 1980’s, he was detained by the police under the State of Emergency and kept in solitary confinement for a month without being charged. His life was threatened after his release and two people close to him were assassinated. Canada helped Mr. Diar and his family leave South Africa in June 1989. In Canada, he received a Fellowship at the University of Ottawa in the Human Rights Research & Education Centre. Based on his clients’ experiences, he authored a book: *‘The Sharpeville Six’*, published by M & S, 1990, Toronto (endorsed by Nelson Mandela, Archbishop Desmond Tutu & Nadine Gordimer, all 3 Nobel Laureates). Mr. Diar has also been a Legal Counsel for the Canadian Human Rights Commission and won one of the biggest race discrimination cases in Canada: National Capital Alliance on Race Relations (NCARR) v Health Canada, a case driven by Dr. Shiv Chopra. He is currently working with the Minister and DM of Justice on Prime Minister Justin Trudeau’s mandate to renew the Crown’s relationship with Indigenous peoples, which includes adopting the United Nations Declaration for the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and implementing the Call to Action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commissions Report.

Location: Rockcliffe Park Community Centre Hall, 380 Springfield Road, 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>