



INDIA CANADA FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE

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



announces its lecture event in collaboration with
The College of the Humanities, Carleton University

Tagore's Concept of Beauty

by Reba Som

on Sunday, 01 October 2017, 3:00 – 5:00 PM



Synopsis: Rabindranath Tagore was a famous Indian poet. A well-known Tagore quote is as follows: *Clouds come floating into my life, no longer to carry rain or usher storm, but to add color to my sunset sky.* "Saundarya" or beauty, for Rabindranath Tagore was a deeply chastening experience and is an important part of his poetry and songs. He pondered deeply on the question of dekha or the act of seeing of the world around him. With each morning, he wrote, light came to him as a messenger bidding him to open his eyes to the world. It did the same with the bud that was blossoming, day after day, a petal unfolded and then finally the flower in full bloom looked uninterruptedly at the sun. Light to him was a metaphor of the infinite. We too, he wrote, were slowly unfolding to the message of the light but failed to realize that the final vision or param drishti could only be had when one could ease the conditioning of the mind that weighed heavily on one's eyes. The rational mind in the end was an obstacle. Only by detaching oneself and viewing the world as a mere spectator could there be the reward of a glorious sight of the world where nothing was trivial and everything was beautiful and unified. In one of his songs Amar Hiyar Majjhe Lukiye Chile, he sings: "You were hidden within the depths of my heart, but yet I could not see you." Reba Som will explore Tagore's metaphors which the poet richly finds in the world of nature around him. She will illustrate the talk with examples from his poetry and songs.

About the Speaker: Reba Som is a historian and a Tagore scholar. She was recently the recipient of the Nehru Fellowship which led to her research of Sister Nivedita. Among her many publications are: *Sister Nivedita of Vivekananda*, Penguin Random House, 2017; *Rabindranath Tagore: The Singer and his Song*, Penguin Books India, New Delhi, 2009; *Gandhi, Nehru, Bose and the Making of the Modern Indian Mind*, Penguin Books India, New Delhi, 2004; *Differences within Consensus: The Left-Right Divide in the Congress*, Orient Longman, New Delhi, 1995; *Subhas Chandra Bose and the Resolution of the Women's Question*, Centre for Women's Development Studies, New Delhi, 2002; *Foundations of Education for Free India: Toward a Better Quality of Life*, Allied Publishers, New Delhi, 1989. Edited by Prem Kirpal and Reba Som. Until recently she was Director of the Tagore Centre in Kolkata. She was a Consultant with the United Nations Development Fund for Women. Reba Som is a trained vocalist in the songs of Rabindranath Tagore and Kazi Nazrul Islam. An empanelled artiste of ICCR she has performed extensively in India as also in Europe, Canada and the United States. She has two CDs of the music of Tagore and Kazi Nazrul and scripted the documentary film on Tagore and Kazi.

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.us>