



INDIA CANADA FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE

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

announces its second lecture event for this year's theme of

Diversity and Inclusion

on Wednesday, 26 May 2021, 19:00 – 21:00 EDT (on Zoom)

To receive Zoom details, please send your full name, city and email address to icfcircle@gmail.com by May 25th, 2021



Mala Khanna, ADM, Sub-Saharan Africa Branch, Global Affairs Canada



Richard Sharpe, Director of Equity, Anti-Racism, Diversity and Inclusion, Justice Canada

Personal Experiences of Diversity in a Multicultural Canada

By Mala Khanna

Does Systemic Racism exist in Canadian Society? Viewing Diversity and Inclusion through a Public Service Lens

by Richard Sharpe

Synopsis: South Asians make up the largest group of visible minorities in Toronto, at about 13 per cent of the total population (2016 Census). Vancouver, Montreal and Calgary round out the top four Canadian cities attracting newcomers. India is amongst the top three source countries of immigrants in Toronto and Calgary where Ms. Mala Khanna experienced firsthand the influence of growing up in a Multicultural Canada. Richard Sharpe views diversity through a public service lens and the African diaspora.

Mala Khanna will talk about her personal experiences as the child of South Asian immigrants who were raised in Kenya and moved to Canada in the early 1970s. She will reflect on some of the challenges she faced growing up in Toronto and Calgary in the 1980s and 1990s and how these experiences shaped her desire to pursue studies in law and social work and to become a federal public servant. Mala will talk about how she integrates diversity and inclusion into the work that she does at Global Affairs Canada as the Assistant Deputy Minister for the Sub-Saharan Africa branch, and how she integrates it into the work she does as a parent of two bi-racial teenaged daughters.

Richard Sharpe will provide an overview of the efforts made to address anti-black racism in Canada, within the context of the United Nations International Decade for People of African Descent. He will also discuss the major components of an action plan to address systemic racism within the Federal Public Service and in Canadian society.

About the Speakers:

Mala Khanna is the Assistant Deputy Minister for the Sub-Saharan Africa Branch at Global Affairs Canada. Mala was previously the Assistant Secretary to the Cabinet for Legislation and House Planning at the Privy Council Office (PCO). Prior to joining PCO, Mala worked at the Department of Justice as Deputy Assistant Deputy Minister for the Public Law and Legislative Services Sector. Mala also occupied various other positions in the Department of Justice, including as Deputy Director of the Crimes Against Humanity and War Crimes Section and as Counsel at the Human Rights Law Section. Mala graduated from McGill University with a joint Bachelor of Law / Masters of Social Work degree. She also has a degree in History from the University of Alberta.

Richard Sharpe has worked within the Federal Public Service for 25 years. His work has involved leading initiatives in support of Government of Canada's commitments to the United Nations International Decade for People of African Descent. Richard is one of the Founders of the Federal Black Employee Caucus that has been working with federal public service and union leadership to address anti-black racism in the federal public service. He has held local, regional and national union positions with the Public Service Alliance of Canada, Canadian Association of Professional Employees and the Manitoba Federation of Labour. His work regionally, nationally and within the federal public service, serves to improve the condition of Black and African Diaspora communities in Canada. Over the last few years, Richard has been a speaker on addressing systemic racism, anti-black racism and how to be an ally within the Black Lives Matter movement. Richard is the Director of Equity, Anti-racism, Diversity and Inclusion and leads the recently established Anti-Racism and Anti-Discrimination Secretariat at the Department of Justice Canada.

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.

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