



# **WORLD SIKH ORGANIZATION OF CANADA**

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*"The World Sikh Organization of Canada promotes and protects the interest of Sikhs in Canada and around the world."*

**Our  
Mandate.**



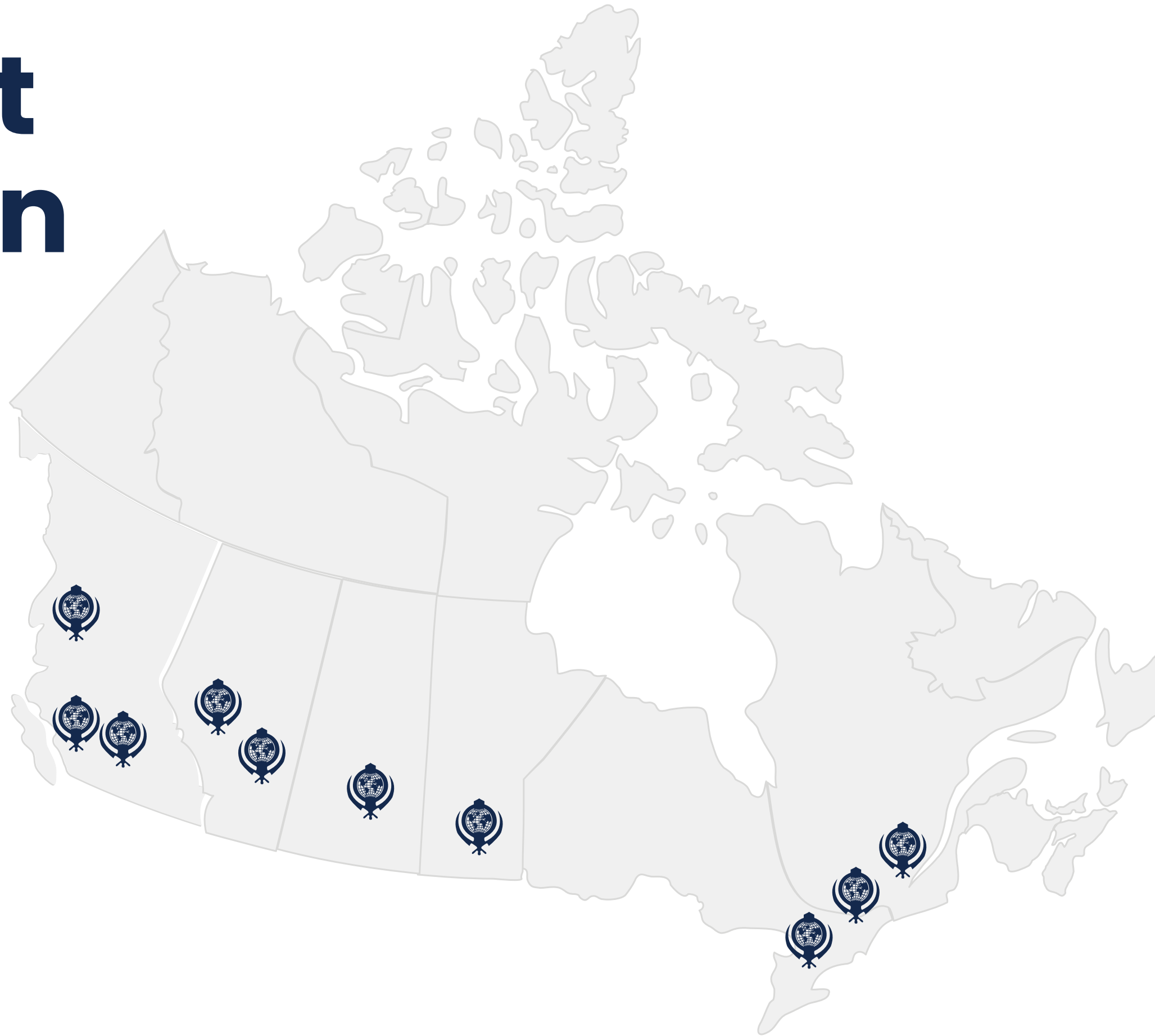
# Coast to Coast Representation

**8** Regional teams

**31** National Directors

**250+** Volunteers across Canada

**170+** Sikh Youth Leadership Institute Alumni



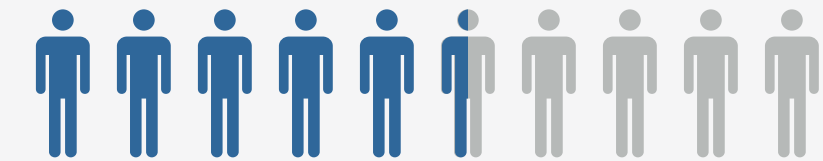


# The Board

The WSO board of directors is composed of 31 directors from across Canada with various professional backgrounds



## Are Women



55%

## Born & Raised in Canada



80%

## Under the age of 40



85%

# Media Mentions



» TORONTO STAR «

The WSO continues to be actively sought out by mainstream media as credible voices on complex issues that affect Sikhs in Canada.

NATIONAL POST

CP 24

THE GLOBE AND MAIL



Media Hits in 2021

1,370+

Potential reach of

905 million people

Average increase of

35%

social media following



# Major Issues in 2022

International  
Student  
support and  
orientations



PPE Accommodations for  
Sikh HCWs during  
COVID-19 Crisis



Dastaar  
Accommodation  
on Worksites



# Major Issues in 2022

Legal  
Challenge of  
Bill 21  
in Quebec



Accommodation of Sikh  
Articles for Canadian  
Sikhs



Foreign  
Interference  
against the Sikh  
Community





# Advocacy at a glance

WSO Adopts Sikh Orphans



Sikh Refugees Arrive in Nova Scotia



1984

1984

1986

1987

1990



WSO Founded



WSO Presents at the UN



Baltej Singh Dhillon RCMP Dastaar Case



# Advocacy at a glance

Multani Kirpan Case Goes to SCC



Dastaar Accommodation at World Karate Federation



1995

2005

2012

2016

2017



WSO Invites Jaswant Singh Khaira to Canada



Training Module for Toronto Police



Kirpan Accommodation on Flights

# Advocacy at a glance

International Student  
Orientation Sessions



Quebec's Bill 21



2018

2018

2018

2019

2019

World Sikh Organization demands that Canada  
prove Sikh extremism is a threat

By Mia Rabson The Canadian Press  
Fri., Dec. 14, 2018 | 3 min. read



Public Safety Report  
Amended



#AskCanadianSikhs Hashtag



File Legal Challenge on  
Bill 21



# Advocacy at a glance

RCMP bearded Officers allowed to return to the frontlines



Bearded Toronto Security Guards allowed to return to work



2019

2020

2022

2022



Welcome first batch of Sikh refugees from Afghanistan



Alberta Correctional Officers allowed to have beards

# Major Victories



## Courts, Consulates & Embassies

Kirpans are now  
accommodated at Courts, &  
Canadian Consulates &  
Embassies around the world



## Military

The Canadian Navy  
implemented a precedent-  
setting dastaar accommodation  
policy for Sikh personnel



## Flying

Sikhs can now board  
Canadian flights with a kirpan  
in precedent setting policy  
change



## Sports

Worked with FIFA to get The  
Quebec Soccer Association  
overturned their ban on  
dastaars



# Supreme Court of Canada

The WSO has appeared before the Supreme Court of Canada on 5 occasions to represent the Sikh voice. Our arguments have played a pivotal role in ensuring the rights of Sikhs are respected across Canada, and stand as a source of inspiration for Sikhs around the world!

**2006**

**Multani v. Commission scolaire Marguerite-Bourgeoys**  
Accommodation of the kirpan in schools.

**2004**

**Syndicat Northcrest v. Amselem**

Eliminated need for court to rely on “religious experts” to decide religious accommodation issues. Accommodation is now based on sincerely held personal belief

**2015**

**Loyola v. Quebec Ministry**

Definition of secularism and rights of religious institutions to teach their faith, free from state interference

**2018**

**Highwood Congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses v. Wall**

Private religious decisions should be immune from scrutiny of the courts

**2018**

**TWU v. Law Society of Upper Canada**

Standard of review should be correctness when reviewing decisions that have Charter implications

# Community Development



## 2015 Sikh Youth Leadership Institute

Every year we bring 20 of the brightest Sikhs in Canada , through a competitive process, to Ottawa for an all expense paid leadership institute



## 2017 Sikh Family Helpline

A peer-to-peer non emergency helpline servicing the Sikh Community in Canada in Punjabi and English



## 2018 #AskCanadianSikhs

A media awareness campaign launched to combat false and misleading narratives about Sikh Canadians



## 2019 Sikh Mentorship Program

Designed to connect Sikh professionals with Sikh students and young professionals seeking guidance and direction



## 2018 KaursVote

Addressing the underrepresentation of Sikh women in politics by educating them on why their voice is so important in the democratic process



# Training Programs



## 2012

**Toronto Police Services**

We worked with the Toronto Police Service and the Toronto Police College to develop a training module on the Sikh faith for the officers of Canada's largest municipal police force. The Greater Toronto Area has one of the largest Sikh populations in Canada.



## 2013

**Fraser Health Authority**

We worked with the FHA to provide information and feedback on the preparation of the compendium which provides information on topics such as Sikh articles of faith, dietary requirements and cultural sensitivities.



## 2018

**Peel District School Board**

The Sikh E-Module covers information about the Sikh faith and includes interviews with current and former students who speak about issues such as the significance of the Sikh articles of faith. The e-module also provides teachers with classroom tips to help Sikh students do well in the classroom.

# **Non-Profit Organization**

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## **Why is WSO not a charity?**

- Prior to 2018, the Canada Revenue Agency and the Income Tax Act prohibited Canadian Charities from spending more than 10 percent of their resources on political advocacy activities.
- As a result, while WSO is a registered non-profit, it was not registered as a charity.

## **Will WSO apply for charity status?**

- Since August 2018, following a landmark legal challenge, Canadian charities can now freely engage in Public policy dialogue and development activities.
- WSO has now taken steps to apply for CRA charity status.





# Contact Us

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