

PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2021



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This report presents an
overview of our 2021 results,
our achievements and our
progress.

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Message From the President



"The WSO's work continues to demonstrate how critical an effective grassroots advocacy organization is for our community."

TEJINDER SINGH
WSO PRESIDENT



Waheguru Jee Kaa Khalsa, Waheguru Jee Kee Fateh!

2021 marked another momentous year for the World Sikh Organization of Canada (WSO). A year of growth, advocacy, perseverance, and most importantly, Chardi Kala. We witnessed the resiliency of our community through the Delhi #FarmersProtest which led to the repeal of the 3 ordinances as well as the evacuation of Afghan Sikhs from Kabul to India.

As we look back at this year, we are both proud and humbled by the community support we receive from you to help us advance the issues most important to Sikhs in Canada. Our dynamic board, staff, and volunteers have worked tirelessly to navigate and respond to a wide range of complex issues. Whether it was fighting systemic racism by challenging Bill 21 in Quebec, responding to the community's ongoing pandemic related struggles with PPE, safeguarding accomodation for kakkars on worksites and in schools, or being a credible voice for Sikhs in media - the WSO has remained committed to serving our community.

As our organization embarks on it's 37th year of seva, we have confirmed our new Board for the 2022-2023 term. I am proud to share that for the first time in our history, the majority of the WSO Board of Directors are Sikh women. The composition of this board is also one of the youngest with almost 90% under the age of 40!

The WSO's work continues to demonstrate how critical an effective grassroots advocacy organization is for our community. We hope you will reflect on the impact our dedicated staff and volunteers are making and recognize that we cannot do it without your support. If you haven't already done so, please sign up to our Dasvand Program, an initiative that strives to secure 500 new donors who donate at least \$500 or more a year - choosing either an annual recurring donation or through monthly installments. This money will ensure that we continue to give a strong voice to Sikh issues, work on programming that empowers our youth, women, and under-represented groups, and address service gaps through innovative, sustainable and collaborative solutions. Please sign up today by going to www.worldsikh.org/dasvandprogram.

Legal Update

2021 was another busy year for WSO's legal team. The biggest challenge that the Sikh community in Canada and the WSO are currently facing is Quebec's discriminatory Bill 21. WSO is a party to the challenge of this law which prohibits individuals in positions of authority in Quebec, such as judges, teachers, police officers and others from wearing 'religious symbols'. This prohibition includes the wearing of the dastaar and other Sikh articles of faith.

Bill 21

The legal challenge of Bill 21 is currently before the Quebec Court of Appeal and is expected to go all the way to the Supreme Court of Canada. WSO continues to challenge this law in the courts but also in the court of public opinion with regular advocacy and media comments on the impact of this law on minority communities generally and the Sikh community specifically.

Sikh Articles Accommodations

The WSO team has also been working on accommodations for Sikh workers in the workplace. We have been advocating for solutions for Sikh workers who are required to be fitted for the N95 mask. Fit tests for the N95 require the individual to be clean shaven which is impossible for practicing Sikhs. There are solutions that are available such as hood style respirators and also the innovative "Sikh Thattha" method which uses a thattha-style face covering to effectively form a seal with the mask. We continue to work on pushing this forward as a solution for Sikh workers in Canada.

Whenever a Sikh required support when dealing with discrimination, WSO was there to help. When a Sikh was refused entry into the Regina Public Library because of his kirpan, WSO intervened and ensured this would never happen again. When employers required further information to accommodate Sikh workers, such as nurses or municipal employees, WSO stepped forward on behalf of those employees to ensure employers knew their obligation to accommodate and best practices.

WSO's legal team continues to provide information and education seminars with respect to best practices when interacting with the Sikh community and accommodating Sikh articles of faith. These seminars were provided for organizations such as Peel Children's Aid Society, Calgary Police Service and others.

Legal Update Continued...



BALPREET SINGH

WSO LEGAL COUNSEL

Afghan Sikhs

In 2021 WSO continued to advocate on behalf of Afghan Sikhs. In June 2021, Legal counsel Balpreet Singh testified before the International Subcommittee on International Human Rights in Ottawa on the desperate situation facing Sikhs and Hindus in Afghanistan. The WSO has regularly called on the Government of Canada to create a special program to evacuate Sikhs and Hindus from Afghanistan. With the Taliban having seized control in August of 2021, less than 200 Sikhs and Hindus remain in Afghanistan. The WSO has been a key part of efforts to welcome Afghan Sikh and Hindu refugees to Canada and to ensure they have the supports to flourish in their new homes.

Government of India Interference

Finally, WSO actively monitored and exposed Indian interference in Canada. In February 2021, the WSO released a report entitled “Exposed: India’s Disinformation Campaign Against Canada’s Sikhs”. The detailed report exposed orchestrated attempts by Indian media and state actors to defame Canadian Sikhs and to create false narratives about the community.

In June 2022, based on an access to information request submitted by the WSO, it was revealed that the Indian Consulate in Toronto was pressuring school boards to not teach about the farmer protests taking place in India. This unacceptable and shocking interference was featured by the CBC in a news story. The WSO has also regularly raised the issue of Indian interference in Canada with relevant law enforcement and intelligence authorities.

Media Mentions



2021 was an unprecedented year for media coverage and issues that affected Sikhs in Canada and globally. So many local, national and international issues were headlines and needing the nuanced and important Sikh perspective. The WSO continues to be actively sought out by mainstream media as credible voices on complex issues that affect Sikhs in Canada.

Last year the WSO was mentioned in the media over 1370 times reaching over 905 million people! We also saw an average increase of 35% in our social media following throughout all of our platforms.



TORONTO STAR



NATIONAL POST

CP
24



Overview

MENTIONED IN THE MEDIA OVER

1,370 TIMES

REACHING OVER

905 MILLION PEOPLE

SOCIAL MEDIA FOLLOWING AVERAGE INCREASE OF

35 PERCENT

Instagram

250 +

Facebook

180 +

Twitter

100 +

In 2022, our commitment to progress allowed us to achieve several significant milestones.

Community Programming

Sikh Family Helpline

The Sikh Family Helpline continues to provide essential non-emergency support to Sikhs across Canada. In 2021, the Helpline saw an increase in the number of vulnerabilities faced by international students, including financial and sexual exploitation, immigration and academic challenges, and an alarming increase in mental health cases. Through our Helpline, we are able to provide resources and support as well as navigate our healthcare system.



The Sikh Family Helpline aims to combat the stigma around mental health and improve access to mental health care services in Punjabi and English.

If you or someone you know needs to talk
Call 1-800-551-9128

www.sikhfamilyhelpline.com



INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

International Students come to Canada in pursuit of a higher education, and opportunities for themselves and their family back home. A significant number of International Students are Sikh and once in Canada, face many barriers to access resources for their mental and physical wellbeing.

During Covid-19 these issues have been exasperated.

The WSO has been advocating on their behalf and calling on the federal government to address and formulate solutions for the number

WHAT YOU CAN DO

- Educate yourself on the needs of International Students and policies that leave them vulnerable
- Advocate on their behalf and raise their concerns with candidates and policy makers
- Continue amplifying the issue through your networks and on social media
- Continue supporting local organizations working with providing resources for International Students in your community
- Challenge the negative narrative in the community around International Students



International Students Program

This year, we saw a concerning rise in the issues faced by Sikh International Students. As witnessed in some media stories, we saw the growing need for rapid response and advocacy on issues such as mental health and exploitation.

The WSO has taken a lead in creating a national coalition working together to address the needs of International Students. WSO also remains committed to capacity building in the post secondary sector, to ensure faculty and support staff are better informed on their Sikh students and how to work with the community to ensure their success and well being.

WSO also provides workshops and information sessions for International Students that addresses the major challenges that they face in Canada: housing, finances, banking, health care, employment and rights, transportation, fraud, immigration, relationships, taxes and applying for permanent residency. We provided information, resources and extended WSO services when needed.

The podcast is released the first Tuesday of every month and can be found on all major platforms.

Last year, the WSO released a total of 8 episodes

Topics covered in the last year included -

Bill 21, Afghna Sikhs, Canadian Sikh Election Guide, Kirpan Ban in Australia, Repeal of Farmer's Bills



Ask Canadian Sikhs

Canadian Sikhs have unique lived experiences and perspectives on issues both nationally and internationally. #AskCanadianSikhs gives Sikhs that voice. Each month, Dr. Jaspreet Kaur Bal, VP of Ontario alongside Harman Singh Kandola, VP of Alberta speak about current events from a Sikh Canadian lens. They tackle topics such as the federal elections, farmers protest, Indian interference, disinformation campaigns against Sikhs and Islamophobia.

Community Programming Continued...

Sikh Mentorship Program

The Sikh Mentorship Program (SMP) is designed for young professionals and university/college students who are looking for academic or professional guidance, and working professionals who are looking to give back to the community and support the next generation of Sikhs.

For the 4th year, the WSO is providing Sikh youth access to knowledge and networks that will support them in their careers and community work. Sikh youth face unique personal, academic and professional challenges. Recognizing this, the SMP provides youth with support from those who can provide guidance, share lived experiences, and create safe spaces for growth.



World Sikh Organization of Canada
Sikh Mentorship Program
Mentor Testimonial

APPLICATION DEADLINE: JANUARY 28

APPLY AT:
www.WORLDSIKH.ORG/SMP

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
SMP@WORLDSIKH.ORG

Parmvir Singh
Registered Clinical Counsellor
@atlascountessing

"The SMP presented a fantastic opportunity to provide that guidance to someone who needed it... The program is well designed and I received my matches quickly. I still keep in contact with my mentees and it was a rewarding experience to see them get the help that they needed."



One Billion Rising

The eighth annual campaign brought together Sikhs across Canada, to raise awareness that 1 in 3 women will face abuse in their lifetime. In 2021, the WSO delivered 2,000 packages in 12 cities across Canada to survivors of domestic violence on Valentine's Day: Surrey, Vancouver, Kamloops, Calgary, Saskatoon, Regina, Winnipeg, Toronto, Guelph, London, Ottawa and Montreal.

Throughout the pandemic, we have seen an increase in domestic violence and abuse cases across the country. As a community, we continue to condemn all forms of gender-based violence and we are committed to supporting survivors and advocating on their behalf.



Sikh Youth Leadership Institute

Our dedication to developing youth leaders and networks is realized through the Sikh Youth Leadership Institute (SYLI). In August 2021, we welcomed 30 participants and provided 3 days of engaging online workshops. The keynote address was done by Harnarayan Singh of Hockey Night in Canada.

For the seventh consecutive year, accomplished and influential Canadian Sikh professionals and leaders in their field delivered training on topics such as Developing Emotional Intelligence, Sikhi and Leadership, Personal Brand Development and Community Advocacy and Campaigning.



This year's theme was #DISRUPTOR. Guided by the teachings of our first Guru, Sri Guru Nanak Dev Ji, we engaged Sikh youth to not settle for the 'status quo' and push oneself and society, to be better and to challenge oppressive systems, including advocacy for all marginalized groups. This year's guest speakers included:

2020 SYLI Guest Speakers:

Harnaryan Singh, Hockey Night In Canada
Puneet Mann, VP Payments and Lending, Tangerine
Harneet Singh, Digital Marketer and Strategist

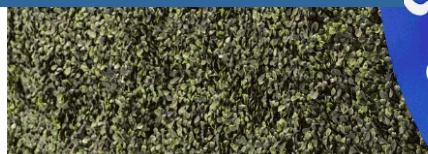
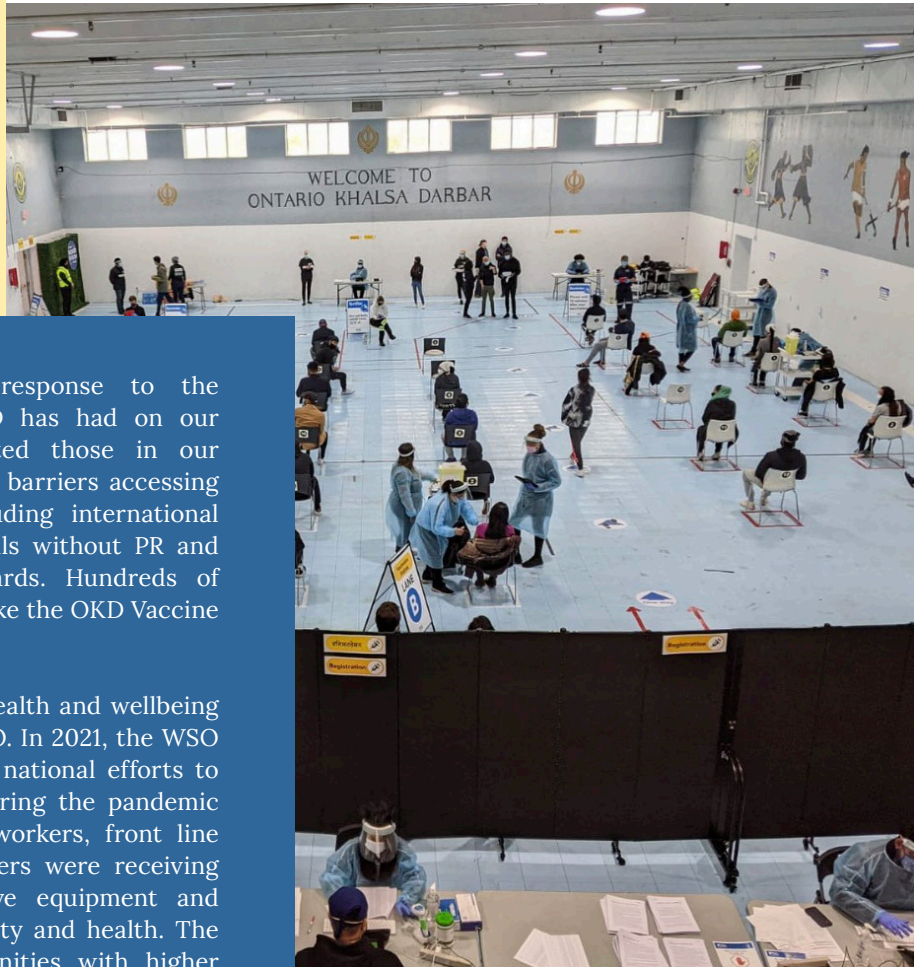
Jasvir Singh, Sikh PA
Jindi Singh, Khalsa Aid Canada
Satjeet Kaur, Sikh Coalition

COVID-19

In May of this year, the WSO in collaboration with the Ontario Khalsa Darbar helped facilitate a 13 day vaccine clinic at the Gurdwara Sahib.

This clinic was in direct response to the disproportionate impact COVID has had on our community. This clinic targeted those in our community who faced the most barriers accessing other vaccination clinics, including international students, seniors, and individuals without PR and provincial health insurance cards. Hundreds of sevadars worked tirelessly to make the OKD Vaccine Clinic a success.

Protecting and promoting the health and wellbeing of Sikhs is a priority for the WSO. In 2021, the WSO continued to support local and national efforts to keep Sikhs healthy and safe during the pandemic by ensuring that health care workers, front line workers and community members were receiving the correct personal protective equipment and information regarding their safety and health. The WSO intervened when communities with higher proportion of South Asians including Sikhs, were targeted and stigmatized for the rising number of covid cases within the community. The gaps in communication, the unsafe work conditions, the lack of supports and sick leave along with barriers in accessing vaccinations were all contributing factors to the alarming number of cases within our community.



Community Activism

Carrying forward the #DISRUPTOR theme, the WSO challenges systems of oppression and discrimination. Whether it is in workplaces, in classrooms, in the courtroom, on the soccer field or across the globe in Afghanistan, Australia and India, we advocate on behalf of those that cannot. 2021 was a year of new challenges that brought together Sikhs from around the world.

Bill 21

One of the most notable religious freedoms battle we will have in our generation is Quebec's Bill 21 - the discriminatory law that restricts the wearing of 'religious symbols' by public servants in positions of authority. Last year, our case was heard at the Quebec Superior Court and the verdict was rendered in April 2021. In the verdict, the Judge agreed that the law is discriminatory, and doesn't apply to English School Boards, however teachers in French speaking schools cannot wear their articles of faith and continues to discriminate against Dastaar wearing Judges, Crown Prosecutors, Police Officers, Correctional Officers, etc.

The WSO is not satisfied with the ruling and was the first to appeal.

We will continue this fight at the Quebec Court of Appeals, because this law forces us to choose between our faith and employment. Along with our legal battle, we are working on creating awareness within our communities and holding elected officials accountable for real, impactful action on this issue.

The most blatant systemic racism that we continue to face as Sikhs in Canada comes in the form of Bill 21. To our dismay, this bill passed into law and was put into effect in the province of Quebec in 2019. Bill 21 prevents judges, police officers, teachers and public servants from wearing articles of faith such as the daastar while at work. The Bill is also a violation of Quebec values as enshrined in the Quebec Charter of Human Rights and Freedoms.



Community Activism Continued...

Afghan Sikhs

Another issue that remained near and dear to Sikhs worldwide is the plight of Sikhs and Hindus in Afghanistan.

2021 saw an increase in violence and danger on the lives of Sikh and Hindu's left in Afghanistan. With the exit of American and allied troops, the country has seen a dangerous situation turn into a dire situation. The WSO has been advocating on behalf of this community since 2016, and in 2021 we urgently requested the Canadian Government to include Sikh and Hindu families in the special provisions made to evacuate Afghan interpreters and staff who assisted the Canadian Armed Forces. The WSO championed an email campaign that flooded the accounts of key elected officials, including PM Justin Trudeau, with thousands of letters during the 2021 federal elections. We will continue to advocate on this issue until every Sikh and Hindu who wants to leave has been safely removed from Afghanistan.



Farmers Protest



As a community, we acknowledge that we stand on the shoulders of giants, and this cannot be more evident than when we reflect on the Farmers Protest in India. The WSO stood in solidarity with farmers and assisted in the struggle by challenging disinformation and representing Sikh interests online and speaking in the media.

The WSO wrote to Foreign Affairs Minister Marc Garneau, calling on Canada to condemn the violent attacks on the farmer protests in India and encouraged Canadians to also join forces and reach out to their local MPs. We celebrate with the Farmers on the momentous win on the repeal of the Farm laws.

Government of India Interference

The WSO continued to monitor and challenge the Government of India and their escalating interference in the lives of Sikh Canadians. In June, the WSO obtained an official diplomatic note written by the Consulate General of India to the Peel District School Board trying to stop teachers from speaking about the Farmers Protests in India, indicating that it would jeopardize the relationship between the two countries.

In November, the WSO expressed our concerns to the Public Safety Minister with respect to India's National Investigation Agency (NIA) visiting Canada at the invitation of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP). Given India's serious and habitual human rights violations there are concerns that collaboration with Indian intelligence and security forces will have a grave impact on Sikhs in Canada and may even jeopardize the lives of Canadian Sikhs or their family and friends in India.



Earlier this year, the WSO released a report called “[Exposed: India’s Disinformation Campaign Against Canada’s Sikhs](#)” drawing attention and providing evidence on Indian interference and disinformation campaigns targeting Sikhs in Canada. This report sheds light on what is happening and why Canadians – whether they be government officials, intelligence agencies, media or average citizens – must be vigilant with respect to being fed fake news and disinformation by Indian actors about the Sikh community in Canada.

Another campaign we have worked on was online shadow banning and censorship. This year we met with Facebook and Instagram to discuss foreign influenced censorship and also discussed images such as pornography that were being uploaded using the hashtag #Sikhs.

Articles of Faith Accommodation


In 2021, it is shocking and disheartening to comprehend the amount of work the WSO continues to undertake in the space of accommodations. Every week, the WSO legal team takes on new cases to advocate on behalf of Sikhs to wear their Dastaar and Kakaars in schools and workplaces from coast to coast. This year alone, Sikhs have approached the WSO with issues and challenges they faced with writing their IELTS exams, receiving services in Service Alberta offices, as postal workers, and as health care workers. The WSO's advocacy in this space over the last 37 years has resulted in so many strategic gains, and these gains are setting global precedents.

In May 2021, the WSO wrote to Australian NSW Premier Gladys Berejiklian and Education Minister Sarah Mitchell, after the province announced a ban on the wearing of Kirpans in schools. The move followed a violent incident that took place in a Sydney high school involving a Kirpan.

The WSO provided information on the significance of the Kirpan and called on an immediate rescinding of the ban, calling the move “knee-jerk” and “misguided” and having the potential to contribute to negative stereotypes and discrimination against the Sikh community.

The WSO offered the Canadian experience with respect to the accommodation of the Kirpan as a successful model that can be used to develop a Kirpan policy in NSW that balances students' freedom to practice their faith and any safety concerns.

In June, the WSO welcomed the amendments to WorksafeBC's Occupational Health & Safety Regulation (OHSR) relating to safety headgear. Section 8.11 of the OHSR required safety headgear to be worn in any work area where there is a danger of head injury however the regulation was being applied as a blanket requirement resulting in Sikh workers who wear the Dastaar being excluded from workplaces, even where accommodation was possible.



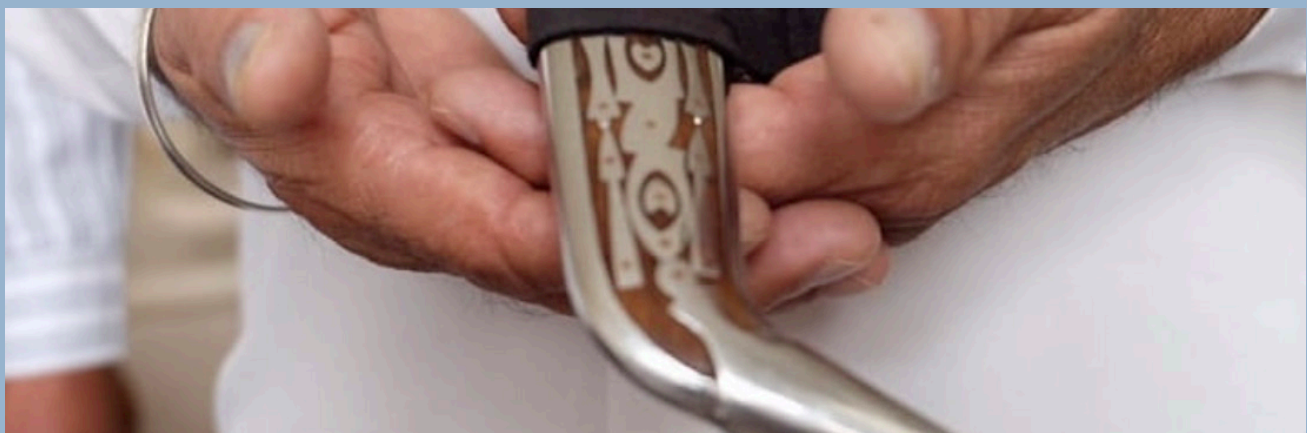
The amendments to OHSR clarify that employers must conduct a risk assessment and attempt to remove and eliminate any risks before requiring hardhats on worksites. The amendments open the door to dastaar-wearing Sikh workers being accommodated on worksites where the risk of head injury can be removed.

The WSO has regularly advocated for the accommodation of Dastaar wearing Sikh workers on worksites in BC and across Canada in the wake of increasingly common blanket hardhat policies. The WSO was part of the initial presentation to the BC Government in 2018 that led to the current amendment and also provided submissions during the consultation process.

At the end of 2021, the WSO released 3 powerful videos showcasing the impact the organization has had on the lives and livelihoods of Canadian Sikhs. The 3 videos highlight key incidents that through advocacy and legal challenges, greatly changed the way Sikhs live their lives today:

- Dastaar Accommodations in Canada
- Kirpan Accommodations in Canada
- WSO at the Supreme Court

All videos are available on the WSO YouTube page.



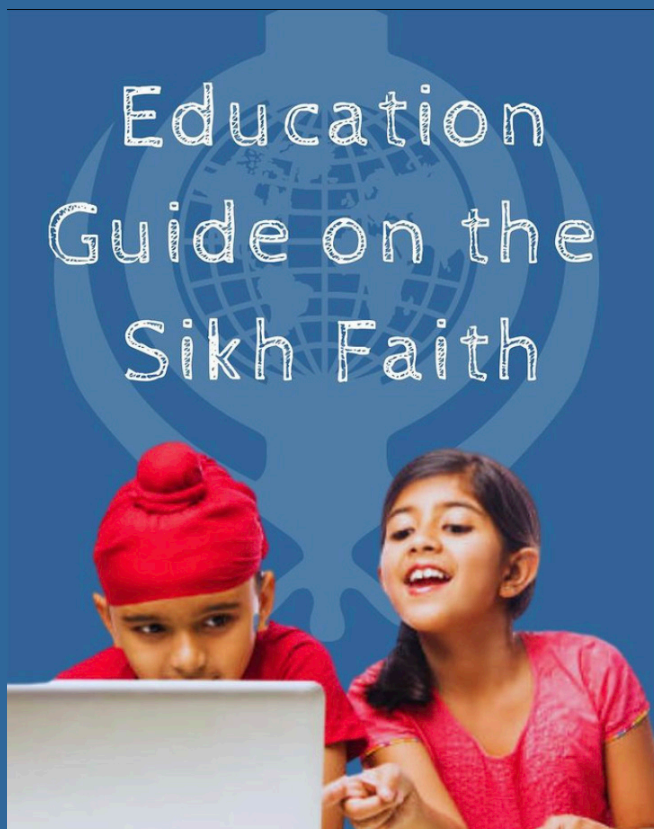
Community Activism Continued...

Sikh Education Guide

In September 2021, in response to the continuous discrimination, racism and bullying that Sikh students face in classrooms and playgrounds, the WSO released the Sikh Education Guide.

This easy to read guide gives a background on the Sikh faith and offers suggestions on how to incorporate safe and appropriate activities to make classrooms more inclusive and welcoming. This is a great resource for parents to use in helping the teachers and school staff to create safe and respectful learning spaces for their children. Ask your principals, teachers and school board trustees to use the WSO Education Guide to ensure your children are represented and supported in their education journey.

The WSO is also engaging School Boards across the country to incorporate this resource into their larger anti-racism, equity, diversity and inclusion work. We know how important it is for our youth to see themselves reflected in their schools, in the curriculum and to have a culturally knowledgeable and informed educator. We are dedicated to ensuring a more equitable and fair future for all.



World Sikh Organization of Canada

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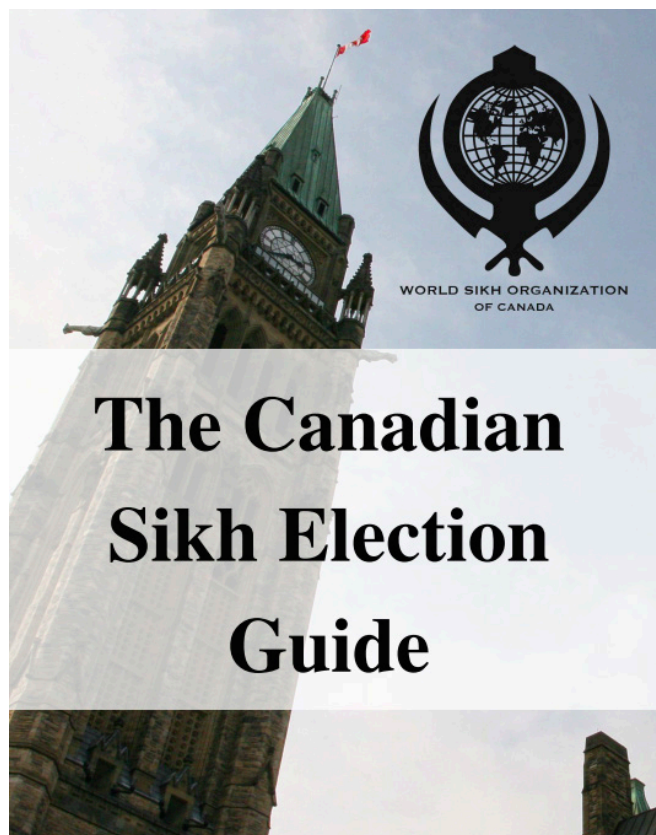
2021 Sikh Election Guide

Ahead of the Canadian federal election, the WSO released the 2021 Sikh Election Guide.

The guide highlighted key issues directly affecting the Sikh Canadian community that needed to be addressed before we go to the voting stations. In such a crucial time where rights and freedoms are being questioned, lives are in danger and every day life has been altered – the Sikh community needed to be informed and as a community there was a strong need to hold our politicians accountable.

The guide covered, in depth, topics such as:

- Resettlement of Afghan Sikhs & Hindus
- Canada and India relations
- Quebec's Bill 21
- International Students
- Workplace Accommodations



WORLD SIKH ORGANIZATION OF CANADA



RESETTLEMENT OF AFGHAN SIKH AND HINDU REFUGEES

Expedited process to allow Afghan Sikh and Hindu families to resettle in Canada through a direct sponsorship program.



Key Objectives:

- Request the Government of Canada to directly evacuate Sikhs and Hindus currently in Afghanistan.
- Press the Government of Canada to expedite the processing of currently sponsored Afghan Sikhs and Hindus and create a special program to allow the Sikh community to privately sponsor the remaining families.

WSO Board of Directors 2020 - 2021



TEJINDER SINGH
President

Tejinder is born and raised in Calgary. He's been an active member in his community for many years. He is married with 2 children. Tejinder works for a large telecommunications company in a management role. With the help of WSO, he was able to successfully win the right for Sikhs across Alberta to wear Kirpans in Courthouses.



BHAVJINDER KAUR
Executive Vice-President

Born, raised and settled in Surrey, B.C., Bhavjinder Kaur is a post-doctoral research fellow in the Department of Microbiology and Immunology at the University of British Columbia. Dr. Dhillon has been active in many seva projects since she was in high school. She developed her leadership skills working with youth groups at Sri Guru Singh Sabha Gurdwara and as SSA president at UBC. She has served as a member of the WSO national board since 2017.



SHARANJEET KAUR
Vice-President Ontario

Sharanjeet Kaur has a diverse professional background in the public sector, having worked across different levels of government and agencies. She is passionate about advancing public policy, advocacy, and community capacity building with the Sikh community. She has over two decades of experience supporting charities in Punjab, local Gurdwara youth engagement initiatives, and interfaith forums across numerous communities.



HARMAN SINGH KANDOLA

Vice-President Alberta

Harman is a lawyer at Shorwie Bhatia LLP having completed his JD and Bachelor of Commerce in Business Law & Economics at the University of Alberta. Harman dedicated himself to public service and is currently a member of SEVA Food Truck, Punjabi Sports Association, and the Indo Canadian Liason Committee for Edmonton Police Service.



MANDEEP KAUR

Vice President Quebec & Atlantic Canada

Mandeep Kaur was born and raised in Montreal, Quebec, which gave her the opportunity to be fluent in both french and english. She is a second year student Bachelor of Arts in Political Science at University Concordia. Quebec gave her the opportunity to be involved with the local community and volunteer with organizations such as WorldSikh Organization and Khalsa Aid.



GUNTAAS KAUR

Vice President British Columbia

Guntaas Kaur was born and raised in Vancouver. In 2015, Guntaas graduated from Law School at the University of Exeter. Guntaas has volunteered with many seva projects, including translating numerous documents (with her father) for the Komagata Maru Journey Project organized by Simon Fraser University; worked with WSO to conduct Sikh Patient Care Guidelines workshops for frontline healthcare staff in Metro Vancouver.



IMREET KAUR

Vice President Central

Imreet Kaur is a community economic development enthusiast with an undergraduate degree in Economics. She is the co-founder of Sikh Heritage Manitoba. At Sikh Heritage Manitoba, she spearheads the organization's creative direction and manages government relations. Since 2016, Kaur has also worked with the World Sikh Organization of Canada in various capacities to organize and fundraise for One Billion Rising and #AskCanadianSikhs.

WSO Board of Directors 2020 - 2021



DANISH SINGH
Director of Finance

Danish Singh is born and raised in Surrey, BC. Currently pursuing his CPA designation, he works as a junior accountant at a public practice accounting firm in New Westminster. He became involved with the WSO and also attended the Sikh Youth Leadership Institute in 2019.

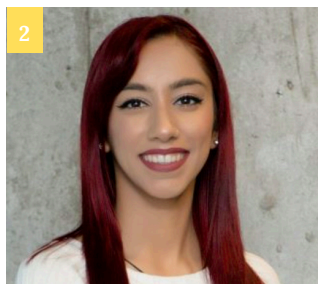


JASKARAN SINGH
Director of Administration

Jaskaran was formerly the Executive Director of the World Sikh Organization of Canada (WSO). He is also a current CivicAction DiverseCity Fellow, and was recognized by Brampton's Board of Trade as one of Brampton's top 40 under 40 in 2017.



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1 GURPREET KAUR RAI
Director (BC)

2 NAVDEEP KAUR GILL
Director (BC)

3 JASPREET SINGH
Director (BC)

4 RUPINDER JIT SINGH KAHLON
Director (BC)

5 ARJIN SINGH TOOR
Director (BC)

6 HARPREET SINGH GILL
Director (BC)

7 HARJIT SINGH BHANDAR
Director (BC)

8 TARANDEEP SINGH
Director (AB)



9 SONIA AUJLA-BHULLAR
Director (AB)

10 ERIN SHERGILL
Director (AB)

11 SHAZINDER KAUR
Director (AB)

12 KAVNEET SINGH
Director (QC)

13 KANWARPAL SINGH
Director (QC)

14 AMRIT KAUR
Director (QC)

15 KHUSHWANT KAUR
Director (ON)

16 GURPREET SINGH BAL
Director (ON)

17 RANJIT SINGH DULAY
Director (ON)

18 ARSHPREET SEKHON
Director (ON)

19 ARJAN SETHI
Director (ON)

20 KIRPA KAUR GREWAL
Director (ON)

21 JASPREET BAL
Director (ON)

22 GURLEEN KAUR SIDHU
Director (ON)

Our Year in Review

FARMERS PROTEST

As the situation in India worsened, the WSO wrote to the Foreign Affairs Minister to call on Canada to condemn the violent attacks on farmer protestors in India.



JAN

FEB

ONE BILLION RISING

Every February, the WSO delivers Valentine's Day packages to survivors of domestic abuse all across Canada.



INTERNATIONAL WOMENS DAY



Women are at the forefront of fighting against injustices and systemic inequities. In March, we highlighted Nodeep Kaur and Harpreet Kaur, two Sikh women fearlessly leading the fight with their Sikh values.

WSO celebrates these women, and women all over the world, for their resilience, strength and spirit. Today and everyday.

MAR

SIKH HERITAGE MONTH



Sikh Heritage Month is a celebration of the Canadian Sikhs. For over 100 years, our stories have been woven into the rich cultural fabric that is Canada.

In the month of April, we reflect on our community, our history and envision what our future looks like. Together we acknowledge our dynamic and diverse heritage and organize many events throughout the month to celebrate.

APR

MAY

ONTARIO KHALSA DARBAR COMMUNITY VACCINE CLINIC

In May, the WSO alongside the Ontario Khalsa Darbar partnered with the Peel Region of Health to provide Peel hotspots with access to Pfizer vaccines.

WSO is very proud of this initiative and grateful for the opportunity to serve and celebrate together the success and impact these vaccine clinics have on our community.



JUN



1984 UNCENSORED

In June, the WSO hosted an open and raw conversation about the 1984 Sikh Genocide from diaspora perspectives. Panelists included Paneet Singh, Rena Heer, Amneet Singh Bali, Guntaas Kaur Cheema, and Paramvir Singh Deol.



#SAVEAFGHANSIKHS

In July, the WSO launched an email campaign to our MP's to let our government officials know that Afghan Sikhs and Hindus must be included in the evacuation plan they recently announced for Afghan interpreters and staff that assisted the Canadian military.



JUL

AUG

SIKH YOUTH LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE

This year SYLI was conducted online to adhere with COVID guidelines. Over the span of the summit, the participants learned how to address and challenge societal issues and advocate on behalf of their community.

Each of the participants competed in a group project to pitch an innovative solution to help international students in Canada.



Education Guide on the Sikh Faith

EDUCATION GUIDE ON THE SIKH FAITH

As Sikh parents sent their students back to school, the WSO created a much needed guide to help teachers, students and administrators better understand Sikh students, their Sikh faith and their needs.

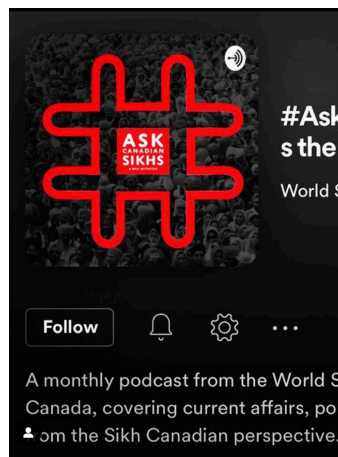
The easy to read guide gives a background on the Sikh faith and offers suggestions on how the administration can incorporate safe and appropriate activities to make their classroom more inclusive and welcoming.

SEPT

OCT

#ASKCANADIANSIKHS

Every month, the WSO releases a new podcast highlighting issues that are important to Canadian Sikhs.



THEY LIVE HERE



#THEYLIVEHERE

Every November, Sikhs across the world remember the state led Sikh Genocide that took place across India in 1984. From November 1st to 3rd, the WSO and partner organizations from across the world joined together to light candles outside their homes. We take this opportunity to not only remember the innocent lives lost but to also mark our homes as a sign of resilience.

NOV

DEC

#BATTLEBILL21 #DASTAAR

For decades, the WSO has continued to fight for the right for Sikhs to freely wear their Dastaars and other articles of faith. [Videos](#) were created to share some of these victories from 1984 til today.



