

GURMAIL GILL

Sector: Law
Origin: Canada
Vancouver-born judge Gurmail Gill is the son of pioneer Mohinder Singh, who was an early activist in the Khalsa Diwan Society. Appointed to the provincial court in 1994, Gill is a product of the University of B.C. and has emerged as an outspoken opponent of mandatory sentencing for chronic offenders. He chaired the Royal Commission on Workers' Compensation, reporting on workplace safety reform. For the past seven months, Gill has served as the administrative judge for the South Fraser Judicial district, responsible for Surrey, Abbotsford and Chilliwack.



MANINDER GILL

Sector: Media
Origin: India
Years in Canada: 29
Colourful and controversial, Gill has been on the air with his Surrey-based Radio India since August 1999. A former concert promoter, the broadcaster has been at the forefront of community campaigns against violence against women, gangs and drugs. But Gill has also been at the centre of controversy, accused in 2005 during the last Surrey election of partisan attacks on Dianne Watts, who went on to win.



MOE GILL

Sector: Politics
Origin: India
Years in Canada: 53
Moe Gill followed his father to Canada in the 1950s and worked in sawmills. Gill was a competitive wrestler as a young man, winning the B.C. senior open championship in 1967. He and his wife Jagdish bought and ran a raspberry farm in the '70s. He is still in the farming business and an advocate for agribusiness. He ran unsuccessfully for city council in Abbotsford five times before finally becoming the first South Asian to be elected to office in Abbotsford in 1996.



SOHEN GILL

Sector: Sports
Origin: Canada
Gill, who was born in Vancouver, was introduced to lacrosse at age eight at an outdoor box in Burnaby's Confederation Park and has been involved in the game ever since as a player and coach, convening 13 national championship tournaments and chairing the Canadian Lacrosse Association box sector for six years. Now, the WLA commissioner and B.C. Lacrosse Association president.



IQBAL GREWAL

Sector: Business
Origin: India
Years in Canada: 27
Iqbal Grewal is a quiet but powerful force in Vancouver's fine dining scene. Grewal co-founded both Quattro on Fourth and Quattro Whistler with Antonio Corsi and served as co-chef. In 1998 he opened La Terrazza in Yaletown with Quattro alumni Giulio Miceli and Gennaro Iorio. He also owns Café Roma in North Vancouver.



MANPREET GREWAL

Sector: Media
Origin: India
Years in Canada: 21
Grewal has been the manager of multicultural and immigrant services for Abbotsford Community Services for almost two decades, helping design programs for newcomers to her community. But she has also been an eloquent and thought-provoking journalist and commentator, writing against racism, violence against women and about the plight of marginalized people like farm workers in the Fraser Valley. Grewal's articles appear regularly in *The Vancouver Sun*.



NINA GREWAL

Sector: Politics
Origin: Japan
Years in Canada: 17
Nina Grewal and her husband Gurmant came to Canada from Liberia, where they ran a successful family business. Gurmant was first elected to Parliament in 1997. When his wife Nina was elected as an MP they became the first married couple to serve in Parliament at the same time. Prime Minister Stephen Harper dropped Gurmant Grewal as a candidate before the 2006 election after his negotiations to switch his allegiance to the federal Liberals became public. Nina continues to serve as MP for Fleetwood-Port Kells. She was, with Ruby Dhalla, one of the first Sikh women elected to Parliament.



SUKI GREWAL

Sector: Medicine
Origin: India
Years in Canada: 34
Sukhdev (Suki) Grewal was certified as a nurse and midwife in the U.K. before arriving in Canada in 1974. She began work as an obstetrical nurse before switching her focus to community health nursing. Grewal is a co-founder and president of the South Asian Family Association and has published and spoken widely on ethno-cultural healthcare issues. She received a master's in nursing from UBC and is a nursing instructor at Langara College.



GLENN BAGLO/VANCOUVER SUN

CHANDRA MADHOSINGH

Sector: Education/Sports
Origin: Trinidad
Years in Canada: 53
From sub-atomic particles to 40-mm celluloid balls to celestial "gas giants" in the unexplored cosmos, Chandra Madhosingh's wide-ranging life of discovery has touched all manner of spheres. A native of San Fernando, Trinidad, Madhosingh came to Vancouver at age 19 to study sciences at UBC. Now 72, the curry and calypso-loving astrophysicist with a Ph.D from Sussex University is an investigator for MOST, a Canadian Space Agency project under Order of Canada recipient Jaymie Mark Matthews. MOST (Microvariability and Oscillations of Stars) uses data from the first all-Canadian scientific satellite to interpret the possibilities of life in solar systems thousands of light years away. When Madhosingh is not sitting in on discussions at TRIUMF, Canada's national laboratory for particle and nuclear physics, the Jet Propulsion Laboratory or NASA's Ames Research Center, gathering data from spacecraft, the semi-retired

UBC lecturer applies his scientific mind to table tennis. He is Mr. Table Tennis in B.C., having been a Canadian coach, manager or delegate to 15 world championships. In 1973, he took a junior team on a ping-pong diplomacy trip to China, one of the first initiatives to improve Canada-People's Republic relations through sport. Madhosingh has been a tireless promoter of the worldwide game, the second-most popular (behind soccer) in his native Trinidad. For more than two decades he has campaigned for a multi-sport facility in the Lower Mainland to provide a second national training centre. He is actively involved in coaching certification, high school clinics and tournaments and the International Table Tennis Federation's sports science congress, contributing his opinions on psychology, diet and biomechanics to improve athletic performance.

IAN HANOMANSING

Sector: Media
Origin: Trinidad
Years in Canada: 36
CBC-TV news anchor Ian Hanomansing studied political science and sociology, as well as law at Dalhousie University, before the lure of broadcast journalism. Hanomansing has covered the Exxon Valdez oil spill, the Hong Kong handover, the Los Angeles riots and several Olympic games. Hanomansing is the host of *CBC News: Canada Now*, the network's national early evening news program.



JAS JOHAL

Sector: Media
Origin: India
Years in Canada: 36
Global National's B.C. correspondent began his big-city journalism career in 1991 on CKNW's *Bill Good* program. Johal has won several local and national journalism awards for his work on stories from the *Queen of the North* ferry disaster, the Air India bombing and for producing nationally aired documentaries on India's economy and film industry.



SATNAM JOHAL

Sector: Sports
Origin: India
Years in Canada: 40
Satnam Johal is a Surrey businessman with a passion for sport. He started the powerhouse Hargobind Wrestling Club in his basement 15 years ago. The athletes who train there routinely finish atop tournaments across the country. Johal was one of Olympic gold medalist Daniel Iggali's mentors, allowing the young wrestler to live at his home in 1995 so he could devote all his energy to training. He is a member of the ActNow BC leadership council and Surrey's 2010 Olympic Games committee.



DILBAR KANG

Sector: Media
Origin: India
Years in Canada: 15
Kang has become a fixture through his reporting on the successful Channel M nightly Punjabi news. He is also one of the hosts for Punjabi Interactive, a weekly current affairs call-in show on Channel M. Before joining Channel M, he worked in radio as a talk-show host. Kang was also a special correspondent for a local Punjabi-language newspaper. Kang immigrated to B.C. from Punjab in 1993.



AZIZ KHAKI

Sector: Education
Origin: East Africa
Years in Canada: 34
Aziz Khaki was promoting interfaith dialogue as a member of Vancouver's Sunni Muslim community in the 1970s, long before it became fashionable. As a kind of elder statesman of religious tolerance, the veteran educator and activist often takes centre stage at events devoted to increasing inter-spiritual understanding. He was on the official welcoming committee when Pope John Paul II came to Vancouver. He also introduced the Dalai Lama during one of his visits to the city. As head of the Pacific Interfaith Citizenship Association, Khaki strives to represent Muslim Canadians who come from a bewildering range of countries.



DAISY KLER

Sector: Community
Origin: Canada
Daisy Kler works on the front lines. Spokeswoman for Vancouver Rape Relief and Women's Centre, advocate for prostitutes but opponent of prostitution, and organizer of activist street theatre, Kler uses any and all means to get her message out. Kler is an outspoken opponent of harm reduction and legitimation strategies as a way to help women who are prostitutes, arguing that society should not view the sex trade as a career option, especially when the average age for a woman to become a prostitute is 14.



ALI LAKHANI

Sector: Law
Origin: England
Years in Canada: 35
Ali Lakhani is a prominent Vancouver lawyer who has made a name for himself as an internationally respected public intellectual. Lakhani is the founder of a scholarly journal on philosophy and spirituality titled *The Sacred Web*, which has received glowing praise from Prince Charles and famed world religion specialists Karen Armstrong and Huston Smith. Although his family roots are in India, Lakhani says he believes hyphenated terms such as "Indo-Canadian" are not helpful in a pluralistic, multi-faith society. He thinks of himself first as a Canadian citizen — one who aspires "to the Platonic ideals of truth, goodness, and beauty."



AMIN LAJJI

Sector: Business
Origin: Uganda
Years in Canada: 30
Amin Lajji is a principal of the Larco Group of Companies, which, among other things, owns the Park Royal Shopping Centre and Whistler Village Centre. Although company officials generally say Lajji wants to keep out of the public eye, in 2006, his family donated \$1 million to Simon Fraser University's Centre for the Comparative Study of Muslim Societies and Culture. Lajji has been chairman of the National Committee of the Aga Khan Foundation Canada.



FARHAN LAJJI

Sector: Sports/Media
Origin: Tanzania
Years in Canada: 36
Farhan Lajji has covered some of the biggest sporting events in North America during his 11-year tenure as a sports reporter with TSN. Born in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania on June 6, 1968, Lajji moved to Canada four years later. He started his journalism career as SFU's sports information director. From there he went on to work as a producer and reporter for CKWX's Sports Machine and was a sports and weekend news anchor for CBC before joining TSN in 1997. Lajji is the head football coach at New Westminster secondary school and a member of the B.C. Secondary Schools Football Association's board of directors.



PETER and SHAHRAM MALEK

Sector: Business
Origin: India
Years in Canada: 30+
The Malek brothers are busily reshaping cities on both sides of the Burrard Inlet. Their 2.6 hectare, \$1.4 billion Vancouver Olympic Village project will fully remodel False Creek with 70,000 square feet of retail and commercial space, a 30,000 square foot community centre and 14 residential buildings. The land purchase alone set a new price record for real estate in Vancouver. In West Vancouver after a false start brought about by community opposition, the Maleks are building a scaled-down 349-unit residential development just up the hill from Park Royal.