
TO: MAYOR AND COUNCILLORS **DATE:** 2011 March 28

FROM: KUSHIRO CUP SELECTION COMMITTEE

SUBJECT: 2011 CITIZEN OF THE YEAR – KEHAR SINGH AUJLA

PURPOSE: The purpose of this report is to announce the presentation of the 2011 Citizen of the Year Award to Kehar Singh Aujla at the Annual City Appreciation Dinner to be held on 2012 May 04.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. **THAT** Council receive this report for information purposes.

REPORT

Burnaby City Council, at the Closed Council meeting held on 2011 March 19, received and adopted a report from the Kushiro Cup Selection Committee recommending Kehar Singh Aujla be awarded the Kushiro Cup for 2011 Outstanding Citizen of the Year.

Mr. Aujla has been chosen for this award for his active volunteerism and has been described as “a professional super volunteer” for the time, energy, and enthusiasm he commits to his community. Kehar Singh Aujla was nominated by: Raj Chouhan, MLA; Cheryl Bosley, President, Burnaby Hospital Foundation and Veronica Grossi, Program Coordinator, Volunteer Grandparents. His nomination is supported by Geraldine Wall, Volunteer Program Coordinator, Citizen Support Services; Clare O’Kelly, Manager Volunteer Resources, Burnaby Hospital; Lynda Maeve Orr, Assistant Programmer, Burnaby Village Museum; Linda Comba, Programme Director, Burnaby Seniors Outreach Services Society; Mona Lochan, Volunteer Coordinator, Shadbolt Centre for the Arts and Avtar Singh Gill, Assistant Head of Working Committee, Sikh Seva Foundation.

Mr. Aujla, originally from Western India, immigrated with his wife to Canada in 1996. He became a Canadian citizen in 1999 and since 2006 he has been actively volunteering.

In 2006, Mr. Aujla started as an active volunteer with the Burnaby Hospital Foundation, participating in fundraising events such as “The Slice”, their annual golf tournament and “Rhythm of Life”, their annual run and walk. Mr. Aujla also volunteers at the Information desk at Burnaby General Hospital greeting clients, patients and their families as they enter the hospital.

To: Mayor and Council

From: Kushiro Cup Selection Committee

Subject: 2011 Kushiro Cup Award for
Outstanding Citizen of the Year

2012 April 2 Council Meeting Page 2

In 2007, Mr. Aujla saw an advertisement in the Burnaby NOW for Volunteer Grandparents and despite having a large extended family himself, Mr. Aujla decided to devote some of his spare time as a volunteer grandfather with the Volunteer Grandparents' Family Match Program. He was matched with a family with three young children and is appreciated by the parents and children alike for being a consistent and stable role model. He thoroughly enjoys the time he spends with the children and the entire family.

Kehar also volunteers with the City of Burnaby, at the Burnaby Village Museum and Shadbolt Centre for the Arts as well as with Citizen Support Services. He also assisted with registration for the 2009 World Police and Fire Games. Since the summer of 2007, Kehar has volunteered a total of 360 hours at the Burnaby Village Museum. He helps with school programs and various special events, including the popular Heritage Christmas school program. He interacts with the students and passes on historical knowledge in an informative and entertaining manner. Since 2009, Kehar has been volunteering at Shadbolt Centre for the Arts and has been described as having great knowledge when interacting with participants and staff at events and as being always joyful when helping others. He joined Citizen Support Services in 2007 and ever since he has been a volunteer shopping buddy requiring one-on-one attention with a client for four hours every Monday at either Brentwood and Lougheed Malls.

Mr. Aujla is also responsible for administrative work within the Sikh Seva Foundation of which he volunteers about 8 hours each week.

Most recently, Mr. Aujla signed up to become a Senior Peer Counsellor with Burnaby Seniors Outreach Services Society (BSOSS). In order to become a volunteer Counsellor and provide emotional support to seniors who are experiencing distress as a result of losses and changes in their later years, Mr. Aujla was required to complete their 54 hour training course. According to the BSOSS Programme Director, his contribution to the learning experience of his classmates during this course was insightful and practical. Graduating in December of last year, he eagerly accepted his first assignment in January.

Kehar Singh Aujla also volunteers for other charity organizations throughout the Lower Mainland such as the Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation and the Vancouver International Marathon Society. For the last five years, Mr. Kehar Singh Aujla has been a regular volunteer at the Sikh Temple of the Khalsa Diwan Society, New Westminster.

In total, Mr. Aujla currently volunteers with nine organizations. Two years ago, he received the 2010 Seniors' Leadership Award through Simon Fraser University's Gerontology Research Centre. Last year, the 2011 Burnaby Seniors of Distinction honoured him as the winner of the NewsLeader and AgeCare Healthy Living Award. This year, he has been nominated for the Top 25 Immigrant Award.

To: Mayor and Council

From: Kushiro Cup Selection Committee

Subject: 2011 Kushiro Cup Award for
Outstanding Citizen of the Year

2012 April 2 Council Meeting Page 3

One of Mr. Aujla's supporters, Ms. Mona Lochan, states "*Mr. Kehar Singh Aujla is a kind and hardworking man dedicated to serving the community as a volunteer and ambassador of Burnaby*". For this, all of the other reasons outlined in this report, the Kushiro Cup Selection Committee agreed Mr. Kehar Singh Aujla is truly worthy of receiving the honour of the City of Burnaby's "*2011 Citizen of the Year*".

The Kushiro Cup will be presented to Mr. Aujla at the annual City Appreciation Dinner to be held on Friday, 2012 May 04.

Respectfully submitted,

Councillor Anne Kang
Chair

Councillor Pietro Calendino
Member

Councillor Paul McDonell
Member

Copied to: City Manager