

CICS REPORT



A newsletter from the Centre for Indo-Canadian Studies at the University of the Fraser Valley

University of Mumbai establishes Indo-Canadian Studies Centre



Minister of Health Mike de Jong addressing the audience

UFV Associate Dean of Arts Susan Fisher went to Mumbai at the beginning of October to represent UFV at the opening of the Indo-Canadian Studies Centre (ICSC) at the University of Mumbai. This centre, supported by a grant from the government of British Columbia, is intended to be a "sister" centre to the Centre for Indo-Canadian Studies. The formal establishment of the ICSC will result in even stronger connections between UFV and the University of Mumbai, leading to student and faculty exchanges and collaborative research and conferences.

The centre was officially opened by Dr. Rajan Welukar, the Vice Chancellor of the University of Mumbai, and Marvin Hildebrand, Consul General of Canada in Mumbai. In their speeches at the opening, both Dr. Welukar and Mr. Hildebrand spoke of the importance of building Canada-India exchanges and linkages.

To celebrate the opening, the centre's director, Professor Nilufer Bharucha, organized a symposium entitled "Re-Imaging the Old and Negotiating the New: Indo-Canadian Literature and Cinema." Among the speakers were two

scholars from Germany and several scholars affiliated with the University of Mumbai. Dr Fisher gave a speech entitled "South Asian Canadian Literature: Between World Literature and Canadian Literature." In attendance at the symposium were faculty and students from U Mumbai, including an impressive group of students from Mumbai's English MA program.

The next day, Dr Fisher gave an inaugural talk for the Indo-Canadian Studies Centre lecture series. The topic of her talk was "The Great War: Canada's 'Creation Story'?" This led to a very interesting discussion about Indian soldiers in the Great War and the way that they have (and have not) been remembered and honoured.

Following Dr Fisher's visit, on Nov 14 members of the BC Education Delegation who were travelling in India with Premier Christy Clark visited the centre. An education forum was hosted by Dr Bharucha with BC Minister of Health Mike de Jong as the invited guest. He announced a \$50,000 grant to UFV's CICS and the University of Mumbai's centre for further collaborations. The announcement was received with much gratitude by both universities.

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(from left to right) Dr. Barbara S. Haberkamp, U of Bonn; Dr. Nilufer Bharucha, Professor of English, U of Mumbai and honorary coordinator, ICSC; Dr. Susan Fisher, University of the Fraser Valley; Exchange student from Iran studying at U Mumbai; Ms. Kirti Javadekar, program assistant, U of Mumbai ICSC

