



KHALSA DIWAN SOCIETY



HEAD OFFICE: SIKH TEMPLE
~~1885 WEST 10TH AVENUE~~ 8000 Ross St.
 VANCOUVER 9, B.C.

February 1, 1971.

Dr. R.F. Sharp
 District Superintendent of Schools
 Vancouver School Board
 1595 West 10th Avenue
 Vancouver 9, B.C.

Dear Dr. Sharp:

Since July 1970 the problem of East Indian children's education has become an increasingly important concern to us. It was brought to our attention by school officials that a significant number of these children are underachieving. According to Mr. Art Messenger, Special Counsellor, about one-third of the East Indian children do quite poorly. This is based on difficulties with the English language and cultural factors.

In our meeting with school officials, groups which work with the children, and the community members, it became obvious that a systematic approach would be required to meet the educational needs of these children.

At our last meeting of Tuesday, January 19, 1971, which was attended by Dr. Stewart Martin and Mrs. Vollands, among others, it was felt that the proposal prepared by Mr. Gyan Nath should be considered for acceptance. Our Society has considered and approved the above proposal and it is of the opinion that implementation of this proposal would have a far reaching effect on the educational needs of not only the East Indian children but also the children of other cultural backgrounds.

We also realize that there should be an opportunity for Educators and other professional people, whose work brings them in contact with our children and Community, to know more about the East Indian culture. To this end the Centre for Continuing Education (U.B.C.) working with the East Indian Community, is presenting four Seminar Sessions at the Sikh Temple on March 3, 10, 17, and 24, respectively.

We appreciate that the School Board is aware of the educational problems of the immigrant children. This is shown by special education programmes and particularly by the new Canadian classes which are available in the City of Vancouver. To gain acquaintance with such programmes, it will be helpful if Mr. Gyan Nath, Point Grey Secondary School, is given the opportunity to visit these classes and discuss the valuable work that is presently being done.

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~~1550 WEST 106th AVENUE~~ 8000 Ross St.
VANCOUVER 15, B.C.

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To - Dr. R.F. Sharp

February 1, 1971.

In order to discuss our proposal to meet the educational needs of the East Indian children, I would appreciate the opportunity to meet you and the Board of School Trustees at your convenience. Two copies of the above proposal are enclosed.

We would like to extend our thanks to the School Officials, who have very kindly worked with us at our meetings.

Yours very truly,

M.S. Gill
Chairman, Education Committee
Khalsa Diwan Society
8000 Ross Street
Vancouver 15, B.C.

MSG/ml

COPIES TO: Mrs. Olive Johnson
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Vancouver School Board
4047 West 38th Ave.,
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Dr. Stewart Martin
Director of Elementary School Instruction
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Mrs. C. Vollands
Special Education Co-ordinator
Vancouver School Board
Vancouver, B.C.

Mr. Art Messenger
Special Counsellor

Miss Marjorie M. Smith