

# Canadian Federation Of Fiji Organizations (CFOFO)

[An umbrella organization representing Fiji Organizations of Greater Vancouver:  
Religious, Social-Cultural, Sporting, Business, Trades & Professionals]

## Newsletter: Volume 3. Issue 4. Summer 2005

Guest Youth Editor: Jotika D. Mangal B.A. (SFU)

### Message from Chairman: Dr. Anil Mangal – Thank You

#### **\*Fiji community donates \$30,000 to the Canadian Red Cross\***

The Canadian Federation Of Fiji Organizations (CFOFO), says “**THANK-YOU**” to each one of you for all your help and support. Any form of contribution that you made to raise the funds, is applauded!!!

Another First for the Fiji Community – all the Fiji-Canadian community came together to raise \$30,000 within two months for the Tsumani victims, an international disaster, and proceeds presented to the Canadian Red Cross. **CFOFO had given \$8,221.25 to the Red Cross before January 11, 2005– this figure was matched by the Federal Government, raising our contribution total to \$38,221.25.** This is the very first time, the Fiji-Canadian Community, working together as one cohesive group, raised funds, to support a cause outside of Fiji, thereby joining many other organizations at an international level. This was possible through the existence of the **Canadian Federation Of Fiji Organizations (CFOFO)**, formed in 2000 and entering the 6<sup>th</sup> year of its existence. CFOFO, is unlike any other existing organization, because CFOFO is made up of all the existing Fiji-Canadian Organizations, Business, Trades and Professionals, therefore, by design, CFOFO is intended to be, an **umbrella organization**. CFOFO is working to have the Fiji-Canadian Community recognized at all levels in Canada.



Fiji-Canadian Community Leaders at the presentation ceremony – **\$30,000 to Canadian Red Cross Society**, received by Ms. Jenny Moss, International Services Coordinator, Canadian Red Cross. This is a major achievement for our small Fiji-Community in the Canadian mosaic and at international level as well. As a community, we are now on-par, at international level with many other communities around the world. This also shows our “small” community has reached “maturity.” We are now able to band together and help others in need. This could not have been possible without the help of everyone from the Fiji-Community.

#### **Thank-You Again!!!**

Enjoy the **CFOFO Tsumani Fund-raiser Picture Gallery** of the people involved with the Tsumani functions. Please see the letter received by CFOFO on behalf of the Fiji-Community, from the Canadian Red Cross; We all ought to be very proud as a community. Also see the **list of Tsunami Donors**, those who supported in any form – the list is extensive, if any name has been missed, it is unintentional and we apologize, but, please contact the CFOFO-Chair (phone number on back page) and we shall publish the missing names in the next CFOFO Newsletter.

## ***CFOFO Newsletter: Summer 2005***

There can be no doubt that the existence of **CFOFO has brought the Fiji-community together** and a number of positive and “bright-lights” have emerged for the benefit of the community as a whole. For the first time in the community function, during the Tsunami Fundraiser in Burnaby we had multiple MCs sharing the load (James Reddy, Teresa Rehman, Ash Dutta and Edward Palad). Raj Nath (CFOFO Alternate Executive and a Building Technician) together with Wasu Naidu, (CFOFO Executive and an electronics expert), developed a “**Money Meter**” with lights etc that has been marveled by many, since no such meters have been seen at many sophisticated fundraising functions, even in the Canadian mainstream. **Mr. KS Naicker, MBE**, a prominent Fiji-Canadian Community Leader, demonstrated his community spirit and humility by actively participating and taking on various tasks, thereby leading us all by example and challenging the younger generation, thank-you uncle Naicker. Many CFOFO members organizations including the TISI Sangam Educational & Cultural Society (Sangam) and Maather Sangam, BC [Branch of Sangam], Shree Sanatan Dharam Ramayan Mandali (SSDRM) and other Fiji Community organizations eg the Fiji Seniors’ Council, the Fiji Dart League and numerous Fiji-affiliated business worked together and helped out as well. As some of the pictures in this issue exemplifies, many of the Fiji-Community leaders worked together, shoulder to shoulder and the outcome of such camaraderie can only be positive for the community as a whole. A **new group of community minded leaders** led by Nitya Govind and Satish Narayan, emerged to organise the Surrey event. Following on the heels of the Tsumani Fundraiser, one of CFOFO member organizations, SSDRM held a Grand Fundraiser, with the CFOFO Secretary, Ms Teresa Rehman as the MC. Another CFOFO member organization, Sangam provided their PA and sound systems, operated by Wasu Naidu and James Reddy. It appears that the two Presidents (Indar Singh of SSDRM and Govinda Sami of Sangam), while working together in the Bar during the fundraiser, had already planned it. Apparently the recent performances, during the Fundraiser, by Ash Dutta (CFOFO Vice-Chair, Business & Professionals), was “noticed” by Ms Jenny Moss of the Red Cross and we understand something positive is in works – best wishes Ash. The husband and wife team of Bijay and Mrs Jai Singh, allowed the use of their house for the cooking. Ron Perimal, an Executive Chef took charge of the Food services. **Other talents have also been recognised**, since a number of CFOFO Executive have been invited to help the Red Cross organize the Red Cross Award/ Recognition Night, by serving on various Red Cross organizing committees. Thank-you to all of you.

It is my pleasure to announce that the **CFOFO Executive has taken another new step for the benefit of the Fiji community**, to help **Organizations Conduct Election Process**. CFOFO would provide the Electioneers, if requested by Fiji community organisations.

Following the success of the Youth Talent Show last year, CFOFO has decided to make this an annual event to showcase our younger generation. Youth Talent Show 2005 would have more youth involvement, including the Emceeing. CFOFO has also tried to get some contributions geared toward the youth in this Issue of the Newsletter. A new S.F.U. graduate, Miss Jotika Devi Mangal BA, has agreed to be a Guest Youth Editor. She has also contributed on the major subject of her degree in “**Linguistics**” and on the needs and benefits of “**Volunteering**” for the benefit of the Youth. Manoj Mangal, who is still deciding about his career options, attended a “**Careefest**” recently. He provides his insight on this topic for the benefit of our Youth. As a follow-up from the previous newsletter, Raj Mangal, a **2005 Pravasi Bhartiya Divas, Youth Intern** who attended the 2005 PBD Program, held in January in Mumbai, India, provides his reflections on this program. Hopefully, some of our youth would be encouraged to become one of the Pravasi Bhartiya Divas, Youth Interns and continue this tradition of being an Ambassador for the Fiji-Canadian Community. Some notable achievements by our Youth are also highlighted in this issue, including participation in the Youth Talent Show 2004 with pictures included. **CFOFO nominated five Fiji-Canadian Youth nominees for the Canada Day Youth Award 2005**. They are: Poonam Sharma, Priscilla Sharma, Priya Sharma, Preeti Sharma and Jason Sharma. While 2005 nominations are closed, it is time to start preparing for 2006 nominations. To compile your documentations, see the Canada Day Youth Award and the requirement, in this issue of the Newsletter or contact CFOFO Executives Edward Palad or Ash Dutta. Thanks to Jotika, Raj & Manoj for all the pictures.

CFOFO hopes to publish these newsletters regularly and we invite all community minded contributions from all ages, please contact me directly or any one of the CFOFO Executive listed at the back of this Newsletter.

## **CFOFO Members/Executive Helping Other Organizations**

### **CFOFO to Help Organizations Conduct Election Process**

At the request of Geeta Gyan Society and its President Mr. Ram Datt, to assist in their election process, CFOFO sent a three-member team, led by Mr. Edward Palad with Dr. Anil Mangal and Mr. Samar Jit, to conduct the 2005 elections for the society. CFOFO Executive has decided that this would be a good role for CFOFO to fulfill, if requested by other Fiji community organisations. Guidelines are being developed by CFOFO so that the conduct of the CFOFO Electioneers remain neutral during the elections process and helpful to the organizations.

### **Red Cross (Canada) Event Organizing-** The award/recognition night

A number of CFOFO Executive have been invited to help the Red Cross organize the **Red Cross Award/Recognition Night**, by serving on various Red Cross organizing committees. They include Edward Palad (Banner, Signs Committee), Wasu Naidu (PA Music), Ron Perimal (Food Advisory Committee), Teresa Rehman (Ethnic Performance) and Ash Dutta (Program Committee).

### **Fiji-Canadian Community Reps Meet Federal Minister of State for Multicultural**

Executive members of the Canadian Federation of Fiji Organizations (CFOFO): Edward Palad, Ash Dutta, Raj Singh, Feroz Dean, together with representatives of T.I.S.I. Sangam Educational and Cultural Society, President Govinda Sami and Executive Yankaytaya Naidu; Vedic Cultural Society, President Chandar Sen and Executive Vimla Singh; Shree Sanatam Dharam Ramayan Mandali BC, President Indar Singh and Vice-President Brij Lal; Maha Kali Mandir, Raj Krishnan and other Fiji Canadian Organizational Leaders met the Minister of Multiculturalism Hon. Raymond Chan in March 2005 and presented concerns on behalf of their community organizations to the Minister.

Mr Chan in his opening remark advised that he was interested in seeing the intergration of of minorities in the area of Economic progress. There was a great need for integration in the Professional and trades people. He advised that Canada is facing shortage of labour, particularly in certain professions and tradesmen. There is a great demand in some of these areas. He wanted to know what challenges were faced by the Fijian Community.

On the issue of Youth Programs, he indicated there is some seed money available for Social Workers and to work through Schools and RCMP to deal with youth crime. About difficulty of obtaining travel visa in emergency situations for family members from Fiji to attend for funeral services in Canada, he understood our concerns and advised that similar problem is encountered by other countries where Canada does not have a Counsellor offices. He suggested we could look into the possibility of electronic visa be made available. The Minister advised his office is available to assist. The Minister indicated that his Ministry would be pleased to consider government applications for a planned program from communities.

The meeting with the Minister was arranged by Bijay Singh former VP Chair of CFOFO. Contributed by: Ed Palad & Raj Singh

**CFOFO Tsumani Fund-raiser Picture Gallery 2005**



**Some of Fiji Community Leaders**



**Red Cross Volunteers**



**CFOFO Bar Ticket Sales (L-R) Samar Jit (CFOFO Treasurer) , Lallu Bhai & Mrs Jai Singh**



**CFOFO Assist-Secretary With Family & Friends**



**CFOFO Organizational Member Table: Vedic Cultural Society, Richmond**



**Some of CFOFO Executive with Guest Speakers at Tsunami Fundraiser Jan 05**

**CFOFO Tsumani Fund-raiser Picture Gallery 2005 cont.....**



**CFOFO Business Member-Concrete King Restoration**



**CFOFO Organizational Member: SSDRM**



**CFOFO Business Member Table- By Baileys' Pub**

**CFOFO Tsunami Fund-raiser Picture Gallery 2005 cont.....**



**Surrey Tsunami Fundraiser Committee with Guest Ms Jenny Moss**



**Surrey Tsunami Fundraiser: Bar Ticket Sales Fiji Community Volunteers**



**Surrey Event MC Rajesh Sharma and Raffle Draw Volunteers**

## **Fiji-Community opens their hearts: Tsunami Donors Acknowledged**

### **Monetary & In-kind Donors**

TISI Sangam Educational & Cultural Society; TISI Maathar Sangam of BC; Purohit Brahmin Sabha of BC; Maha Kali Mandir; Bonsor Community Centre; System 2000 (Nelson Naidu); Surdel Party Rentals (Mr. Munesh Raj); Ash Training & Consulting Systems (Mr. Ashok C. Dutta); R.K.S. Building Services (Mr. & Mrs. Indar Narayan Singh); Fairlane Collision (Mr. & Mrs. Jim Subhas Chand); Palad Designs (Mr. & Mrs. Edward Palad); Fiji Canada Senior Citizens' Council; Pioneer Floor Covering (Mr. & Mrs. Udit Narayan); Fruiticana Fruits & Vegetables (Mr. Sukhwinder Singh); Jessie Fabrics; Regal Fabrics Ltd.; India Bazaar-Vancouver; Sandman Inn Hotels (Mr. & Mrs. Bobby Naicker); Afghan Restaurant; Concrete King Restorations (Mr. & Mrs. Govind Naidu); Minit-Tune Auto & Brake Centre (Mr. & Mrs. Rishi Cheta); Sopron Autobody (Mr. Rishi Ram); Fairmont Hotel Waterfront-Vancouver; Westmark Development (Mr. Harmel Bains); Denny's Restaurant (Mr. Vince Perimal); Sadhna Saree House (Raju); Mr & Mrs. Ron Perimal; Island Foods (Ramesh); North Shore MacDonalds (Chandar Maharaj); Sanjay Foods Ltd. (Mr.& Mrs. Guy Sundar); Pt. & Mrs. Raj Krishnan; Pt. & Mrs. Shiu Madri; Pt. & Mrs. Hardip Sharma; Pt. & Mrs. Ajay Sharma; Pt. & Mrs. Ram Murti; Dr. and Mrs. Anil Mangal; Mr. Wasu D. Naidu; Mr. & Mrs. Bijay Singh; Ms. Teresa Rehman; Mr. & Mrs. James Reddy; Mr. & Mrs. Govinda Samy; Mr. & Mrs. Anand Samy; Mr. & Mrs. Rajendra Nath; Mr. & Mrs. Raj Singh; Mr. & Mrs. K. S. Naicker; Mr. & Mrs. Ramesh Narayan; Mr. & Mrs. David Indar Deo; Mr. & Mrs. Parma Nand; Mr. & Mrs. Samar Jit; Mr. & Mrs. Lallu Bhai; Mrs. Latchamma Appalsami; Mr. & Mrs. Gopal Pillai; Ms. Wasanthi Dewi Naidu; Ms. Aarthi Dewi Naidu; Mrs. Draupadi Singh; Mr. & Mrs. Dinesh Shankar; Mr. & Mrs. Allan Lal; Mr. & Mrs. James Surendra; Ms. Shalina Surendra; Mrs. Jagdhamba Gawanda; Mr. & Mrs. Ashnil Chandra; Mr. & Mrs. Loga Nandan; Mr. & Mrs. Subash Naidu; Sanjeev; Mr. & Mrs. Navin Maharaj; Mr. Glen Dutta; Mr. & Mrs. Robert V. Dutta; Mr. & Mrs. Tom A. Dutta; Mr. & Mrs. Jerry Tikaram Prasad; Mr. & Mrs. Bala Chandra; Mrs. Sheila Singh; Mr. & Mrs. Alvin Singh; Mr. & Mrs. Anil Ram; Mr. & Mrs. Yatish Prasad; Mr. & Mrs. Hari Prasad; Mr. & Mrs. Praveen Komal; Mr. & Mrs. Ami Chand; Mr. & Mrs. Roshni Komal; Ms. Sunita; Ms. Basmati Kumar; Mr. & Mrs. Pratap Chand; Mr. & Mrs. Hari Deo; Mr. & Mrs. Jiten Kumar; Mr. & Mrs. Shyam Mangal; Mr. & Mrs. Manoj Tiwari; Mr. & Mrs. Diven Narayan; Mr. & Mrs. Hari Ram; Mr. & Mrs. Ram Raman; Mr. & Mrs. Deo Ram Manik; Mr. Frank S. Nand; Mr. & Mrs. Shalig Sharma; Cash Now; By Bailey's Pub; Mrs. Savitri Verma; Fiji Seniors Society-Surrey; Fiji Seniors Council-Burnaby; Mr. & Mrs. Atma Ram Maharaj; Melissa V. Smith; Vijay Narayan; Sushila Singh; Mr. & Mrs. Victor Lal; Patricia Pabbi; Mr. & Mrs. Shabjad Jang; Manorama; Mrs. Vidya. Sharma; Amar Grewal; Manpreet Bains; Amandeep Bains; Sadasivan Gounder; Mr. & Mrs. Venktesh Perimal; Mr. & Mrs. Jagdish Prasad; Mr. Salendra Kumar; Mr. Deo Nand; Mr. Satish Narayan; Mr. Raymond Mangal, Mr. Beerbal Samujh; Mr. & Mrs. Bhagat Singh; Mr. Bijendra Singh; Mr. Chankrika Prasad; Sambhu Prasad; Mr. & Mrs. Nitya Govind; Sher Singh; Altaf, Ali and Jalal Buksh & Family; Durga Prasad; Rajesh Sharma; Warun Deo; Steven Butru; Ram Sahay; Vinod Prasad; Amar Singh, Ashley Prasad; Poonam & Priscilla Sharma; Prem K C; Mrs. Naina Govind.

***\*CFOFO has attempted to include in the above list, ALL those who supported in any form – the list is extensive, if any name has been missed, it is unintentional and we apologise, but, please contact the CFOFO-Chair (phone number on back page) and we shall publish the missing names in the next CFOFO Newsletter\****