



Farmer's Protest & Why This Discussion is Important

Dupinder Saran

BASMOCHALLENGE

Tuesday, June 22, 2021

1:00 – 2:30 pm

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Bio

Dupinder Saran is a Registered Nurse with 23 years of varied nursing experience, including working with Fraser Health, Provincial Health Services Authority, and BC Emergency Health Services under the operations of Ministry of Health. She sits on the Board of Trustees at the Surrey Public Library and was the CEO of Nurse On the Go Home and Healthcare Services in 2018, a company which she founded. Dupinder was raised in Surrey and has a passion for community service and advocacy. She is the Founder of One Voice Canada Foundation which helps support, create awareness, and advocate for International Students. She is a Director with a few non-profit organizations, and devotes her time to volunteer in the community, currently assisting with Farmer's Protests and work around Covid.

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Abstract

The farmer's protest is the largest peaceful protest in human history, which began in the fall of last year (2020). Some ask why is it important to discuss this matter in Canada. Canada which is known to be a multicultural country has many immigrants from India. Many of those immigrants either have their own farm land back home or have families who are farmers. In the recent years many International Students have come to Canada to study leaving their families behind, many of which are again farmers. Some farmers have already picked up loans on their lands not only to send their children to Canada to study, but to pay off other family debts back home. Canada is a country known to stand up for human rights, and we do stand on many other concerns world-wide, so why not during the largest protest in human history due to the 3 ordinances which the Indian government has put in place. These 3 bills put the livelihood of the farmers and their families along with generations to come, at risk. During the farmers protests in India, the world supported by doing protests globally, including here in BC Canada. This support not only assists the farmers morally, but also holds governments around the globe accountable in standing up for human rights causes. Suicide rates amongst farmers has risen in the last decade, and these 3 ordinances increased the suicide risk by supporting large corporations versus the farmers on their rights over their produce and pricing. This could impact consumers globally. To date over 400 farmers or their supporters have passed away while protesting, meanwhile the Indian government continues their election campaigns, ignoring the requests of the farmers. To support Indian farmers, protesters here in BC had started a BASMO wave which was initiated outside the BC legislature in Victoria, showcasing 200 shoes to represent the farmers who passed away at the protest sites at the borders of Delhi. A small group of the protesters (10 of them) then travelled across Canada with the same pair of shoes, protesting at each legislature in each province (Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario) to Ottawa, in hope of gaining support from politicians in support of the Indian Farmers. It was very successful. Many politicians spoke out on Social Media or at the protests to support the Indian Farmers. After the BASMO wave, a BAMODI wave (phase 2) was initiated at different municipalities across Lower Mainland, in which motions were passed at several cities to show support for the Indian Farmers. Covid has recently hit India the worst, and this is also putting pressure on the farmers protests, however the farmers continue to sit at the borders of Delhi hoping for a resolution. We recognize that Covid has had a terrible impact in India, and we deeply support families losing their loved ones, just as we stand with farmers and their rights.

