



**NEWS RELEASE**

**For Immediate Release**

**INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY GALA**

**ORGANIZED BY PUNJABI COMMUNITY HEALTH SERVICES**

**Brampton**, February 25, 2014 - Punjabi Community Health Services (PCHS) is proud to host its 12<sup>th</sup> Annual International Women's Day on Friday, March 21<sup>st</sup>, 2014. Please join us at 6 p.m. for a very special night at the Sagan Convention Centre and Banquet Hall, located at 7180 Edwards Blvd. Mississauga, Ontario. This is PCHS' Signature Event to raise funds for the Family Enhancement Program which provides services to the South Asian families in a culturally appropriate manner. On this night, PCHS will also honour women in our community with **Women in Action** awards. The recipients will be recognized for leading their community by example. This year PCHS has the honour to recognize eight extraordinary women who have left a mark in their own unique manner on their communities.

**Danielle Aubry**

Danielle began her career in anti-violence work 30 years ago as a volunteer and progressed to a variety of roles such as educator, shelter worker, and therapist. Currently, she is the executive director of Calgary Communities Against Sexual Abuse (CCASA), founding the agency in her living room in 1994. Her work establishing CCASA as a stable presence in the community earned her national recognition in 1998 when she was awarded one of Canada's Top 40 Under 40 leadership and management awards.

**Ginni Sethi**

Ginni Sethi, President of Grand Victorian Convention Centre & park inn by Radisson Plaza Mississauga, and Chairperson at Black Diamond Entertainments, is a successful, leading businessperson who is making women proud, everywhere. Ginni and her husband, Harpreet Sethi, both are a well-known community figure. Ginni is the founder and charter member of an organization of dynamic women entrepreneurs called WE-ELITE where she mentors women starting new businesses. Ginni is an innovative, tenacious and entrepreneurial businesswoman who has various awards to her credit. In 2012, she received the AWIC Women of Distinction "Helping Hand" award and 'South Asian Business Person' of the Year Award from the Midweek News Group. She is one of the honorees of the prestigious "Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal" from the Governor General of Canada. For her generosity & support for women in need she received the Interim Place "Community Cares" Award. In 2013, she was also named one of the "RBC Top 25 immigrants". She is on the advisory board of 'Everyday child's global education based charity.

**Gogi Bhandal**

Gogi arrived in Canada in 1977 and immediately became involved in the Union at her workplace. She has risen through the ranks is now a Regional Representative for Ontario at the Canadian Labour Congress. She has two children, her son is a lawyer and her daughter works as Change Management Consultant. She has devoted her entire life for the betterment of the working class.

### **Silky Singh**

Silky Singh is a “proxy poet” and write poetry in three different languages. Despite the adversities in her life she persevered in setting up her own successful business and giving employment to others. She resides in Brampton and raising her two daughters.

Group Award Recipients - Sing "All of Us" Team for leading the change to restore Canadian National Anthem and make the lyrics inclusive by including all of us. These distinguished women are listed below:

**Martha Russell** is the President’s executive assistant & book keeper to a Foundation dealing with systemic issues for women. She has volunteered with many feminist organizations, like Toronto’s Linden School, LEAF, The Canadian Women’s Foundation, [Singallofus.ca](http://Singallofus.ca) and at the schools of her two children. She is also an experienced reflexologist.

**Beth Atcheson**, was a partner at Cassels Brock and she provides corporate and regulatory advice to financial institutions and charitable organizations, as well as advice on pensions. During that period, she served as a director of several insurance companies, as a consultant to the Ontario Task Force on Insurance (Slater Task Force), and as a member of the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal.

**Elizabeth Riddell Dixon** is Distinguished Senior Fellow at the Centre for Contemporary International History University of Toronto and Professor Emerita Department of Political Science, Western University. Her academic specialities include law of the sea, at present Elizabeth works on Arctic issues relating to the international use of the Arctic Ocean, She has published 6 books including one on the Beijing Conference for Women. SingAllofUs.ca is delighted she volunteers with them.

**Nancy Ruth**, is a feminist activist and Senator who is considering introducing in parliament, for the 6th time, a bill that would restore O Canada to its 1908 gender neutral and inclusive words. Over 8 years in the Senate, Nancy Ruth has sat on the banking, finance, human rights, and science and social affairs committees.

PCHS is thrilled to have, **Dr. Rupinder K. Toor Mangat** as the Keynote Speaker who is the founder of the North East Calgary Women’s Clinic and also the Founder & Medical Director of the IUD Clinic in Calgary.

Harleen Grewal of Grewal Law Office is the Honourary Chair for the event. An Anonymous Sponsor, Emerald Medical Practice, Grewal Law Office and Scotia Bank are the proud Platinum Sponsors for 2014 IWD Gala. “Nancy Ruth Very Own Foundation” has come on board as this year’s Gold Sponsor.

There will be great Indian food and entertainment for everyone to enjoy. Local businesses as well as politicians and dignitaries and many prominent women leaders will be in attendance. Please support PCHS in recognizing the 2014 **Women in Action** award recipients and in raising the funds required to help families in need.

**For more information and reserve your seat, please call 905.677.0889**

**Come join us on March 21, 2014 at 6:00 pm at the Sagan Convention Centre and Banquet Hall, Mississauga!**

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