



Teaching B.C.  
how to fight  
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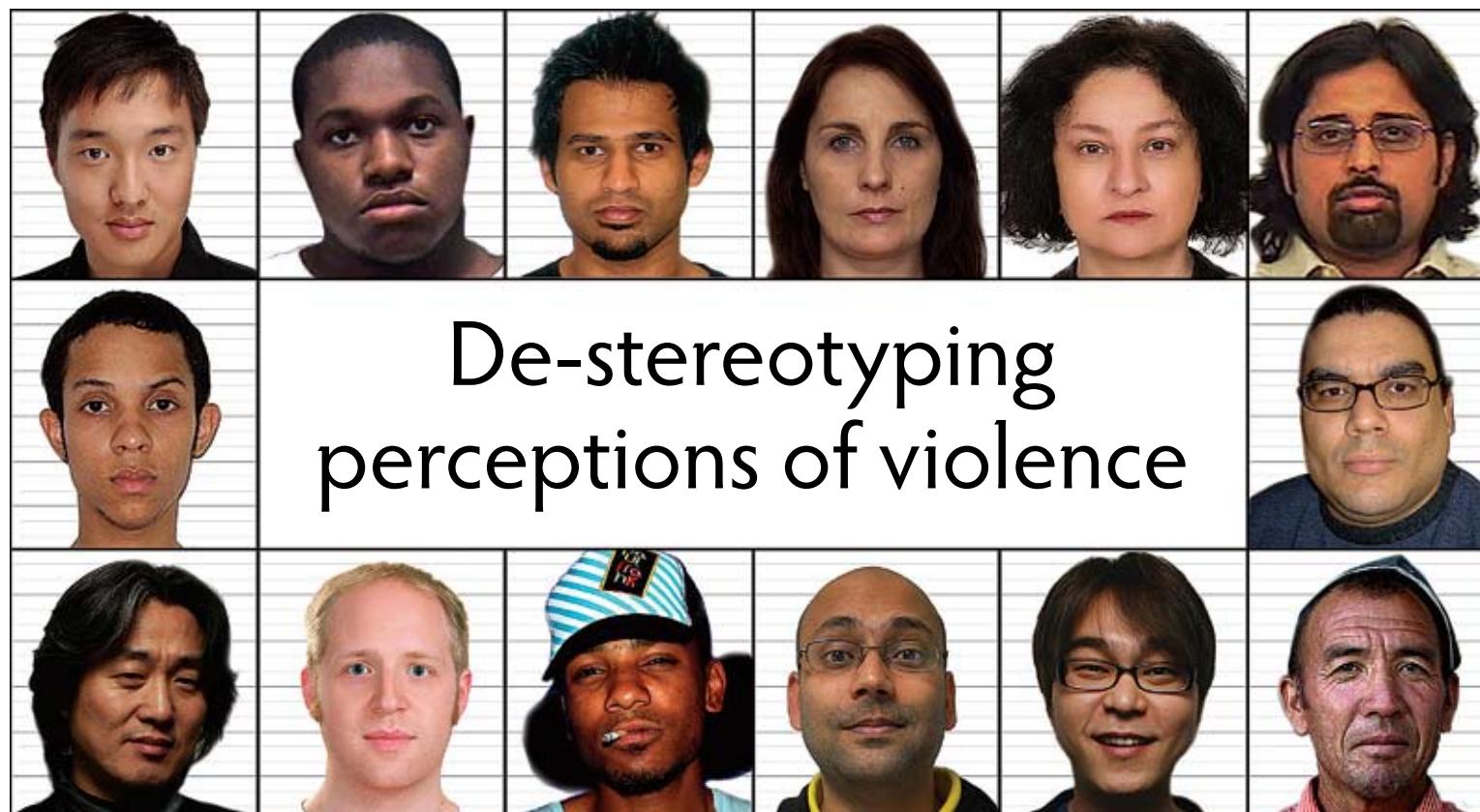
# The Source

forum of diversity

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Vol 12 No 30 | May 22-June 5, 2012

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## De-stereotyping perceptions of violence

by PHOEBE YU

In Vancouver, there has been evidence of negative perceptions, when it comes to certain cultures being seen as violent.

When it comes to public views on violence, it is dependent on the existing social narrative.

### What is Violence?

Langara College sociology and anthropology department chair, Indira Prahst, believes that violence is socially constructed.

"Our understanding of violence is variable in time, in place and in culture," says Prahst. She also says that people in positions of power can control our understanding of the severity of violence.

Prahst recommends that we look into who controls the definitions of violence because it is in many ways, a mechanism to control the population."

Indeed, Gary Thandi, manager at DIVERSECITY and re-

Thandi agrees with the concept of the 'othering' effect. He explains that when an individual from the dominant cultural group does something atypical, it's deviance on the part of the individual. By contrast, if an in-

other culture seems inferior or deviant.

By this account, suggesting that violence is attributable to specific cultural groups would be a form of cultural racism.

Prahst concurs with Jiwani's

**“What you don't necessarily see [in the media] is the person of colour doing some charitable acts.**

Gary Thandi, manager, DIVERSECITY

searcher at the Justice Institute of BC, suggests that society tends to notice physical forms of violence, but subtler forms of violence tend to go unnoticed.

"You 'other' those people. And really, what you're doing is alienating a lot of people," says Thandi.

individual from another cultural group does something atypical, it's deviance on the part of the cultural group.

### Cultural Racism

Canadian sociologist Yasmin Jiwani defines cultural racism as the tendency to inferiorize cultures instead of race, or make

interpretation. She believes that there is a form of cultural racism that can occur if violence is explained as a cultural attribute, which deflects from the deeper problem.

Canadian Immigration Report (CIRReport), a website devoted to covering the repercussions

See "Violent Cultures" page 2 ▶

### Also in this issue



Adapting to  
the needs of  
a little-known  
community  
Page 5



An ancient Indian  
festival dances  
into town  
Page 6

Yet maybe this is exactly what defines Canadians in Vancouver. Our city is full of tourists and immigrants. Many of us are first or second generation Canadians and have friends from various areas of the world. Our prominent ethnic backgrounds and our ability to connect with those from different cultures mark us as an open and non-

See "Verbatim" page 3 ▶

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## My Turn

### Gone are the good old budget laws

**M**ajority governments are able to propose any number of bills before Parliament and have them adopted—thanks to their majority, of course. This in itself isn't alarming.

However, it is necessary to make the distinction between putting one's imprint on the country's laws by using one's majority, and using it to steer clear of in-depth debates, crucial to the healthy running of a democracy.

Stephen Harper's Conservatives have recently celebrated the first anniversary of their majority. Not surprisingly, the government has availed itself of this majority to pass a number of legislative measures that have been close to their heart for a long while. The demise of the long-gun registry, for example, and several measures concerning criminality—all of

which are in a way, its trademark.

We can't therefore be surprised by the sort of legislative measures proposed by the federal government. Several people see this as an abuse of power by the government, based on its status in the House of Commons, but it isn't the case.

Some of the measures in the legislative program were introduced when the Harper government was a minority. We can't ignore the fact that the Conservatives had made a clean breast of their ideological orientation long ago. And that is certainly the case when it comes to measures regarding law and order and environmental assessment processes for major projects, among others.

But again, when it comes to the present government, it is not necessarily what it does that bothers

some, but the way it decides to go about it.

For example, the government has decided to make use of its proposed budget implementation bill by adding to it a bunch of miscellaneous legislative measures, focusing on employment, growth, sustainable wealth. Officially called the Jobs, Growth and Long-term Prosperity Act, this is a massive project drawn on, so it seems, as a sort of legislative tote bag encompassing a large number of measures that have nothing to do with the budget or any other sort of fiscal measures.

In fact, the bill swaddles 69 Canadian laws. It ends Canadian Kyoto agreements, modifies fisheries laws and brings in new measures concerning the environmental assessments, to mention but a few.

This is, of course, a risky approach. If the federal government isn't careful, it could easily give the impression that this is a government that doesn't leave much room for debate in legislative matters. Often, this kind of message leaves the population believing that the government

### Spencie's View

#### ARE YOU REALLY...

YOU KNOW-  
THAT WAY?



has something to hide. That it is trying to pull a fast one.

For now, and with another three years to go, it seems clear that the government thinks that this kind of stuff is far from Canadians' daily preoccupations. And if we consider the storminess of economic and social situations other countries are facing, the federal conservatives surely feel that the

country's relative tranquility will be enough to make light of such minor legislative irritants.

In a way, this is a politically savvy approach. It's always better to dish up the most unpopular measures in the first two years of a mandate. Next year should tell a little bit more of the tale.

Translation Monique Kroeger

► "Violent Cultures" from page 1 of immigration and racial diversity on Canadian society, has a different perspective. CIReport suggests that "from an evolutionary perspective, it is natural and desirable to have ingroups



▲ Indira Prahst.

and outgroups. This protects and promotes biological and cultural diversity."

They further explain that having ingroups and outgroups does not automatically provoke negative feelings towards the other, but that a problem with diverse peoples living side by side can result in hierarchization or self-segregation.

#### Violence and Culture

Thandi believes that for every cultural group, there will be a few people that will bend the cultural norms according to their own needs to justify their desire for control.

Regarding cultural norms and how they relate to violence, Prahst says that we have to think about a norm as a pro-

scriptive behaviour. She iterates that plenty of violent behaviour we see within our society goes unnoticed. For instance, Canada's involvement in the Afghan war.

In CIReport's view, the shifting of blame from guilty parties to the socio-political order makes for a convenient means to escape responsibility. CIReport states that "pathologizing the sum of society for the failures of the few very much feeds into our modern love affair with principles of abstraction, rather than...logic and reasoning."

#### Media Portrayals of Culture and Violence

CIReport says that "Canadian media is decidedly squeamish when it comes to reporting non-white crime." It refers to a recent study by a University of Toronto student, entitled *Whitewashing Criminal Justice in Canada*, in which it was found that in many cases, gathering racial data on visible minority crime is prohibited or suppressed. CIReport says that journalists are being denied such information and reliable data.

Prahst acknowledges that there is a lack of reporting on the ethnicity of criminals and

that these statistics are important to document to be able to identify patterns. She says the drawback to this is the racist discourse that can arise from this statistic.

Thandi believes that the media has the right to report the incidence of violence, but he feels that context is lacking. For example, he says that whenever news is reported regarding South Asian males, it tends to be negative. And this negative stereotype has extended to his personal life, when a former colleague asked him about the violence in his South Asian community.

He hopes for a more balanced approach when it comes to reporting news on different cultural groups.

"What you don't necessarily see [in the media] is the person of colour doing some charitable acts," he says.

Prahst indicates that in the current geo-political climate, it serves the mainstream media to scapegoat Muslim and South Asians at the moment, because it legitimizes political agendas abroad. In order to move away from cultural stereotypes, Prahst invites us to ask the question, "Who benefits from these social constructions?"

#### Erratum

In the last issue of *The Source*, Vol 12 No 29, in the article *Vancouver's Fijian community: distinct and thriving* we printed that 75,000 Fijians live in Metro Vancouver. The number is actually closer to 7,500. We apologize for the mistake.

**"Traditions are a big part of my culture. Unfortunately, so is diabetes."**

Bernie, First Nations counsellor

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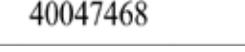
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40047468

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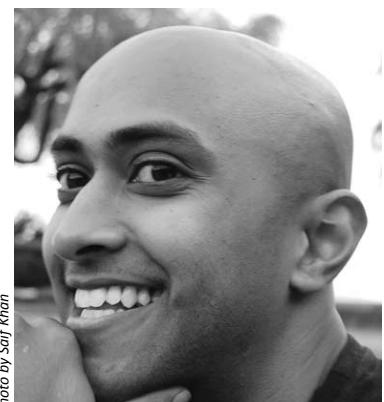
# Brits flood B.C. in search of new beginnings

by THOMAS DEANE

If you talk to most Brits in Vancouver they'll tell you of a general malcontent that pervades British life. Even though most live ostensibly privileged lives, they fail to wake up feeling healthy or happy, and this means that something is missing. So a lot of them find themselves on the furthest coast of Canada.

According to Citizenship and Immigration Canada's annual *Facts and Figures* reports, the number of people arriving in Canada from the U.K. as permanent residents has more than doubled since 1998. A figure that loitered below 4,000 some 14 years ago now pushes 10,000 each year.

And that is despite the current financial malaise making it harder for people to relocate, something that immigration lawyer David Aujla has noticed in recent years. Aujla, who specializes in helping incoming British and American clients, says there are obvious reasons why British Columbia is appealing.



▲ Chaminda Wjiesundera.

"A lot of British people have connections with family and friends and that helps with gaining employment, while others did well with business and come via the investor route," he explains.

"I think it also helps that the climate is similar and English is spoken here, so there is no harsh transition."

There is a joke that the inclement weather and drudgery associated with parts of the nation means that eight out of 10 Brits wish they were dead, while the other two live abroad.

That is pushing it, but in a period of unusually high unemployment, growing mistrust in government policy, and with a university system on the ropes, it is hardly surprising that many are saying: "enough is enough."

Chaminda Wjiesundera, 30, lived in England before moving to Canada with his family at the age of 15. Although suggesting Britain's globally diverse demography, music scene, and self-deprecating sense of humor are highly praiseworthy, he believes some attitudes are less so.

"Because everyone else is positive it is easy to be lifted here, whereas in England it's accepted in the pub that you tell everyone how pissed off you are because your boss is being a knob," says Wjiesundera.

"Also, I think people are programmed not to be mean [in Vancouver], whereas in the U.K. it's socially acceptable."

Agreeing with Wjiesundera's assertion that a 'woe is me' culture proliferates in Britain is Stephen George, a 28-year-old scientist who laments his decision to



▲ The British Columbian flag incorporates the British flag in its design.

return after spending a year in Vancouver with a work permit and a much fuller diary.

"The U.K. is pretty shit to be honest," he says. "People seem disillusioned and our impotent government doesn't help. At night there are virtual no-go zones. Kids sit about pissed on cider with too much time on their hands."

"We are a rudderless nation," adds George, "but people don't help themselves. My friends in Vancouver had lives. They did things. Here, too many people

wake up, go to work, come home, watch mindless crap on TV, go to bed, and repeat the cycle."

George, who would be "on the next plane" back if he had a job offer, would sympathize with Andy (whose last name has been withheld at his request), another Brit who was contemplating making B.C. his home before some unexpected visa news took the decision out of his hands.

"You wouldn't walk alone at night where I lived in England, so I had definitely settled here, even if breaking into friendship

cliques is harder," he says.

"My Dad was born and raised in the same area in England and watched his son fly thousands of miles away. To have him sit down and say if he was younger he'd consider settling down here, and that I made the right call – that was amazing, really."

Fate and circumstance will dictate whether Andy ever returns, but under the current economic and attitudinal climate in Britain, it seems highly likely that plenty of his compatriots will continue to jet this way for good. ☈



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► "Verbatim" from page 1  
judgmental culture. Embracing different activities such as Latin dance, Chinese dragon boat races, or Celtic Festivals define who we are.

This is not to say that we don't have our own cultural activities inherent to Vancouver. We are graced with the mountains and ocean, side by side, and our beautiful landscape inspires people to be active and outdoors. International visitors have often remarked to me how active we are compared to other cities.

Many Vancouverites also love their morning cup of Timmies and, of course, are passionate about hockey.

These are some commonalities between the people of Vancouver, but they fall short in representing the city on their own.

For example, by considering the influence the Asian community has on our culture, we can tie in other trends such as our obsession with sushi, or our trips to the Richmond Night Market.

Vancouver is a kaleidoscope filled with pieces from other cultures that are presented through a multicultural lens. We can't define the depth of our city's culture without first looking at the integration of cultures.

Why is it difficult for others to see the interwoven fabric of Vancouver? Perhaps we don't work hard enough to promote our image to others.

My boyfriend is from Mexico, and some of his family members don't even consider Vancouver to have a culture. I can

imagine that those from such a passionate and proud culture would wonder how Vancouverites define themselves.

At one family dinner, I was tempted to defend my culture after a passing comment from one of his family members, but my attempts to jump into the conversation were fruitless.

The fast paced chatter overwhelmed me, and the next pause in the conversation only served to change the topic. Not only that, I lost time planning my response in my mind to make sure my words didn't offend anyone. So polite, and so very Canadian.

In our efforts to accommodate other cultures, sometimes I wonder if we allow ourselves to take enough pride in our Canadian identity. Do we take the time to reflect on how residing in Vancouver shapes our lives?

Culture is inherent to every area, every city. Within each city are many subcultures, one of the smallest being the habits and values of a family unit.

In order to help others understand the diversity of our city, perhaps we need to start by finding the words to shape and define our own experience. Others might struggle to guess my identity because of my connection with various other cultures.

However, in order to fully understand how living in Vancouver shapes each individual, perhaps we need to account for the density of cultural connections we have, and reflect upon how our network transforms Vancouver's culture into an evolving and diverse city. ☈

Photo by Scazon, Flickr



DERRICK O'KEEFE

## Left Bank



Photo by Hitcham Soulimi, Flickr

*Those who struggle may fail.  
Those who do not struggle have already failed.  
Bertolt Brecht*

▲ Montreal police confront student protesters.

## Lessons to B.C. from the Quebec protest

Quebec's students are teaching, or re-teaching, an important lesson to all of us.

In Canada, and here in British Columbia, decades of neo-liberalism have rolled back our public services. Even more damaging, perhaps, has been the way these years have rolled back our public imagination.

The There Is No Alternative (TINA) doctrine, popularized by Margaret Thatcher's Conservative rule in the U.K., still holds sway over much of our political discourse. Official policy debates are too often just a matter of opposing views on how to tinker around the edges.

But in Quebec, the student movement is pointing right at the heart of the matter. Faced with a 75 per cent tuition increase, they have fought back – hard. Holding out on strike for well over three months now, they have displayed remarkable unity and creativity.

In addition to putting up a fight for their own right to an accessible education, they have appealed to the wider society, calling for a 'social strike' against Quebec's Charest government. As in B.C., Quebec's government is Liberal by name, but in reality is a coalition that represents right-wing corporate interests.



▲ Protestors make an effigy of Quebec Premier Jean Charest.

Earlier this month, the Charest government announced it had a tentative 'deal' with the students. But when this 'offer', which did not in fact do anything to cut the proposed tuition increase, was discussed democratically by the student unions, it was overwhelmingly rejected.

Faced with this collective defiance by the students, the Charest government has turned to some incredibly draconian legislation. Rushed through in an all-night session of the National Assembly, Loi 78 puts onerous restrictions on the right to assemble

and threatens students who continue the strike with heavy fines. CLASSE, one of the student organizations leading the strike, had anticipated this type of action by the government in an earlier appeal:

"Let us stop fearing the laws that fetter our discontent, let us collectively disobey and go together into the streets of Quebec. Alone, this disobedience will be marginalized and repressed by the government. But if all sectors of Quebec society act together, the government will be unable to rely on the courts."

Opponents of Quebec's student strike often bring up the history of Paris in 1968 as a sort of 'boogeyman' of wild, radical students.

Let's not concede the spirit of '68 to their historical scaremongering. Paris 1968 was part of a worldwide uprising that dared to dream of a better world.

The bold actions of the young French students sparked a general strike across the country that nearly toppled the government of Charles de Gaulle. The example reverberated on campuses around the world.

All movements for greater social justice sometimes need a spark from the young, from the generations that are not weighed down by past defeats and disappointments.

In 1968, the Parisian students shouted, 'Sous les pavés, la plage!' (under the paving stones, the beach!) conjuring the imagination of a just and truly free society.

Today, the Quebec students speak of a 'grève générale illimitée' (unlimited general strike) or, in a playful twist, rêve général illimité.

Quebec's student strike, and the utopian energies and slogans it has unleashed, should not be sneered at or cynically dismissed by anyone concerned about changing the dismal state of politics in Canada and British Columbia.

The global financial crisis, and the inspiration provided by the Arab Spring and Occupy Wall Street, has weakened TINA but it's proving a stubborn acronym and doctrine to kill off. Here in North America, the Quebec student strike is the most important challenge to TINA we've seen in a long time.

So let us all take a moment and show some solidarity. It's the right thing to do, and we might just learn some things that we can apply here on the West Coast, too.

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# Britannia Community Services Centre: promoting diversity in East Vancouver

by BRENDAN MUNRO

Soccer is my love, it's my life," says Christopher, one of several youth gathered in the shadow of Britannia secondary school for a weekly drop-in soccer game. These games

shifted to include players from African and European backgrounds as well.

Much as the drop-in soccer game has evolved since its inception, the Britannia Community Services Centre has needed to adapt to the changing makeup

French, and other economically marginalized groups, the role played by the Britannia Community Services Centre in delivering educational, recreational and social services is vital.

"Typically, the people that do come see us know us very well,"

**“ I just ran into someone, Carlos Mejia, who as a youth used to come all the time for soccer. He is now an analyst with the police department.**

Anntuaneth Figueroa, Latin American youth worker, Britannia Community Services Centre

originally started 15 years ago as an opportunity for at-risk Latino youth in Vancouver's East End to stay active and engage in positive activities with peers from their community. Now the demographics of the game have

and needs of the neighbourhood which it serves.

Home to many people from diverse ethnic backgrounds, including a large proportion of Aboriginals, immigrants whose first language is not English or

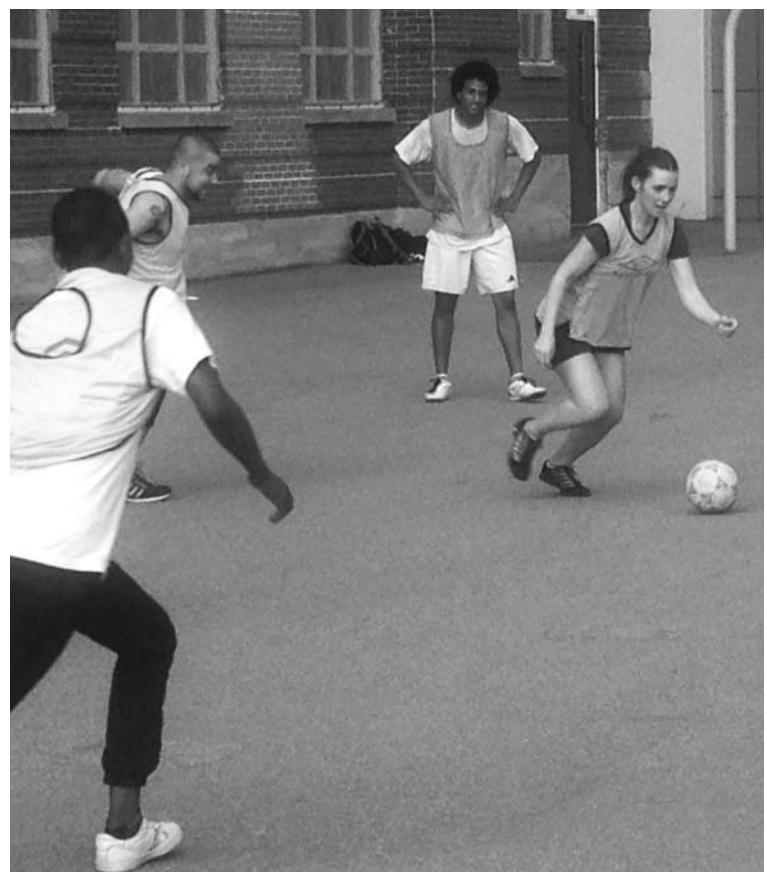
says Amanda Munro, Britannia's communications officer.

"Many residents have been coming here for decades, went to school here, and now come here with their own children. Many of the staff have been here for a long time too. It's like a family."

Many programs are aimed at strengthening and sharing elements of cultural significance within ethnic communities.

For instance, the seniors centre offers Vancouver's only Vietnamese language seniors program, which draws about 100 members. Youth were recently invited to learn about Aboriginal art and helped carve a totem pole.

Meanwhile, weekly Latino cooking classes are very popular. The Latin community has a strong presence in the neighbourhood, so Britannia responded by



▲ Amelia Daly (right), participant in Britannia's drop-in soccer game, tries to go through 3 defenders.

deploying a Latin American youth worker, Anntuaneth Figueroa, to oversee several specifically targeted programs.

"One of our biggest programs has been indoor soccer...but we also do a lot of outreach with the schools to bring students information about the community, projects, volunteer opportunities and trying to get them involved with what we're offering at Britannia," says Figueroa.

"I just ran into someone, Carlos Mejia, who as a youth used to come all the time for soccer. He is now an analyst with the police department," says Figueroa.

Other success stories are people like Ronald Arqueta, who joined the military and became an engineer. Ana Linares, who is now a teacher, is another example.

"We all look for an identity in our high school years," says Figueroa. "I think that's something our Latin youth program can give them. She

adds that she hopes to continue building a Spanish language and culture program for Canadian-born Latinos.

Despite the emphasis on catering to specific ethnic groups, Britannia serves as a hub for social gatherings that bring the whole community together, the latest example being their Stone Soup Festival. The event focuses on the role of eating locally, featuring a farmer's market, and includes arts and crafts activities for children.

When asked what some of the biggest challenges facing the community centre are, Munro points to the need for greater recognition and visibility.

"We're in the process of creating a new sign and making ourselves more visible," says Munro. "I think like any community centre, we would gain more community if more people knew about us. Its community members that make what happens here great." ☈



▲ Anntuaneth Figueroa (middle) with Britannia community centre members at Sun Run 2011.

Photo courtesy of Anntuaneth Figueroa

## Substance Use Awareness Week

MAY 27 - JUNE 2, 2012



Tuesday, May 22, 2012 7pm - 9pm

Kwantlen Polytechnic Surrey Campus ROOM: G1205A

## Bad Medicine “Kharaab Daru” Showing and Expert Panel

Master of Ceremony: Bhinder Sajan, CTV, British Columbia

Expert Panel: Dr. Rajpal Singh,  
Therapist, DIVERSEcity Community Resources Society  
Jas Sandhu,  
Therapist, SOURCES Community Resources Society  
Kuldip Gill, Consultant and Therapist

Registration is not required, however seating is limited and is on a first come, first serve basis.  
Please contact for more information: Gary Thandi at 604-597-0205 ext 1286 or gthandi@dcrs.ca or  
Balbir Gurm at Balbir.Gurm@kwantlen.ca

We encourage you to also attend  
Kwantlen's Mental Health and Addictions  
Resource Fair, Room G1205A at the  
Surrey Campus, from 10am - 2pm,  
prior to the showing and panel event.

PRESENTED BY THE CITY OF SURREY,  
KWANTLEN POLYTECHNIC UNIVERSITY AND THE  
SUBSTANCE USE AWARENESS WEEK COMMITTEE



City of Surrey  
Crime Reduction Strategy



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The difference between them.

**SAVING FOR YOUR CHILD'S EDUCATION**  
RESPs and government contributions to savings for your child's future.

**PLANNING FOR YOUR RETIREMENT**  
How RRSPs can fit into your retirement plan and reduce the amount of taxes you pay now.

**DATE** June 4 (Monday)  
**TIME** 2-4PM  
**VENUE** Tommy Douglas Burnaby Public Library  
7311 Kingsway, Burnaby, V5E 1G8

**LANGUAGES** English with Hebrew and Tagalog translation

**REGISTRATION** Contact Mikaela 604 254 9626 ext 484

**MOSAIC**

Photo by Brendan Munro

# City of Bhangra Festival engages all cultures



Photo by Brandon Lally, Flickr

by KATE KOVALEVA

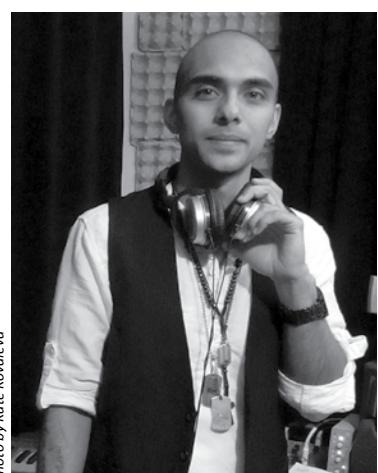
**B**hangra, a Punjabi genre of music and dance will be showcased at the 8th Annual HSBC City of Bhangra Festival. The festival will also include an array of world music, hip-hop, rock, flamenco, and percussion instruments.

The festival will be held from May 31 to June 10 with events in Vancouver and for the first time in Surrey, half of them with free admission.

Organized by the Vancouver International Bhangra Celebration Society, the festival is the biggest of its kind in North America, and one of the largest in the world.

## Origins

Sukhi Ghuman, a director and media relations manager at VIBCS Society says that Bhangra started in North India.



▲ DJ E.V. of A-slam will be performing Downtown Bhangra.

"It was a very traditional folk dance, and back then the performers were live musicians," says Ghuman.

Today, this area comprises several states, including Punjab, Jammu and Kashmir and Rajasthan.

Although Bhangra has changed over time, Ghuman says that many artists at the festival, including local talent, were raised listening to Bhangra and have been influenced by it. There will also be traditional artists who will be performing the folk dances much as they have been in the past.

DJ E.V. of A-slam Productions says that Bhangra is different from Bollywood – the popular term used to describe Hindi-language film – because the latter did not originate as a folk art form. Furthermore, Bhangra is sung in Punjabi, while Bollywood music and dance are filmed in Hindi.

## Vancouver's Bhangra scene

E.V. says that Vancouver's demographic is unique in that it has about an equal number of Punjabi and Hindi speakers. This is not the case in other places, such as the United States, where the majority are Hindi-speakers.

Ghuman says that Vancouver's festival began 8 years ago and used to be a one day event, "but now has over 30 committee members and up to 150 volunteers during the festival." She adds that "the Society's mandate is to promote the event to people of all cultures, and to create cross-cultural collaborations of Bhangra and other music."

E.V. says that "the festival started off focused on South Asian music and dance" but has quickly grown to incorporate

that we started doing Bhangra/hip hop fusion," says E.V.

Recently nominated for both a Juno Award and a GiMA (Global

Ghuman says that "rePercussion shows it doesn't matter what culture you're from but we can all come together and celebrate

“...It doesn't matter what culture you're from, but we can all come together and celebrate each other's culture.

*Sukhi Ghuman, Vancouver International Bhangra Celebration Society*

other styles from around the world.

## Forms of Bhangra

Bhangra in itself is often a fusion form. DJ E.V., for instance, calls his music style Electro-Bhangra, "and it was not planned," he adds. What started off as a hip hop song at a show, turned into a faster, more upbeat version when a fellow musicians' *dhol* – the Punjabi drum – and a Bhangra dance team were unexpectedly added to the mix.

"We had such a good response

Indian Music Academy) Award, E.V. says he hopes to see a large and mixed crowd at the festival. He also says that the events, together with the *Bhangra.me* exhibition created at the Museum of Vancouver, "are making Bhangra accessible."

E.V. also looks forward to performing with rePercussion on May 31, which features Chinese drums and Afro-Cuban, Punjabi, and Brazilian percussionists. It's the first time the group will be bringing in a DJ to play house music to their accompaniment.

each other's culture."

E.V. is also thrilled about his own show on June 9 at the Vancouver Art Gallery Plaza. He says that he started his music in the city and has been perfecting it on tour, "but it's the first time I'm bringing it back to Vancouver."

The festival includes concerts, workshops, and even a Block party. It's also "a great family event" says Ghuman. ☺

For information on the Festival: [www.cityofbhangra.com](http://www.cityofbhangra.com); to listen to A-slam music: [www.a-slam.com](http://www.a-slam.com).



▲ Two of the many other performers at the City of Bhangra festival: Shivangi Bhayana (left) and Tambura Rasa (right).



Photos courtesy of the performers

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[csf.bc.ca](http://csf.bc.ca)

# Cultural Calendar

May 22–June 4, 2012

by PHOEBE YU

It's the season of festivals, as many of them are coming up in the next few weeks: the European Festival, the Hyack Festival, the City of Bhangra Festival, EAT! Vancouver Festival, and In the House Festival. This is turning out to be a fun summer.

\* \* \*

**China's Green Economy**

*Wed., May 23, 7:00 p.m.–8:30 p.m.  
SFU Harbour Centre  
515 W. Hastings St., Vancouver  
778-782-4639  
[www.sfu.ca/reserve](http://www.sfu.ca/reserve)*

A public talk by Dr. Arthur Hanson, discussing how Canada and the U.S. could benefit from China's green economy. Dr. Hanson is the International Chief Advisor to the China Council for International Cooperation on Environment and Development. Free admission but registration required.

\* \* \*

**Vanishing Vancouver:  
The Last 25 Years**

*Thurs., May 24, 7:30 p.m.  
Museum of Vancouver  
1100 Chestnut St., Vancouver  
604-878-9140  
[www.vancouver-historical-society.ca](http://www.vancouver-historical-society.ca)*

Speaker Michael Kluckner, author of *Vanishing Vancouver*, will talk about his 20 years chronicling Vancouver's vanishing houses, shops, theatres, etc., analyzing why some have survived while others have not. Open to the public.

\* \* \*

**European Festival**

*Sat., May 26, starting at 10 a.m.  
Swangard Stadium  
3883 Imperial St., Burnaby  
604-618-6724 (Marika)  
[www.eurofestbc.com](http://www.eurofestbc.com)*

The annual EuroFest is back. Expect to see cultural displays, European food, entertainment, chil-

dren's activities, market place and more, from 24 countries. See website for schedule and details. Open to the public.

\* \* \*

**This is Carnival!**

*Sat., May 26, 8:30 p.m.  
Hilton Metrotown  
6083 McKay Ave., Burnaby  
[mailinglist@meloproductions.net](mailto:mailinglist@meloproductions.net)  
[www.meloproductions.net](http://www.meloproductions.net)*

A fashion show and launch party for the Caribbean Days Parade. See different Caribbean costumes or bring your own. Interested parties can also sign up to be in the parade. Tickets \$15.

\* \* \*

**Lowe's 41st**

**Annual Hyack Festival**  
*Until May 26  
Various Venues  
604-522-6894  
[www.hyack.bc.ca](http://www.hyack.bc.ca)*

New Westminster's signature arts and culture festival continues to encourage affordable, multicultural, and inter-generational activities. Be there to enjoy the Antique Fair, the Ancient and Honourable Anvil Battery Salute, May Day celebrations, the DiverseCity Multicultural Festival, a parade and more. Open to the public.



▲ New Westminster's Hyack Festival will include a parade.

Photo by Dennis Sylvester Hard, Flickr

**Main Street Vinyl Record Fair**

*Sun., May 27, 11:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.  
The Cambrian Hall  
215 E. 17th Ave., Vancouver  
778-994-1909 (Rainier)  
[www.vinylrecordfair.com](http://www.vinylrecordfair.com)*

Buy, sell and trade new and used vinyl, seven inches, LPs and cassettes. Also get a chance to win a Shure M97xE Audiophile Phono Cartridge by entering the Diamond Stylus Contest. Check the website or Georgia Straight Online for more information. Tickets \$2.

\* \* \*

**International Children's Festival**

*May 29–June 3  
Granville Island  
604-708-5661  
[www.childrensfestival.ca](http://www.childrensfestival.ca)*

A performing arts event for the whole family. Watch some shows, be immersed in fantastical stories, take some cooking classes, and more. Single tickets for main stage shows \$18, except for some shows. See website for details. Group and family rates available.

\* \* \*

**City of Bhangra Festival**

**Vancouver International Bhangra Celebration Society**  
*May 31–June 10  
Various Venues  
604-684-2787  
[www.cityofbhangra.com](http://www.cityofbhangra.com)*

The VIBC has been dedicated to promoting the art form of bhangra. Expect to see bhangra workshops, conferences, performances, a bhangra block party and more. The hundreds of performers and artists participating come from different parts of the world like the U.K., India and the U.S. Tickets range from \$15-\$40. Festival passes available.

\* \* \*



▲ Vancouver band Brasstronaut will perform June 2, along with Icelandic band Útidúr.

Photo by Lewis Kelly, Flickr

**Coppelia – Goh Ballet**

*Jun 1–2, 7:00 p.m.  
Vancouver Playhouse  
601 Cambie St., Vancouver  
604-872-4014  
[www.gohballet.com](http://www.gohballet.com)*

Goh Ballet presents a classical ballet. It's a comedic fairy tale about the test of true love. Tickets \$52.25. Additional \$5 charge if ordering by phone.

\* \* \*

**EAT! Vancouver**

*June 1–3  
BC Place Stadium  
777 Pacific Blvd., Vancouver  
604-576-9951  
[www.eat-vancouver.com](http://www.eat-vancouver.com)*

Browse hundreds of exhibits, and discover and taste all kinds of food and beverages. Also shop for hard to find ingredients, meet celebrities and food experts from the Food Network or take some cooking classes. See website for more details. Tickets: \$14 adults and seniors, \$9 students.

\* \* \*

**In the House Festival**

*June 1–3  
Various Venues*

604-874-9325  
[www.inthehousefestival.com](http://www.inthehousefestival.com)

In the House Festival brings performance artists to an intimate setting. Homeowners open up their living rooms for audiences and artists alike to explore different talents and widen cultural perspectives. The range of performances include breakdancing, ballroom dancing, cabaret, puppeteering, improv and more. Tickets: \$15 adults, \$10 children. Festival passes available.

\* \* \*

**Brasstronaut with Utidur**

*Sat., June 2, 9:00 p.m.  
The Rio Theatre  
1660 E. Broadway, Vancouver  
[elana@hipcity.ca](mailto:elana@hipcity.ca)  
[www.hipcitymusic.ca](http://www.hipcitymusic.ca)*

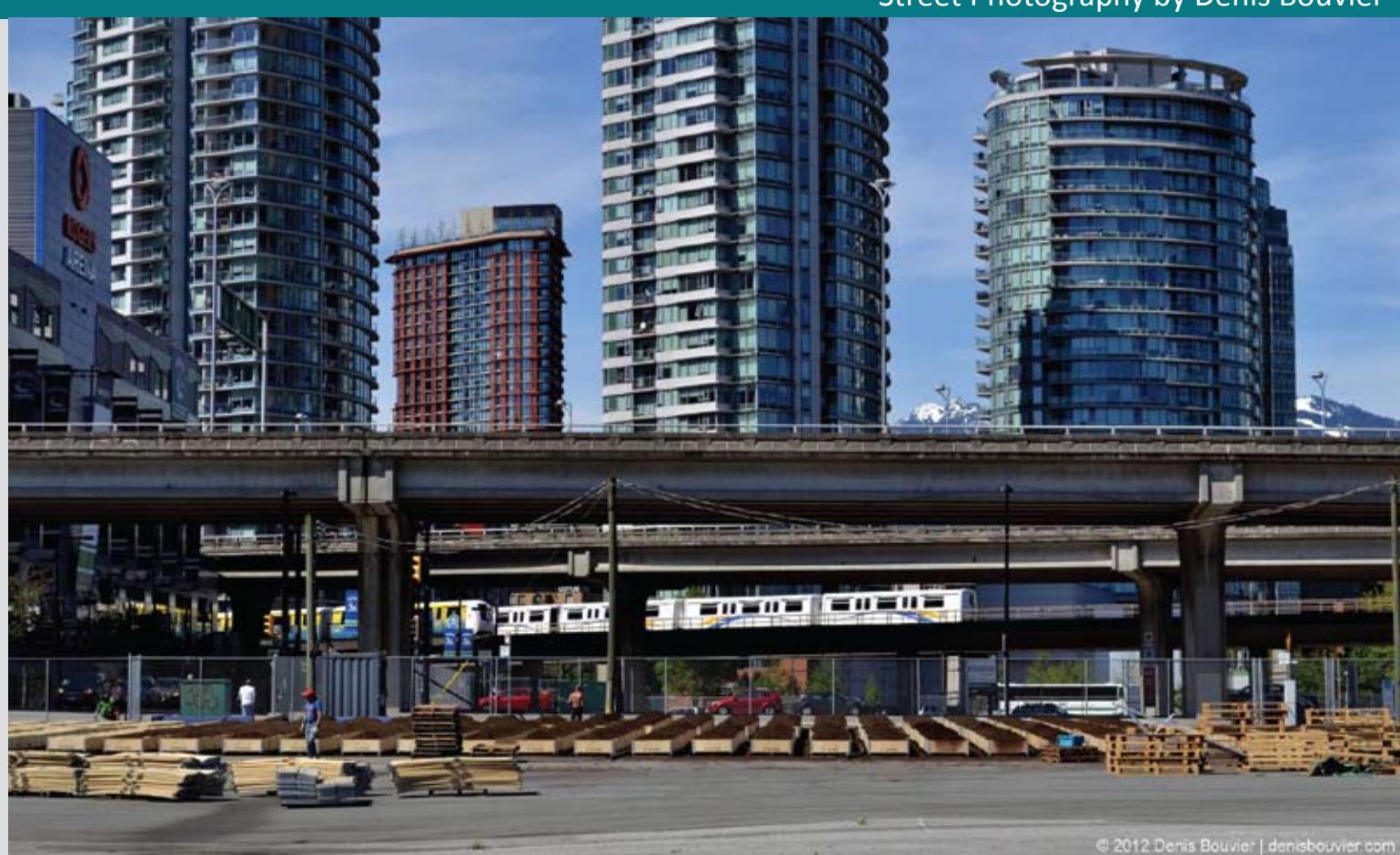
Local Vancouver band Brasstronaut is holding a concert, featuring their distinct musicality, blending the sounds of clarinet, slide-guitar, trumpet, synthesizers and voice. Icelandic band Útidúr will accompany them on this tour. Útidúr plays chamber-pop with a dramatic streak. Tickets \$16.25, advance tickets \$15.

## A Portrait of Urban Farming

Something is growing anew on the former Expo lands besides condo towers. Vancouver's largest urban farm is the brainchild of Michael Ableman and Seann Dorry, co-directors of Solefood Farm. Located in an empty lot on the north side of False Creek, Solefood Farm has a free three-year lease from Concord Pacific on two acres of land. This urban farm will be above ground with nearly 3,000 wooden framed boxes fitted onto pallets and filled with organic soil.

Solefood Farm's aim is to train and employ community residents to set up urban farms and manage organic produce grown on leased urban lots. It hopes to establish a more direct relationship between people and food production and eventually serve as a model for a self-sustaining enterprise. Both Vancity and the Radcliffe Foundation are major financial contributors to this project.

Solefood Farm plans to have a total of five urban farms in Vancouver, and will employ 25



Street Photography by Denis Bouvier

Downtown Eastside residents and 4 farming apprentices. The produce will be sold to farmer's markets, restaurants, wholesalers and individual consumers.

10% of the food will be donated to DTES organizations and workers will receive free food as well.

It's an ambitious project and if successful may encourage

more permanent city areas to be used for this purpose. The transitory nature of this location is brutally emphasized by the towers looming behind and

their inevitable march onto the site when the lease expires.

Don Richardson

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