

News Release

BC Supreme Court Cancels Memberships & Elections at Ross Street Gurdwara; Orders Third-Party Oversight

Vancouver, BC – August 31, 2010 – In an important oral judgment rendered by the Supreme Court of British Columbia on Monday, August 30th, 2010, the upcoming November 2010 election at Vancouver’s most popular and oldest-standing Sikh Temple, Ross Street Gurdwara, has been canceled along with all memberships issued since the last election.

The Courts have also ordered the appointment of an independent third-party administrator who will be charged with oversight of new membership registration and the election at Ross Street Gurdwara, operated by Khalsa Diwan Society, the nation’s oldest Sikh institution.

Earlier this year, the Courts were petitioned by Sikh Youth Vancouver, seeking fair and transparent registration of new members and the implementation of a process to ensure the integrity of the election.

Sikh Youth Vancouver thanks Lead Counsel, Mr. Howard Mickelson and Counsel, Mr. Jonathan Tweedale, for helping the Sikh community secure its right to a fair election.

Additional details of the Court’s Order, including a written decision by Mr. Justice Walker, and the election process are expected next week.

About Sikh Youth Vancouver

Sikh Youth Vancouver (“SYV”) is dedicated to engaging Sikh Youth in Vancouver and the Lower Mainland in spirituality, worship, and community service, as rooted in Sikhism’s teachings and principles. SYV aims to increase awareness and participation of our youth into our communities’ institutions, promoting the needs and renewal of Sikh youth.

SYV is committed to electing a youth slate in the upcoming Ross Street Gurdwara election. We believe that grassroots renewal and progressive change are essential to unifying our community and engaging today’s new generation of forward-thinking Sikhs.

We believe in promoting British Columbia's rich Sikh history by chronicling and highlighting our Province's early Sikh pioneers and their contributions to Canada and the Sikh community.

We are a community service group working to progressively advance and integrate Sikhs into the Canadian mosaic through participation in public service ("seva") initiatives. Important seva projects by SYV members have touched thousands in-need, and include:

- A currently operational in-patient alcohol and drug rehabilitation center;
- Active, ongoing campaigns to feed and clothe Vancouver's homeless and underprivileged;
- Support services to help women victimized by domestic abuse; and
- The first-of-its-kind program assisting otherwise helpless young women who have fallen prey to fraudulent marriages -- a growing social epidemic.

For more information, please call Mr. Lakhvir Singh at **1-604-288-2614** or email SYV2010@Gmail.com.

You can visit us online at www.SikhYouthVancouver.org