



REMARKABLE WOMEN

2014: YEAR OF RECONCILIATION

Honouring women who build understanding & empathy between people



Photo by Ailit Grewal

SUKI GREWAL

For the last three decades (since Expo '86), Suki Grewal has worked in the pursuit of cultural harmony. Much of this work has been that of the classic grassroots activist – hours of unpaid community organizing that have slowly but surely changed the 'way things are.'

Suki obtained her master's degree in Nursing from the University of British Columbia, where she focused on the relationship among health and ethnicity, culture, immigration, gender, class, transnational identity and kinship ties. Her research resulted in several publications on the relationship between ethnicity and wellness. As a health care practitioner, Suki is a strong advocate for Canada's 'ethnic' communities at the local and provincial levels and has raised awareness of important health issues in the South Asian culture.

Within a broad framework of cultural harmony, Suki has helped to generate greater respect for distinct cultures in Vancouver. To this end, she has been pivotally involved in organizing a variety of festivals and events, including the *Sawan Mela*, the South Asian Festival, and the *Desi Dhamakaa Festival*, a cross-cultural extravaganza of music and dance. She is a founding member and long-standing president of the South Asian Family Association (SAFA) whose mandate includes the promotion of cross-cultural harmony and tolerance, the engagement of youth through programs of arts and culture, and the provision of annual scholarships to grade 12 graduates in the areas of Academic Excellence, Community Involvement and Excellence in the Fine Arts.

This Remarkable Woman has worked tirelessly to build strong bridges between East and West.