



London
CANADA

Diversity, Race Relations and Inclusivity Award Nomination Form

NOMINEE INFORMATION


Name of organization: <u>SRISHTI CANADA</u>	
Business Address: <u>377 Berryhill Place</u>	
City: <u>London</u>	Postal code: <u>NSX4N5</u>
Name(s) of contact people (including position titles): <u>Vinod Varapraavan</u>	
Business Telephone: <u>5193190863</u>	Business Fax:
Business E-mail: <u>srishti.canada@gmail.com</u>	
Category: (check one)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Small business/small labour (49 or fewer employees/members)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Corporations/large business/large labour (50 or more employees/members)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Institutions (public or private)	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social/community services (including Not-for-Profits), education and training	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Youth/young adult groups or organizations	

INITIATIVE INFORMATION (attach additional sheets or supporting material as required)

Program initiative: <u>Please see the attached files for more information</u>
Date of implementation: <u>Since 2012</u>
Key department(s) or committees involved: <u>The best piece about this organization is, its totally flat and model is based on charity by inspiration.</u>
Key people involved: <u>There are various people involved depending on the type of activity being done.</u>
Description of initiative: <u>Please see attached sheets for more information</u>
How has the initiative contributed to the promotion of diversity, anti-racism, inclusivity and human rights in London and promoting London as a welcoming city?

What short or long-term impact has/will the initiative have on the promotion of diversity, anti-racism, inclusivity and human rights in London and promoting London as a welcoming city?
What is the potential for expansion and/or inspiration for replication of the initiative?
How can receiving this Award be used to further promote diversity, anti-racism, inclusivity and human rights in London and to further promote London as a welcoming city?

NOMINATOR INFORMATION

Name: Vishal Papreja	
Address: 782 Silversmith St	
City: London	Postal code: N6H 5R7
Telephone: 226 700 5051	Fax:
E-mail: vishal.pap vishal.papreja@gmail.com	Signature: 
Date: 29 th Sep 2015	Note: By signing this form you are hereby confirming that the Nominee has consented to the nomination.

Submissions must be received by September 30 to:

London Diversity and Race Relations Advisory Committee
 c/o Committee Secretary, City Clerk's Office
 City of London
 300 Dufferin Avenue, PO Box 5035
 London, ON N6A 4L9

Phone: 519-661-2500 Ext. 5417
 Fax: 519-661-4892
 E-mail: jmartin@london.ca

NOTICE OF COLLECTION OF PERSONAL INFORMATION

Please be advised that all nominations submitted for the Diversity, Race Relations and Inclusivity Award become part of the public record. The nominations will be published on a public agenda and made available electronically through the City of London public internet website. The personal information collected on this form is collected under the authority of the Municipal Act 2001, as amended, and will be used to administer the Diversity, Race Relations and Inclusivity Award program. Questions about this collection should be addressed to the City Clerk at 300 Dufferin Avenue, London, Ontario N6A 4L9 Tel: 661-2500 Ext. 4937

Description of Initiative:

Srishti (सृष्टि) Foundation was founded in London, Ontario, Canada, as a non-profit organization in 2012. Srishti in Sanskrit means "creation" . Srishti is about creation of a more vibrant, more giving society and inculcating a sense of Seva (selfless service) in our next generation.

Driven by the ancient Indian teachings – "Vausdaiva Kutumbakam" (the whole world is one family) and "Nar seva Narayan seva" (Service to humanity is service to God), Srishti is founded on the three pillars of-

Seva – Inspire selfless service in the community, with focus on "yuva".

Celebration – Celebrating our ancient, timeless festivals with its traditional symbols, fun and giving.

Culture – Promote self-development of our next generation through the study of ancient Indian heritage, its arts, traditions and Vedanta.

Srishti currently partners with the following Not-for-Profit organizations, whose objectives align with any one or more of our pillars. Srishti volunteers are regularly involved with all of our partners in Seva, showcasing how different organizations can work together in pure Seva.

· Art of Living Foundation • Chinmaya Mission • HSS Canada • IMPACT

· India Cultural Connection • London Field Hockey Club • Sewa Canada Aid International

Srishti, is all about doing, inspired and motivational, Seva (Charity). Srishti is involved in many a projects involving bringing communities together, helping newcomers feel at home in London, creating fundraising events for helping Children's Health Foundation, Women's Shelter. Srishti is also involved in motivating youth towards a harmonized culture so as to bring together people from various communities towards building a better tomorrow by giving back to the society. At times when people are struck by disasters, Srishti has been helping people and communities to get back on their feet for example recent earthquake in Nepal, plight of Yezidis in war torn areas. While celebrating the traditional festivals with Canadian touch and celebrating Canadian festivals with traditional touch Srishti aims to involve people and cultures and how the synergy can be used for a better London.

How has the initiative contributed to the promotion of diversity, anti-racism, inclusivity and human rights in London and promoting London as a welcoming city?

London has a perfect balance to raise a family, it has what big city like Toronto can provide in terms of opportunities and facilities, and at the same time has the comforts of a small city. Add to this, initiatives from institutions like Srishti, adds more flavor to London. With events like yogathons, bake sales and charity sales Srishti provides a platform for people to engage in society in a constructive and holistic way. Be it the visible minority sections of society like Bhutanese and Nepalese (Srishti is working with them to help in settling and integrate with the society) or other sections of society, Srishti's objective is to promote multi-culturism and oneness, respecting human life and values for everyone. And none of this would have been possible if there was no support from London. London's openness and availability of its official ensures that the events are successful, as the London city staff has been extremely helpful in overcoming the challenges associated with any event like permits/responsiveness/timing/security.

Please see below for various events that Srishti has been part of:

1. <http://www.srishticanada.org/programs-events/seva/2013-2/>
2. <http://www.srishticanada.org/programs-events/seva/in-2014/>
3. <http://www.srishticanada.org/programs-events/culture/in-2013/>
4. <http://www.srishticanada.org/programs-events/culture/in-2014/>
5. <http://www.srishticanada.org/programs-events/celebrations/in-2013/>
6. <http://www.srishticanada.org/programs-events/celebrations/in-2014/>
7. <http://www.srishticanada.org/programs-events/celebrations/rangeela-holi-2015-festival-of-colours/>
- 8.

What short or long-term impact has/will the initiative have on the promotion of diversity, anti-racism, inclusivity and human rights in London and promoting London as a welcoming city?

Srishti was created in 2012 with the objective of creating a culture of selfless service in the society. There has been a lot of development since 2012, what started as a cultural get together for celebrating

the major festivals from South Asia, transformed its resources into bringing people together for a greater cause. Attendance in first year was mostly from South Asia and there just around 200 people attending to what is now more than 1000+ people attending events from various parts of the world. At Victoria Park Holi celebration in April 2015, Susane Trupp claimed that she hadn't seen such a vibrant event in sometime where so many people from different backgrounds are enjoying together. With Srishti gaining momentum and London helping it grow, the relationship seems to foster more and more on a positive note. When people from all stratas of society meet, share, learn, appreciate and respect each other, it promotes feeling of unity and peace, and more importantly feeling at home which promotes London as a welcoming city for everyone in short and long term. Let's make Srishti proud to be in London and London proud to have Srishti.

What is the potential for expansion and/or inspiration for replication of the initiative?

Since Srishti's foundation is based on self-less service for the society, there are endless ways of replicating this vision. Srishti has just got off its foot and it's learning to walk. There are still a lot of areas, where a lot of work is needed. There are people who still need to be connected and as Srishti grows we are aiming at integration of various cultures and promote a healthy relationship within the society. People at Srishti are self inspired and motivated leading by examples for their younger generation to follow. To teach them gift of sharing and charity, helping each other and growing as a society.

How can receiving this Award be used to further promote diversity, anti-racism, inclusivity and human rights in London and to further promote London as a welcoming city?

To achieve and expand Srishti's objectives, it needs more recognition and awareness. This award will work as a catalyst to Srishti's objectives and its role in promoting diversity. With this award, Srishti will be able to reach deeper into society, people willing to help and people needing help. Any of it can't be achieved easily without the support of the local government. With this award to Srishti, London gains to

acknowledge London Police's motto – Deeds not Words, that London promotes diversity and values human life and welcomes every one with open arms. I am proud to be a Londoner.