

**CANADIAN STUDIES CENTRE HOST OF A UNIQUE INTERNSHIP THANKS  
TO A SUCCESSFULL MOU BETWEEN UNIVERSITY OF FRASER VALLER  
AND PANJAB UNIVERSITY**

Baldeep Toor, a Canadian student from the [University of Fraser Valley](#) (UFV), is currently in India, on an internship to help children in the city of Chandigarh, and is based at the Canadian Studies Centre of the [Panjab University](#). Toor's unique experience is one of the outcomes of a memorandum of understanding (MOU) between these two institutions, which allowed for extremely productive exchanges and which presents an impressive example of Canada's influence abroad.

But why, you may ask, would a Canadian West Coast University team up with an Indian University? Firstly, the Fraser Valley has the highest proportion of Indo-Canadian people in Canada. According to an article in the online edition of [The Hindu](#), an Indian newspaper, most of the Indian Diaspora in Canada has roots in Punjab and Panjab University in Punjab's capital Chandigarh, had already signed MOUs with the University of Manitoba and Simon Fraser University. It benefited also from research exchange programs with the International Institute of Sustainable Development under the Shastri Applied Research Project (SHARP), funded by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA). The signing in 2004 of the memorandum of understanding between UFV and Panjab University was the launching pad for the creation of UFV's [Centre For Indo-Canadian Studies](#). The latter was the first organization to contribute financially with a \$30,000 grant for the launching of [Panjab University's Canadian Studies Centre](#) which organized since its beginning numerous conferences and presentations related to Indo-Canadian relations and committed itself to promote Indo-Canadian Studies in social sciences, sciences, humanities and in professional fields such as engineering, law and management. For its part, UFV has been offering for the last three years, in Chandigarh, a bachelor's degree in business administration with 37 registered students.

On February 13th, 2008, UFV and Panjab University jointly organized in Chandigarh, and international conference on the UNICEF sponsored [Child-Friendly Cities](#) Concept which drew the participation of experts, scholars and representative from public and private sectors, with the goal of raising the population's awareness about the Child-Friendly Cities Concept and insure that children's voices, needs and priorities become an integral part of public policies and decision processes. After a second conference on the same topic, at the same venue in October 2008, Baldeep Toor was able to undertake his internship with the children of Chandigarh and follow-up on certain recommendations adopted at the conferences.

For more information on the Canadian Studies Center in Chandigarh, contact Professor B.S. Ghuman, Public Administration Department, Panjab University, Chandigarh 160014, or by email at [ghumanbs@pu.ac.in](mailto:ghumanbs@pu.ac.in).