



For Immediate Release
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Dhalla honoured for her achievements in India

New Delhi-Dr. Ruby Dhalla, Member of Parliament for Brampton Springdale was honoured in New Delhi last week with the prestigious Non-Resident Indian of the Year award from the Non-Resident Indian (NRI) Institute. Both Shashi Tharoor, Minister of State for External Affairs and Sam Patroda, Special Advisor to the Prime Minister of India joined business leaders with other members of the global Indian diaspora to honour Dr. Dhalla with the award at a dinner hosted by the NRI Institute. The award was given to Dr. Dhalla in recognition for her work to empower young people, her advocacy for greater Canada-India trade relations, as well as her commitment to championing issues impacting the Indian diaspora.

Dr. Dhalla was also given special recognition for her humanitarian efforts at a gala hosted by the Global Punjabi Society in which Preneet Kaur, Minister of State for External Affairs presented Dr. Dhalla with the Global Punjabi Award.

Dr. Dhalla recently visited India as a guest from the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs and as a panelist at the 8th annual Pravasi Bhartiya Divas Conference which brings together the global diaspora of Indians from over 40 countries. In addition Dr. Dhalla was a keynote speaker at the Indo-Canadian Chamber of Commerce's roundtable discussion on fostering India-Canada Trade relations for small and medium sized businesses.

During her visit, Dr. Dhalla met with Ministers, key government officials, business leaders, and organizations to bring forward issues important to her constituents in Brampton-Springdale including the issue of fraud marriages, youth empowerment, and initiatives to further enhance cultural, economic and trade relations between both Canada and India.

"My visit to Delhi has been productive in further engaging various stakeholders to enhance and mobilize the economic partnership between Canada and India. With a middle class that outnumbers the population of the US there is tremendous opportunity

for collaboration with India for Canadians and Canadian businesses. We must work to establish and solidify partnerships and networks to further strengthen relations," said Dhalla.

In 2004, Dr. Dhalla made history as one of the first Sikh women to be elected to Canadian Parliament and is also one of the first women of Indian origin to be elected to a federal parliament in the western world. As one of the youngest women currently in Canadian Parliament, Dr. Dhalla has been a strong advocate for issues impacting women, youth, and new immigrants. She is currently serving as the Special Advisor to Opposition Leader Michael Ignatieff on Child Poverty.

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