

The nominees are assessed on their contributions to multiculturalism in Saskatchewan through all five streams of multicultural work – Cultural Continuity, Celebration of Diversity, Anti-Racism, Intercultural Connections, and Integration. The recipient will also select a charity for a donation of \$500 from MCoS.

The recipient of the 2017 Betty Szuchewycz Award is Bula Ghosh.

Bula has dedicated her life to ensuring cultural continuity is possible for all cultures in her community. A prime example is how recently Bula acted as a coordinator to bring performers from India, who were touring through Regina and Saskatoon, also to Swift Current. Often, Bula's coordination work brings these types of performers to Swift Current and area when they most likely would not visit rural areas. Her work in cultural continuity ensures that members of the community see themselves reflected in culture.

Additionally, Bula has sat on various boards and committees that focus on the stream of cultural continuity. These organizations include Heritage Saskatchewan, Southwest Multicultural Association, International Women of Swift Current, Immigrant Women of Saskatchewan and the Yorkton and District Multicultural Council.

Perhaps Bula's greatest achievement in the stream of cultural diversity has been the revival of the Southwest Multicultural Association, of which she is currently the President. Bula has also promoted intercultural interaction and education through different events like the Year of India Festival and Cuban Festival. She has worked for eight years with a local school and the adult ESL class at Great Plains College to host a multicultural night at the school.

In the stream of anti-racism work, Bula's focus has been on reconciliation with Indigenous peoples. Bula has made it known that truth and reconciliation is very much part of a dream that she has for her community. No doubt, this sensitivity was a result of her own personal experience and work with minority populations.

As a result of her growing awareness of the issues confronting Indigenous peoples - both historically and currently - Bula organized a one-day event entitled "Truth and Reconciliation: Let's Walk the Talk" held in March 2017 in Swift Current. She gathered both Indigenous and non-Indigenous committee members, found funding and community support and served as the master of ceremonies for the day. It was very successful, featuring Indigenous speakers, drummers and dancers, and culminating in well over two hundred individuals marching to the city square with placards stating a number of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission recommendations.

Bula's anti-racism work has inspired members of the community to contribute to a scholarship for Indigenous students at the College. These contributions are being matched by a separate scholarship for Indigenous students by the College.

Bula's work with the Southwest Multicultural Association has often focused on building bridges between cultures. The recent reconciliation events highlighted the need to not only recognize and reject racism, but also to create intercultural connections. Bula was a key driver in initiatives regarding the impact of residential schools on Indigenous peoples and to the importance of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action. The initiatives took place in Swift Current over a number of days and involved youth, newcomers and community members from the surrounding area. The events garnered significant media attention thereby raising the issue to a much wider audience around southwest Saskatchewan.

One of Bula's greatest contributions to intercultural connections is her amazing ability to bring people of varied cultural and ethnic backgrounds and different organizations together, often with her as the organizer and advocate.

An immigrant to Canada herself, much of Bula's efforts is focused on the stream of Integration. She is a strong advocate for Newcomers to Canada, English as A Subsequent Language (ESL) Multiculturalism, Women, Literacy Learners, and all who are vulnerable in our society.

Bula has been instrumental in starting an Immigrant Women Chapter in Yorkton and an International Woman's group in Swift Current and she continues to help these organizations. The community has learned the importance of recognizing and validating the contribution of women and different ethnocultural groups.

As an advocate of literacy, in both a volunteer and coordinator role, Bula has put many hours into the Southwest Literacy Committee, organizing family literacy events and projects. One such example stems from when Bula was networking around the province with other ESL teachers, and she saw a need for an easy to read Driver's Handbook. She was able to obtain the money and the cooperation of organizations to produce both a handbook and a CD.

To help her fulfil work in the stream of integration, Bula became a Board Member for TESL Canada, a Board Member for the Saskatchewan Council for Educators of Non-English Speakers (now TESL SK), a member of the Advisory Board for the Office of Literacy Commission, a volunteer tutor for Parkland Regional College Literacy Program and a Director for the Yorkton Open Door Society.

Over the years, Bula has become a multicultural leader in our province. The Saskatchewan Literacy Awards chose her as their 2008 award recipient in the Professional category for her long-term dedication to and advocacy for literacy. This

year, Bula received the Sovereign's Medal for Volunteering, awarded by the Governor General of Canada.

Bula has served in a leadership role on many boards and committees including the SaskCulture Board for 5 years, serving on many of its committees, and as a member of the Provincial Interim Multicultural Committee. In her work at the provincial and national level, Bula is always ready to share her perspective from rural communities and small centres that urban people can forget.

Bula combines her skills as an educator with being a crusader. In all aspects, she strives to make the lives of students and the community better. Bula is a force to be reckoned with, whether she is working on a project or helping people, she will go out of her way to help in any way she can. The numerous roles she fills combined with her full dedication and commitment to the community and province make Bula a perfect candidate for the Betty Szuchewycz Award.