

MARCH 12/97

TO: SHIRISH CHOTALIA

FROM: GITU KHALSA / JAGJIT-S. KHALSA

DEAR SHIRISH,

WE CONGRATULATE YOU ON YOUR GETTING - "WOMAN OF THE YEAR AWARD"  
MAY GOD SHOWER HIS BLESSING ON YOUR FAMILY & WISHING YOU HEALTH, WEALTH  
& PROSPERITY - GIVE MY REGARDS TO YOUR PARENTS/FAMILY.  
J.S. KHALSA

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## Canadian Indian gets Woman of the Year Award

TORONTO, Mar 10: An Canadian Indian lawyer is the recipient of Canada's 1996 Woman of the Year award in recognition of her contribution to protection of civil liberties and human rights.

The award was presented to Calgary-based Shirish P Chotalia by co-sponsors Edmonton Business, Professional Women's Club (EBPWC) and the Edmonton Sun newspaper.

Ms Chotalia, 34, is an advocate for immigrant women and human rights. She was only 28 when she was appointed a member of the Alberta Human Rights Commission by former Minister of Labour Elaine McCoy - the first Indian Canadian to be appointed to the body.

"The honour is richly deserved," said Ms Catherine A Fraser, Chief Justice of Alberta. "Shirish, you have made a tremendous contribution to the protection of civil liberties and the development of human rights law in this country," she said.

The Chief Justice said "as a litigator, your commitment, preparation, hard work and fair conduct have earned you the admiration and respect of your many friends and colleagues."

Associate Chief Justice of Alberta Allan H Wachowich said that Ms Chotalia "has in a relatively short time gained the respect of the judiciary and her colleagues."

Ms Chotalia said she was

accepting the award "on behalf of those Albertan women and men who have been the ones fighting the battles for fair treatment and who have truly displayed courage, strength, fortitude and perseverance in challenging the status quo, in demanding nothing less than justice and just laws."

The Edmonton Business and Professional Women's Club and the Edmonton Sun initiated the Women of the Year Award in January 1989 to honour a woman of outstanding merit and recognize her outstanding contributions to the well being of working women.

The objectives of the award include development and training women in business,

the profession and industry and working towards improvement of economic, employment and social conditions of working women.

Meanwhile, the University of Calgary in Canada's Alberta province has decided to offer its third term exchange programme at the University of Pune.

Ms Joanna Buhr of the university said the programme will include courses in humanities, social sciences and development studies, with a focus on South Asian culture and society.

The university will also arrange field trips for Canadian students to New Delhi, Agra, Jaipur and Aurangabad to supplement the curriculum. [IANS]