

# Letters

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## From Shakespeare to Sanskrit

A wonderful transition of leadership has occurred in Edmonton recently — a group of young adults aged 20 to 25 have volunteered to serve upon the executive of the Alberta Gujarati Cultural Association. These young Albertans have organized seniors' picnics, children's camps, cultural dances and self-development workshops.

They have taken the time out of their university and academic schedules to contribute their talents and ideas to the association and the community with enthusiasm and vigor. Their spirit embodies the multicultural reality of Canada:

while they adore Bryan Adams and Alanis Morissette, they also demonstrate a love for the traditional songs and bhajans (spiritual songs).

While they are connoisseurs of pasta and pizza, many of them maintain a vegetarian diet (a fundamental component of non-violence embodied in the Hindu faith). While they are familiar with the works of Shakespeare and Mozart, many can recite (perhaps with a Canadianized accent) a number of shlokas (Sanskrit spiritual hymns) and can accompany others upon the harmonium (Indian organ) and tabla.

While they love hockey, beach vol-

leyball and football, they also enjoy cricket and "kabadi."

These youths are fully and completely integrated into the Canadian lifestyle and yet they are not ashamed of being Indian by origin.

Rather they are proud of their Indian heritage and we are proud of them. They are the bridges of understanding between our cultural community and the larger Canadian community. Simultaneously, they are symbols of the fierce and undying passion of what an ancient culture can offer to the modern world.

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