**INTRO AND THANK YOU LETTER**

**FOR**

**BOB PATE**

**INTRODUCTION**

Hello everyone. It is with great pride for our heritage and great concern and compassion for our fellow countrymen both here in Canada, back home in India, and throughout the world, that we welcome you and thank you for your interest and compassion. Our name says it all: “**INDIAN CULTURE of SOUTHWESTERN CANADA... Proudly Supporting Communities**,” and that is exactly what we do. Whether it’s to share our heritage, endorse community leaders, support education, sponsor cultural offerings, or, as in this case, rally the entire community, we are here for each and every person that expresses interest in our mission.

We have been devoted to serving our community for \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ years in any way we can, and whether it’s donating blood to Canadian Blood Services, supporting the requests of St Thomas General Hospital, or reaching out and performing much needed community service, we are always ready to demonstrate the power and strength of a close knit, compassionate community.

Our outreach doesn’t end locally. We have vital programs that provide partnership for Immigration Canada and we actively work with MP Karen Vecchio’s office to assist students in obtaining their visas and eventually citizenship. Through the generosity and thoughtfulness of our MPP, Jeff Yurck, we have programs that work with the government offering assistance to newcomers in developing and sustaining small businesses. Back in India, Bangladesh, and China, through CFCI, we provide counseling and support for the Salvation Army, helping widows and their children to find much needed resources in all aspects of life, from housing to medical care to education. We also have an emergency student aid fund as well as programs designed to assist schools in rural India that are in great need of our compassion.

Tonight we are here with a special purpose... to raise funds in support of Rakesh Malaviya. Whereas he has been described as a “loving, caring, giving and brilliant young man,” In December of 2017, he took ill. After weeks of testing in London’s University Hospital, he was diagnosed with anti-NMDA encephalitis... basically his body has been attacking itself... through inflammation in his brain, and he has been in a coma for \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ weeks. Rakesh came to this country to feed his passion for knowledge, to learn, and to make his parents proud. His father, a farmer in Gujarat, has done what he can to be here in support of his son’s recovery. His sister and cousins have also placed their lives on hold to encourage and care for Rakesh, but as we all know, medical care, long recuperation, challenging rehabilitation, and family support, travel and logistics can be cripplingly expensive.

A sense of family, community, and caring is topmost priority in our proud Indian culture. When we see someone in a dire situation, we pitch in.... whatever we can, to support those families that need us... because we are **ALL** family, and Heaven forbid, someday it might be one of us in that situation. I urge you to take a look and see what you can do to contribute to Rakesh’s Treatment, recuperation and recovery. To paraphrase Kabir, “Love and respect do not grow on trees nor are they bought in the market, but if one wants to be loved and respected, one must know how to give **unconditionally**.”

We all truly appreciate you taking the time to see what you can do to donate to this family because ultimately, they are **your** family as well. Thank you all.

**THANK YOU LETTER**

Dear \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_,

On behalf of Indian Culture of Southwestern Ontario, I want to take this opportunity to acknowledge you for attending our fundraising event for Rakesh Malaviya. It is thanks to people like you that we are able to make an impact on the lives of people in our extended family.

While Rakesh and his immediate family devote all of their inner strength and physical resources to focusing on Rakesh’s condition, knowing that there is an entire community that truly cares about their well being... and Rakesh’s recovery, is heartwarming, encouraging, and completely inspiring.

With sincerest gratitude, and deepest appreciation, we thank you.

Best regards.