

Vancouver Mayor at Sikh Youth Camp

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MAYOR SAM SULLIVAN of Vancouver made headlines when he spoke in *Punjabi*: "I am very pleased to learn that with the creation of Khalsa, Guru Gobind Singh Ji gave the message of love and equality to the whole human race. He ordained the Khalsa to use Kaur [princess] and Singh [lion] with their names. I am delighted to be with you - little Kaur and Singhs". A gathering of more than 250 boys and girls attending the annual Sikh Youth Camp recently heard His Honour sporting a saffron colored turban on his head, last summer.

The Mayor started his meaningful address in Punjabi, using the Sikh greeting: "*Waheguru Ji ka Khalsa, Waheguru Ji ki Fateh*" and thanked the Sikh Society, Vancouver, for inviting him to the Summer Camp. "I convey my heartiest love and blessings to all the children and urge all of you to gain full benefit from this Camp," the Mayor said.

Addressing the congregation, the Mayor said, "I pray to Waheguru to bless these children with higher education and high spiritedness, so that they may glorify the name of their parents, Vancouver city and Canada. I am learning a little bit of Punjabi. If there is any error please excuse me." Appreciating slogans of "*Bole So Nihal*" were raised in his honour. He won universal admiration for learning Punjabi. Gurdwara secretary responded "That is a good example, if a true blue Canadian can learn Punjabi, why can't we?"

The Management honored all the participants and teachers and S. Piara Singh, Secretary thanked every one for making this Camp a grand success which was held from 13 to 17 August, 2007.

The galaxy of prominent citizens included: Pritam Singh Aulakh, Darshan Singh Khaira, Bibi Balbir Kaur Aulakh, Surinder Kaur, Barjinder Kaur, Ram Kaur and Pritam Kaur. Volunteer resource persons who devoted their time include Giani Harkirat Singh, Dr Raghbir Singh Bains and Dr Pargat Singh Bhurji.