

NRN-Canada National Conference and Annual General Meeting

Hosted by Calgary Nepalese Community Association (CNCA) and Nepalese Community Society of Calgary (NCSC)

PROGRAM INFORMATION:

8:00-9:00 Breakfast and registration

9:00-11:05 Session I: Inaugurations Ceremony

9:00-9:15: Opening:

Master of Ceremony – Dr. Isha Sharma

Prayer – Ms. Ani Choying Dolma

National Anthem (Canada and Nepal)

Session Chair: Dr. Binod KC, CNCA President, Joint-Host;
Opening Remarks and Program Information

9:15-9:37: Welcome:

Mr. Naba Raj Gurung, President, NRN-Canada (10 minutes)

The Right Honorable Prime Minister's message (2 minutes)

Hon. MLA Moe Amery, Calgary (5 minutes)

His Excellency Kali Prasad Pokhrel, Charge' d'Affairs (5 minutes)

9:37-10:07 Keynote Speeches:

Dr. Upendra Mahato, President, NRNA-ICC (15 minutes)

Dr. Dave Irvine-Halliday, Professor, University of Calgary, "LUTW –
Conceived in Nepal & Born in Canada", (15 minutes)

10:07-10:34 Local Dignitaries:

Mr. Hal Hamilton, Board of Director, CAWST (8 minutes)

Mr. Laurie Skreslet, First Canadian to Summit Everest (8 minutes)

Mr. Andrew Brash, Renowned Mount Everest Climber (8 minutes)

Hon. Ray Jones, Deputy Mayor of Calgary (3 minutes) (*arriving at 10:20 am*)

10:34-10:55 Messages from community leaders (200 words or less or two minutes by each)

10:55-11:00 Vote of Thanks, Mr. Chitra K. Pradhan, Vice President, NRN-Canada

11:00-11:05 Guest Appreciation

11:05-11:20 Tea Break

11:20-12:20: Session II: Projects Concept Presentations

Session Chair: Dr. Drona P. Rasali, Adviser NRN-Canada (5 minutes)

Project Idea 1: **Proposal for Consulate General Office in Calgary** – Mr. Bishnu Subba, Calgary (5 minutes)

Project Idea 2: **Helping Public Education Sector in Nepal** - Dr. Raju Tuladhar, Calgary (5 minutes)

Project Idea 3: **4C: Community Child Care Centers in Nepal** (A project for developing community child care centers for promoting early childhood education and enhancing overall literacy and education.)- Michael and Tineke Casey, Ottawa (5 minutes)

Project Idea 4: **NRN-movement and Nepali childhood education** – Mr. Chitra K Pradhan, Winnipeg (5 minutes)

Project Idea 5: **Investment in Real Estate Market in Canada** – Mr. Madan KC, Toronto (5 minutes)

Project Idea 6: **NRN Canada – Nepal Investment Initiatives – Hydropower in Nepal** – Mr. Kedar Bhakta Shrestha, Oakville (5 minutes)

Project Idea 7: **Usha** (An educational content development project to bring the reach of education to the margins of society.) – Dr. Pramod Dhakal , Ottawa (5 minutes)

Project Idea 8: **Women’s program in Canada’s NRN-movement-** Ms. Radha Basnet, Ottawa (5 minutes)

Project Idea 9: **Canada-wide cooperatives for Nepali goods and services-** Dr. Drona Rasali, Regina (5 minutes)

12:20-1:30PM Lunch

1:30-2:30 Session II: NRN – Panel Discussion and Open Forum: Where is the Future of NRN?

Session Chair: Dr. Betman Singh Bhandari, NCSC President, Joint-Host (5 minutes) –
Introductory remarks to lead the session and closing comments

Discussion on Select Themes (25 Minutes Presentation-40 Minutes Question-Answer)

Select Themes:

- *NRN Movement - Challenges and Institutional Sustainability*
- *The ICC and NCCs: Roles and Relationships*
- *The NRN Regulation: Highlights, Limitations, Implementation and Next steps*
- *NRN Movement in North America: Coordination and Collaboration*
- *Recent Developments in Terms of Advancing Rights of NRNs*
- *NRN Charity Projects- Highlights and Potentials*
- *Towards the Upcoming Global Convention: Potential Role and Input from Canadian NRNs*
- *NRN Investment to Contribute Towards Economic Development of Nepal*
- *Presented project concepts- possible collaboration and synergy*

Panellists:

Mr. Dev Man Hirachen, Vice-President, NRNA-ICC

Mr. Ram Pratap Thapa, Vice-President, NRNA-ICC

Dr. Ambika P. Adhikari, USA

Mr. Ratan Jha, USA

Dr. Shyam D Karki, USA

Mr. Gopi Krishna Kaphle, Secretary, NRN-Canada

Mr. Naresh Koirala, Regional Coordinator, Americas, NRNA-ICC

Dr. Pramod Dhakal, International Affairs Coordinator, NRN - Canada

Dr. Upendra Mahato, President, NRNA-ICC

Mr. Mukti Gautam, National Coordinator- Language, Literature and Culture Committee, NRN-Canada

Ms. Sirjana Pant, National Coordinator- Youth Committee, NRN-Canada

Mr. Bill Porochnuk, Director, CNCA

2:30-3:00 Socializing

3:00-5:00 Session IV: Annual General Meeting

Session Chair and Closing Comments:

Mr. Naba Raj Gurung, NRN-Canada President (5 minutes)

General Secretary's Report- Ms. Sirjana Pant (20 minutes)

Membership Report- Mr. Durga Adhikari (10 minutes)

Financial Statement- Mr. Bharat Poudyal (20 minutes)

NRN-Canada By-Laws – Mr. Chitra K. Pradhan (30 minutes)

Motions based on project concept presentation and

Open Forum- Dr. Drona Rasali, Mr. Anup Neupane and Ms. Sirjana Pant (20 minutes)

NRNA Delegation and Representation – Dr. Pramod Dhakal (10 Minutes)

Conference Organizing Committee Report – Mr. Bishnu Subba (5 minutes)

5:00-5:30 Social and Health Break

5:30-7:00 Dinner

Session V: Cultural Program

8:00-9:00 Live Concert by Ms. Ani Choying Dolma

9:00-10:00 Live Nepali Musical and Cultural Performances

And NCSC/CNCA Performers

Keynote Speakers:

DR. UPENDRA MAHATO



Dr. Upendra Mahato holds a PhD and DSc degrees in Information Technology from International Academy of Information Technology of Minsk, Belarus. He is the Honorary Consul General of Nepal in the Republic of Belarus and President of Russia-Nepal Chamber of Commerce and Industry. He is the president of Non Resident Nepalese Association, International Coordination Council (NRNA, ICC).

A person of academic achievement, he entered into the world of entrepreneurship in the late 1980s with modest beginning but quickly showed his business talents. Subsequently, Dr. Mahato emerged as one of the most successful entrepreneur and businessman in Russia and then in Belarus, Cyprus, Nepal and India. He was the first foreign national to receive the prestigious 'Manager of the Year-2007' award by Free Economic Society of Russia and International Academy of Management in Russia. As much as his business acumen is refined and strong, he is equally skillful in social entrepreneurship and charity. He is the key people behind the establishment of NRNA and its world-wide expansion.

DR. DAVE IRVINE-HALLIDAY

Topic: “LUTW – Conceived in Nepal & Born in Canada”

Abstract: In the spring of 1997 Dave Irvine-Halliday had an idea as he was trekking round the Annapurna Circuit in Nepal, and it raised the following question in his mind: “Could Light Emitting Diodes (LEDs), powered by Renewable Energy, possibly be the solution to bringing appropriate and affordable electric light to the rural homes in Nepal?”

Using kerosene or candles for lighting is very dangerous, unhealthy and costly, whereas Solid State Lighting (SSL), i.e. LEDs, has proven to be safe, healthy and remarkably affordable. That one simple idea has evolved into Light Up The World (LUTW), the global leader in bringing the Gift of Light to the developing world. To date, starting with Nepal, LUTW has lit up more than 18,000 homes in 50 countries, using a combination of solar power and state-of-the-art SSL.

SSL is possibly the most important agent of change in living memory for the developing world, and its socio-economic-environmental benefits are immediate, profound, widespread and permanent. This is one of the best values for dollar investments in the developing world that the overdeveloped world will ever likely see, and SSL contributes significantly to all the UN Millennium Development Goals. The developing world can largely afford to purchase SSL, especially using Micro Credit, and it is a proven means of helping to break the poverty cycle.

Dr. Dave will describe how fundamentally important Nepal was to the evolution of LUTW, and how this small country literally led the world for quite some time in the installation of permanent SSL systems.



A professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering at the University of Calgary, Dr. Dave Irvine-Halliday started his endeavors of helping Nepal some 20 years ago and has mentored many researchers of Nepalese origin. During a trek to Annapurna Circuit after setting-up a laboratory at Tribhuvan University, Nepal, in 1997, Dr. Irvine-Halliday was struck by an idea of illuminating homes in the remote mountains with low-energy White Light Emitting Diodes (WLEDs). After series of research and technological quest, he was able to develop a technology with human-powered battery charger, lead-acid battery, and WLEDs. He then founded Nepal Light Project in 1999 along with his wife Jenny using their own personal income and loan and distributed the first sets of lighting systems in May 1999 in Nepal. After seeing the transformative effect of

this project, he came back with an idea of "Light Up the World (LUTW)" and, thus LUTW.org was born in year 2000. By introducing a safe, efficient and affordable form of home lighting consuming less than a watt and lasting more than ten years to the poor rural people of Nepal and subsequently of the world, LUTW brought the ability to read and write in the night to the children of rural Nepal. He believes it is the birthright of every man, woman and child on Earth to read and write. He therefore hopes to provide reading and writing materials along with one WLED reading lamp for each home and local school in Nepal.

In 1970, after earning Ph.D. degree from University of Aberdeen, Scotland, Dr. Irvine-Halliday moved to Canada, where he worked with Bell-Northern Research in Ottawa, Alberta Government Telephones, Victoria University of Technology in Melbourne, and finally at University of Calgary in Alberta where is Professor of Electrical Engineering. Dr. Irvine-Halliday participated in "Team Everest 2000", which reached the summit of Everest in May 2000. Recipient of many awards Dr. Irvine-Halliday and his wife Jenny's lives are devoted to Light Up the World Foundation (www.lutv.org) and are one of the finest friends of the educational and humanitarian causes of the poor and marginalized people of rural Nepal. LUTW is the first humanitarian organization to utilize renewable energy and solid-state lighting technologies to bring affordable, safe, healthy, efficient, and environmentally responsible illumination to people who do not have access to power for adequate lighting. LUTW remains the world's leader in this endeavor: globally active and setting standards in the field.

Honorary Speakers:

HON. MOE EMERY, MLA

Hon. Moe Emery was first elected as MLA in 1993 and he is running for a fifth term as MLA for Calgary East. He is a resident of Calgary-East for the last 27 years. He is:

- Chair, Environmental Protection Advisory Committee,
- Member, Cabinet Policy Committee of Community Services
- Member, Community Spirit Committee
- Member, International Governance Committee
- Member, Standing Committee on Privileges and Election

He attended University of Alberta and he is extensive involved in the community development. He is married with five children.

HON. RAY JONES, DEPUTY MAYOR OF CALGARY

In October 2007, Alderman Ray Jones was re-elected to Calgary City Council to represent the citizens of Ward 5 for a sixth term. A resident of the Rundle community for the past 32 years, and past president of

eight years, Ray still is an active volunteer and a leading member on a variety of community, municipal and provincial committees dealing with issues impacting Northeast Calgary.

In recognition of Ray's dedicated service to the communities and to the citizens of the City of Calgary he has been awarded several Honorary Memberships, including:

- Honorary Patron of Calgary Meals on Wheels
- Lifetime Member of the Calgary Grey Cup Committee
- Lifetime Member of the Falconridge/Castleridge Community Association
- Lifetime Member of the N.E. Sportsplex Society
- Lifetime Member of the Rundle Community Association
- Lifetime Member of the Temple Community Association

In recognition of his significant contributions to compatriots, community and to Canada, Ray was the recipient of the Governor General's of Canada Award in 1993. In 2003, he received the Queen's Golden Jubilee Award for Community Service and in 2005 received the Alberta Centennial Metal.

With the recognition Ray Jones has received in the past, his interest in the quality of life for the youth and residents of Ward 5 and the Citizens of Calgary is well known.

HIS EXCELLENCY KALI PRASAD POKHREL

Mr. Kali Prasad Pokhrel is Charge'd'Affairs at the Embassy of Nepal in Washington DC. An aspiring civil servant of Nepal, Mr. Kali Prasad Pokhrel holds Bachelor's and Master's degrees from Tribhuvan University, Nepal and a Diplomatic Training from Foreign Service Programme of Oxford University, UK. Mr. Pokhrel joined the Nepalese Foreign Service in 1990 in the Protocol Division and rose to prominence quickly. Subsequently, he was assigned to SAARC Division and Consular Section. He briefly served as Private Secretary to the then Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs in the first quarter of 1995. In 1995, he worked as Second Secretary at the Nepal's Permanent Mission to the United Nations, New York. By 1997 he was working as a First Secretary/Deputy Chief of Mission at Embassy of Nepal in Cairo, Egypt and then to B.P.Koirala India-Nepal Foundation at the Embassy of Nepal in New Delhi, India. In 2003, he was assigned to United Nations and International Organizations Division and was a member of Nepalese delegation to the United Nations General Assembly in 2004 and member of the Nepalese delegation to the 1st and 2nd Session of the newly formed Human Rights Council held in Geneva in 2006. Mr. Pokhrel was posted as Charge' d'Affairs a.i at the Embassy of Nepal in Washington D.C. in 2007 where he is serving at present.

Local Dignitaries:

MR. HAL HAMILTON

An environmental scientist by education and training, Mr. Hal Hamilton is the Board of Directors of Centre for Affordable Water and Sanitation Technology through which he has been involved in Nepal since 2002 in finding economical technical solutions to solving water, sanitation and arsenic issues. Prior to this, he was the President of Redlog Technology Ventures Ltd. He has over 30 years experience in the environmental business sector, including being CEO of Golder Associates, a multi-national engineering and sciences consulting firm. Most recently Hal was the founder and President of Verdant Energy Ltd, a renewable power company. He is an environmental scientist by training.

MR. LAURIE SKRESLET, FIRST CANADIAN TO SUMMIT MOUNT EVEREST



On October 5th, 1982, Laurie Skreslet became the first Canadian to summit Mount Everest. Since then, Laurie has recognized the parallel between climbing the mountain and the challenges people face daily in the business community. By sharing these similarities with 2000 organizations, Laurie has become an expert motivational speaker and touched the lives of more than 500,000 people.

But Laurie hasn't retired from climbing. Over the years he has participated in more than 30 world-class expeditions into the Canadian Rockies, Nepal, South America and India. And Laurie continues to operate his Business Leadership and Challenge Courses in the Canadian Rockies.

Laurie has written a bestselling book "To the Top of Everest". It was nominated in two categories, the Children's Choice Award and the Canadian Book of the Year for Children Award in 2004.

MR. ANDREW BRASH, MOUNT EVEREST CLIMBER



Mr. Andrew Brash is a Canadian teacher and climber based in Calgary, Alberta. Attracted to mountaineering since the age of 16, Andrew moved from Ontario to Canada's west to pursue climbing in the Canadian Rockies. After a number of years of climbing in Canada, he spent a year in France climbing with his friend Richard Ouairy. In 1993 he took part in his first Himalayan expedition to Cho-Lotse, a difficult and seldom climbed mountain in the Everest region, successfully reaching summit and opening a whole new world of climbing possibilities.

A succession of expeditions followed - to Pakistan, Nepal, western China, Tibet, South America, Alaska, Norway and Kazakhstan, resulting in several successful summits and new routes. In the spring of 2006, he found himself two hundred meters from the top of Mt. Everest and faced with a life-changing decision - whether to press onto the summit and achieve a lifelong dream, or stop and try to rescue a fellow climber who had been left and presumed dead. Andrew rescued Lincoln Hall, an Australian climber who had been pronounced dead high on the mountain. The story led the national news in Australia and Canada, and was featured on virtually every network worldwide.

Andrew did not give up his dream of reaching the summit and two years later in May 2008, he successfully reached the top of Mt. Everest.

Andrew has one of the most interesting climbing resumes in Canada. Through his years of expeditioning, Andrew has had numerous articles and photographs published in The Canadian Alpine Journal, The American Alpine Journal, Climbing Magazine, On the Edge Magazine, High Mountain Sports, National Geographic Adventure Magazine, Explore Magazine and was profiled in Grippid Magazine. Andrew lives in Calgary with his wife Jennifer and daughter Anna.

Session Chairs:

DR. BINOD KC, CNCA PRESIDENT, JOINT-HOST

Dr. Binod KC holds a PhD degree in Electrical and Computer Engineering from University of Calgary and is working for General Dynamics Canada for the last 8 years.

After securing First Class First in the Intermediate of Science in Nepal, he completed his Bachelor of Engineering from University of Rajasthan, India in 1992. He worked as an Assistant Professor for 5 years at Institute of Engineering, Pulchowk Campus and during that time, he completed his MSc in Electrical Engineering from University of Kent, UK. He moved to Canada in 1997 and has been actively involved with the Nepalese community in Calgary for the last 12 years.

DR. BETMAN SINGH BHANDARI, NCSC PRESIDENT, JOINT-HOST

Dr. Betman Bhandari is a President of Nepalese Community Society of Calgary (NCSC). He has been working with Centre for Affordable Water and Sanitation Technology (CAWST) as an International Technical Advisor (ITA) since 2006. He has over 15 years experience in drinking water and sanitation engineering in addition to substantial integrated development planning for national governments. He has been published for his work in rural water supply and sanitation.

DR. DRONA P. RASALI, ADVISOR, NRN-CANADA

Dr. Drona Prakash Rasali is one of the brightest scholars to emerge from the traditionally neglected communities of Nepal. He was declared Board First in Nepal's School Leaving Certificate Examinations held in 1972. After completing Bachelor of Veterinary Science in 1980 he worked as a Veterinary Doctor with Government of Nepal for 14 years and completed his M.Sc. degree from University of Philippines during that tenure. Then he moved to Nepal Agriculture Research Council where he worked a Senior Scientist until 1999. After leading a successful research career in Nepal, he came to Canada and completed his Ph.D. in Animal Genetics in 2004. He worked in Manitoba as a provincial coordinator of a national pilot study of Canadian Pork Council for one year in 2003/04. Currently, he is working in the area of population health as a Chronic Disease Epidemiologist with the Government of Saskatchewan, Canada. To his credits, he has more than 70 peer-reviewed publications in the wide ranging areas of animal health and productivity as well as public health and well-being.

Along with his successful professional career, Dr. Rasali also involves himself extensively in social causes of the Nepalese, especially in espousing consciousness in the common causes of the society and of the people in the margin. He is also Advisor of NRN-Canada and Research Chair of Canada Foundation for Nepal.

Panellists:

MR. DEV MAN HIRACHEN, VICE-PRESIDENT, NRNA-ICC

Mr. Dev Man Hirachan was born in Pokhara, did his graduate studies in radiology from Japan University and has been working with Nozaki Hospital, Osaka in Japan for last 10 years. Most interestingly he was able to pursue business entrepreneurship and attain success in that field as well. He runs several travel agencies in Kathmandu and Japan that help exchange visitors between the two countries. Current vice president of the NRNA, he also leads the Nepal Future Thinking Association, Japan, the Educational and Social Development Center (ESODEC), Japan and the Educational and Social Development Center (ESODEC), Nepal.

MR. RAM PRATAP THAPA, VICE-PRESIDENT, NRNA-ICC

Mr. Ram Pratap Thapa co-founder and current vice president of NRN, is a career professional carrying long experiences in banking and financing. Educated in Kathmandu and Nuremberg, Germany, he holds an MBA degree in financing and marketing. He has lived in Germany since 1976 and works as a bank analyst. Honorary Consul of Nepal for three German states, Thapa is the President of German-Nepal Friendship Association. Beyond his professional interests, Mr. Thapa is concerned about the issues of global Nepalis and has been active in NRN movement ever since its inception. A literature enthusiast, he has strong involvement in social work and charity.

DR. AMBIKA P ADHIKARI, USA

Dr. Ambika P. Adhikari, carries successful professional experience of more than 20 years (USA, Canada, Mexico and South Asia) in urban and regional planning, urban development and management, and community and economic development and environmental policy programs. He has worked with international institutions (IUCN, World Bank, ADB, UN agencies), private sector, local, state and national governments, universities, and non-profit (NGO) settings in senior research, technical, professional and management levels. He has made exemplary contributions in research, project design, management, budgeting, program and fund development, and government, and stakeholder relations and program implementation throughout his career. Along with post-graduate studies from Massachusetts MIT and University of Hawaii, he received Doctorate from in urban and regional planning from Harvard in the USA.

Besides his academic achievements, he has also made many contributions in building up associations of the Nepalese in the USA including NAC and ANA. He was past president of both organizations.

MR. RATAN JHA, USA

Founding President of Association of Nepali Teraian in America (ANTA) since 2005, Mr. Ratan Jha, was born in Sarlahi, Nepal and has been living in the USA since 1991. A graduate of NIT, Nagpur in Civil Engineering under Colombo Plan, Mr. Jha obtained a Master's degree in Civil Engineering from the University of Oklahoma, USA. After working for the Govt. of Texas in Austin for 8 years, he moved onto private engineering consulting eventually establishing his own company that development consulting, land development and construction in the USA, Nepal and the Middle East.

Beyond being a successful professional, Mr. Jha also has been an active promoter of NRNA from its inception in 2003. Subsequently he served as Co-Chair of NRN-NACC in 2007 and Treasurer of NAC in

2005. His organization ANTA has been supporting 10 deaf and hard to hear students per year and also in helping dalit and socially marginalized children in Sarlahi and Rautahat districts.

DR. SHYAM D KARKI, USA

Doctor of Pharmacology and former Vice-President of NRNA-ICC, Director of Pharmacy at Northwest Hospital Center, Randallstown, MD and an Associated Clinical Professor, School of Pharmacy, SUNY at Buffalo, NY, Dr. Shyam D. Karki, is one of the most successful Nepalese professionals in the USA while being well involved in the community as a leader and as a tireless promoter of peace and democracy in Nepal. Former Vice President of the NRN ICC and an active contributor in Nepali Diaspora organizations, he has been contemplating on the Nepali Diaspora resources in North America and its contribution to Nepal for many years. He has published more than 100 research papers and is a reviewer for six pharmacy and medical journals. He is affiliated with many organizations in various capacities working on issues impacting Nepal and Nepalis. He was a president of Association of Nepalis in America (ANA) and Presidential Candidate in NRNA convention of 2007. He has served in more than 20 Nepali organizations including ANA, NRNA, NAC, INLS, BANA, and ANS as executive, advisor, trustee, or life member.

MR. NARESH KOIRALA, REGIONAL COORDINATOR, AMERICAS, NRNA-ICC

Naresh Koirala's non-resident journey started in 1975 when he came to study engineering in the Asian Institute of Technology in Thailand. Since then, he has traveled and worked around the world as a professional engineer and now he lives in Canada. He believes the foundation of any successful country is the education of its youth and this is one of the major areas where NRNs Nepal work should focus. He co-established Nepal Library Foundation (NLF) in Canada to carry his passion for education forward. NLF's mission is to help development of public libraries in Nepal. Presently NLF works with 15 libraries across the country. The NLF is supported by NRNA and the funding support for NLF's work comes from contribution of NRNs and friends of Nepal in Canada.

Naresh is currently NRNA's Regional Coordinator for North America. In this capacity and earlier as NRN ICC's Canadian representative he has been involved in a number of NRNA initiatives. He started NRNA's Skill Directory; he developed NRNA's project adoption policy. He is one of the key authors of NRN's dual citizenship paper; economic development paper, sustainability paper and recently, of NRNs suggestions report to the Constitution drafting committee of the Constituent Assembly of Nepal.

DR. PRAMOD DHAKAL, INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS COORDINATOR, NRN

Dr Pramod Dhakal is the International Affairs Coordinator of NRN-Canada, Executive Director of Canada Foundation for Nepal, Senior Scientist and Architect at EION Inc, and Research Associate at Carleton University. He holds a Bachelor's degree from IIT-Roorkee, India, M.Sc. and Ph.D. degrees in Electrical Engineering from the University of Saskatchewan, Canada. He carries varied experience from the industry and academia through his successfully executed roles as a teacher, developer, analyst, architect, consultant, department head, and a manager mostly in teaching, software, telecommunication systems, and engineering research. In these roles, he has carried out exclusive research and development endeavors for organizations known to lead the world in the field of research and innovation. There are two patented scientific inventions in fields of computing and communication to his credit. After being entrenched in electrical and telecommunications engineering for more than two decades, he has emerged into broader social scene in the least four years. Subsequently, his research interests have shifted to application of telecommunication technology for the economic transformation of developing

countries. Also expanded are his social horizons - expressed in his well received writings on socio-economic issues that appear in the news media on a regular basis, and his increasing interests in cognition, thoughts, and philosophical domains. Currently he has embarked Project Usha dedicated to producing educational content in view of bringing the light of education among rural children in Nepal.

MR. BILL POROCHNUK

Mr. Bill (William) Porochnuk grew up in rural Canada where his father worked as a coal miner and his Czech mother was a cook. He completed a Technical Diploma before obtaining a Bachelor of Electrical Engineering degree. After working in electrical engineering companies for some number of years, Mr. Porochnuk entered into Access TV where he became Technical Director of Educational Television Programming. Subsequently, he joined Northern Alberta Institute of Technology (NAIT) as the Head of the Department of Electrical and Electronics Engineering. Then he moved to Southern Alberta Institute of Technology (SAIT) and was Director of Operations for 11 years. It was at this time he became involved with Nepal Engineering Education Project and the other partnering agency – the United Nations. The latter part of his career became heavily involved with Nepal and UN, through which he did much of technical assessment for four engineering colleges in Nepal – Pulchowk Campus, Thapathali Campus, Purvanchal Campus, and Paschimanchal Campus. Through Nepal became almost like his second home and he became known as Bill Kaka in the Nepalese community. However, since the death of his wife Alice Kaki some three and a half years ago he has taken full retirement from his technical work. He lives in Cochrane near Calgary Alberta.

Cultural Program:

MS. ANI CHOYING DOLMA



An internationally reputed singer of Buddhist hymns and chants, who has toured extensively in North America and Europe, Ani Choying Dolma was born in Nepal in a Tibetan family. She joined Nagi Gompa, a Buddhist nunnery on Shivapuri Mountain on the northern slope of the Kathmandu valley at age 13 under her renowned spiritual leader Tulku Ugyen Rinpoche. She was educated in Buddhist meditation, chants, rituals and ceremonies and quickly advanced to the position of the chanting master in the nunnery. Through her spiritual leader she learnt to view nuns in the same regard as monks and took up the cause of the advancement of nuns so they could be better prepared to serve others. A philanthropist, she founded Nuns Welfare Foundation (NWF) of Nepal dedicated to the welfare of Buddhist nuns in 1998 and established Arya Tara School for nuns in 2000, all run from the proceeds from her concerts and tours. The school provides both secular and religious training in Tibetan, Dharma, Nepali, English, Math and Science to more than 50 young nuns. The Thangka Painting School, another project under the banner of NWF was opened in 2007 at the Arya Tara School premises in Pharping. She is executive board member and trustee of Lumbini Development Trust. She has published a number famous music CDs: "Cho" -1997, "Time" -2007, "Selwa" - 1998, "Dancing Dakini" -1999, "Choying" - 2000, "Moments Of Bliss" - 2004, "Smile" - 2005 and "Inner Peace" - 2006. Her song "Phoolko Aankhama" from her album, "Moments of Bliss" received many awards including the best song of the year in Nepal in 2005 and "Chinnalata Githi Puruskar" for best female vocal performance in August 2005.

Conference Delegate List:

To be attached

Sponsors:

Mr. Madan KC, Toronto

Mr. Dorje Lama, Calgary

Dr. Raju Tuladhar family, Calgary