



Annual Report 2008-2009

We at the Shastri Institute ask ourselves two important questions every day: Can we impact the relationship between two great and powerful countries? If we can, why should we?

Every day in our work we see Indians and Canadians engaging, learning, collaborating and making a difference through the relationships they build with each other. Through their stories we find our answers. Through their work we see lives changed.

We exist to expand their connections and enable the impact they have on our world.

James Liebenberg
Executive Director

Professors Colin Seymour (left) and K.P.Mishra (right) at Niagara Falls during a visit to discuss their collaborative work and arrange for the exchange of an Indian graduate student. Seymour, a professor in medical physics at McMaster University, and Mishra, a radiation biologist at the United Research Center, Allahabad, work with other colleagues to test the biological effects of low doses of radiation. Professor Carmel Mothersill, who took this photograph, is also a medical physicist at McMaster and a principle investigator in the project. The partnership has proven successful and the participants are seeking to expand the scope of their work together.

Message from the President



I feel privileged to say that, as President of the Shastri Institute this year, I have been part of a process towards bi-national solidarity that is gaining momentum. More universities and institutes of higher learning than ever before are partnering with the Shastri Institute to bridge the gap between India and Canada. Our membership has reached nearly 90.

Our new structure and expanded mandate are providing new opportunities as well as posing challenges as the international environment also continues to change. This past year we have witnessed incredible growth in the internationalization of higher education, and Canada and India are no exception. In view of Canada's heightened attention to India as a new world economic power, collaborations and linkages between our academics have gained a special status.

In response, we have given new life to programmes that fund major development research projects and collaborative research programmes. We have also expanded the scope of our flagship programmes in Canadian and India studies. They continue to engage both experienced and novice academics in the development of intercultural understanding, now including work in fields like distance education and bio-source engineering.

In the following pages you will see highlights of what your support has helped us to achieve in 2008-2009. You will see the facts and the figures, and will also meet some of the people whose efforts have made it possible. Their stories convey both the magnitude of need for further connection and our undiminished resolve to continue providing support.

In conclusion, as a uniquely bi-national institute with a track record of achievements and active participation in both countries, the Shastri Institute is likely to play a ever more significant role maintaining and improving India-Canada cooperation, particularly given the new and upcoming synergies between India and Canada. In a time when the Indian Diaspora community in Canada is becoming increasingly influential and is pushing for more exploration into trade and investment, institutes like Shastri can enhance such opportunities through cultural understanding between our two societies and through academic and people to people interactions.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'A. S. Narang'.

Dr. A. S. Narang
President

Promoting gender equality is a central value of the Shastri Institute. In 2008-2009, we distributed 51% of our grants and awards to women. We allocated over \$120,000 of our grant funds to projects focusing on gender.



Students in Bangalore participate in a trial programme for the University of Calgary's new International Master's of Biomedical Technology soon to be offered in India. Photo taken by Vikram Lekhi.

Bringing People Together

Personal contact is essential in establishing and strengthening bi-national connections; it allows us to understand in ways that no amount of long-distance interactions ever could. Since travel between India and Canada is expensive and hampered with other obstacles, we seek to provide opportunities and open doors so that students and scholars can achieve what otherwise might have been impossible. Our goal is to see Indian and Canadian institutions engaging

in strong, long-term relationships that foster collaborations, exchanges and programming. It is amazing how often these institutional relationships begin with just one Indian and one Canadian working together. Our small connections are powerful when given the chance to grow.

In 2008-2009, our grants met a range of needs from support for face-to-face meetings to support for extended research or training abroad. Recipients of Shastri Institute grants and awards conducted research, received training, attended conferences, carried out internships and built partnerships. We awarded 40 fellowships, 24 travel subsidies, 3 youth internships, and 3 visiting lectureships this year. Programmes like our student awards, and our larger bi-national research grants also often involve international travel.

In all, over 100 Indians and Canadians were able to visit each other's countries through Shastri Institute funding this year.

Left: Kory Goldberg (India Studies Research Fellow and Student Excellence Award winner) is seen here on one of many trips to India with wife Michelle and son Jai. Kory's research investigates how education systems transform as people from different cultural and religious backgrounds interact with one another.

"Travelling to India is a way of extracting us from our daily grind and making us re-evaluate our habits and ways of life." ~ Kory Goldberg



Top: Professor Mahesh Kumar Dey (Canadian Studies Research Fellow) converses with Canadian First Nations author Thomas King in a park in Guelph, Ontario. Dey's study of contemporary native fiction was enhanced during his fellowship in Canada where he had the opportunity to meet and interview several prominent authors and artists of Canadian First Nations descent.



Bottom: Professor Vikram Sahai Lekhi used a Scholar Travel Subsidy Grant to conduct the first stage programme of the University of Calgary's new International Master's of Biomedical Technology in Bangalore. The trial was a huge success. A memorandum of understanding is being arranged between the University of Calgary and the Pipette Calibration Business Institute in Kochi in order to move further in this initiative.

Professor Lekhi sees both his Canadian and Indian students being future leaders in the biotech industry, developing technologies like those used to grow the local produce being sold by the vendor seen here.

Photo taken by Vikram Lekhi



"The Canadian Studies Fellowship enabled me to see a panorama of research opportunities beyond India's borders. There is a significant change in my perception and approach towards research after this rich international experience. I gained more confidence in my research when I found academics and researchers expressing their interest in research collaborations. I thank the Shastri Institute for helping me shape my research career."

Rajasekar Elangovan
Canadian Studies Doctoral Research Fellow

Bringing Knowledge Home

One of the most fulfilling outcomes of sending people to and from India and Canada is that they always return home transformed. Some return home with new skills to teach or train their students and peers. Others return with the experience needed to take on faculty positions or gain employment in international fields. Still others return with a Memorandum of Understanding in-hand, ready to develop the relationships they have just made. All return home with the ability to share their story and build greater understanding of the country they visited.

“My Canadian Studies Fellowship helped me articulate my thoughts and gave me more focus in my research on ‘Linguistic Diversity and Economic Disparity.’ After I returned to India, I published my work in *Economic and Political Weekly* and have recently been invited to present at an international conference on diversity in Latvia. I am grateful to the Shastri Institute for helping me launch my career onto the international stage.”

Prof. Papia Sengupta, University of Delhi
Canadian Studies Faculty Research Fellow

We work to build awareness of India in Canada and Canada in India because it is important. Our two countries have much to offer each other, and our potential for economic collaboration is enormous. Still, collaborative economic progress requires cultural, historical and environmental understanding. Scholars need to pave the road for traders and investors, development workers and even diplomats in order to ensure that we are building relationships on strong foundations of understanding and mutual respect.

This is why we offer programmes to encourage the study of each other's countries. In 2008-2009 we brought three experts overseas as visiting lecturers, organized over a dozen lectures, workshops and conferences, and disseminate over \$425,000 worth of library resources to institutions of higher learning in both countries. In India, we have a Canadian Studies library of over 10,000 books and journals, which received hundreds of visits this year from academics across the country. In Canada, we promoted youth engagement in India Studies through two essay competitions, and ten student excellence awards.

The resources we provide in both countries enable students and junior academics to develop their skills and become the future experts in fields pertaining to India and Canada.

Right: Sonia St-Michel began Indian Classical dancing in the year 2000. Five years later she applied for her first Shastri fellowship to improve her skills with a guru in India. This year, she returned on another fellowship with two goals: to improve her ability in Odissi *Saatvika Abhinaya* and to develop and strengthen her teaching skills.

“Spending a year in India on an Arts Fellowship helped me to deepen my understanding and learn the subtleties of Odissi dance in a way that could only be achieved through complete immersion in Indian society. I am grateful to the Shastri Institute for giving me this opportunity as it has allowed me to grow as an artist and share my passion for Odissi with a Canadian audience through performance and teaching.” ~ Sonia St-Michel



In 2008-2009, the Shastri Institute Canadian Studies Library in Delhi launched its much anticipated online catalogue of books. For the first time ever, Indian scholars can search online to locate and reserve books pertaining to Canada from libraries and Canadian Studies Centres across India.

“The new online catalogue really makes book searching easy and comfortable. This is an amazing and marvelous accomplishment for the Shastri Institute. On behalf of all Canadian Studies research scholars, I would like to thank the director, the board members, and the librarian, Ms. Reshma Verma, who painstakingly devoted herself to making the mission successful.”

Anish Kumar K.
Research and Teaching Assistant,
Indira Gandhi National Open University

Collaborating in New Areas

When Canadian and Indian academics collaborate on research projects, they can accomplish so much more than either of them would ever accomplish alone. We often need to meet difficult issues from multiple perspectives in order to find solutions. With our different experiences and ways of viewing the world, Indians and Canadians have the ability to come together and think innovatively about any problem. We also have different resources and skills that complement each other.

While we are different in so many ways, Indians and Canadians universally share in the struggle against some of the biggest challenges of our time. Environmental sustainability, gender equality, the elimination of poverty, hunger and disease, and the promotion of peace are goals we work collaboratively to achieve. When we succeed, we all reap the benefits.

“The creation of this link between the two research groups will bring together aspects of cancer biology, drug mechanisms, patient diagnosis and genetic profiling that is not possible by either group alone. Our new knowledge will be applied to the study of Pancratistatin, a rare substance derived from the Hawaiian spider lily, which has proven successful in killing cancer cells without harming normal, healthy cells. Our collaborative work could lead to clinical trials and hopefully to clinical usage.”

Prof. Sirayam Pandey, University of Windsor
Partnership Development Seed Grant recipient in collaboration with
Professor T. S. Sridhar, St John Academy of Health Sciences, Bangalore

In 2008-2009, the Shastri Institute released funds for three bi-national research projects based on the United Nations Millennium Development Goals. We have awarded funding for a forth project that will commence in 2009-2010. These projects strengthen institutional ties between our countries while moving us towards the development targets set by the United Nations for the year 2015.

Another way we promote bi-national collaboration is through our partnership development seed grants. We distributed five such grants in 2008-2009 to help establish the groundwork for further collaborations between institutions and individual research teams. Many of the partnerships we support involve collaboration with NGOs or private sector partners. They also often involve both Indian and Canadian graduate students and interns. This year, many of the junior participants in our bi-national research projects visited India or Canada for the first time.



Drs Darlene E. Clover, University of Victoria, Rajesh Tandon, Society for Participatory Research in Asia (PRIA) and a team are working together to challenge some of the basic structures and ideologies that oppress women in Canada and India through an investigation of how women learn to be politicians in both countries. To date, over 50 women have been interviewed. Both the research team and the participating women have been astounded to discover how participants in both countries struggle in similar situations. This sense of solidarity is empowering as the team works to affect change.

Bottom: In the 1990s Indian state governments began establishing Community Natural Resource Management institutions to provide more effective, equitable and sustainable management of natural resources like water, forests and fish. These institutions are intended to eliminate top-down, corrupt and ineffective management while putting power in the hands of the end-users of resources. A bi-national team funded by a Shastri Millennium Development Goals grant began a project this year to assess the impact of these institutions on poverty in rural Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh. The research involves studying 30 villages that have taken a variety of approaches to setting up CNRM institutions, aimed at recommending policy changes based on best practices observed in the field.

The team includes Prof. John R. Wood, University of British Columbia, Prof. Amita Shah and Dr. Jharna Pathak, Gujarat Institute of Development Research, Dr. Shashidharan Enarth, Development Support Centre, Ahmedabad, and Prof. Madhu Verma, Indian Institute of Forest Management, Bhopal.



Shastri Institute Programming



These programmes are delivered through funding from the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA)
* Multi-year programmes: Funds are distributed over a period of two-to-three years beginning in 2008-2009. This fiscal year we continue to distribute funds for several multi-year grants that we awarded in previous years.

Programme	Recipients	Value	Total funds distributed
Youth Internship Programme	3	\$ 15,000	\$ 45,000
Partnership Development Seed Grants	5	\$ 20,000	\$ 100,000
India Studies Institutional Grants*	3	\$ 5,000 - 8,000	\$ 21,000
Student Excellence Awards	10	\$ 2,000	\$ 20,000
Scholar Travel Subsidy Grants	26	up to \$ 1,200	\$ 23,500
Lal Bahadur Shastri Student Prize	2	\$ 500	\$ 1,000
Grant to Develop a Canada/India Joint Course*	2	\$ 8,000	\$ 16,000
Millennium Development Goals Research Grants *	3	\$ 80,000	\$ 240,000

These programmes are delivered through funding from the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade Canada (DFAIT)

Programmes	Recipients	Value	Total funds distributed
Programme Development Grant	6 institutions	\$850 - 3,500	\$17,000
Canadian Studies Book & Journal Programme	35 institutions + Shastri library	wide range	\$240,000
Canadian Studies Fellowships	13	\$ 4,500 - 9,500	\$ 80,000
Canadian Studies Visiting Lectureships	2	\$ 5,700 - 7,200	\$ 13,000

These programmes are delivered through funding from the Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India. (numbers are in Rupee amounts)

India Studies Library Programme	30 institutions	Rs 252,000 (average)	Rs 7,565,000
India Studies Visiting Lectureships	1	Rs 116,100	Rs 116,100
India Studies Fellowships	14	Rs 370,000 (average)	Rs 5,248,000
Collaborative Research Projects*	4	Rs 600,000	Rs 4,800,000

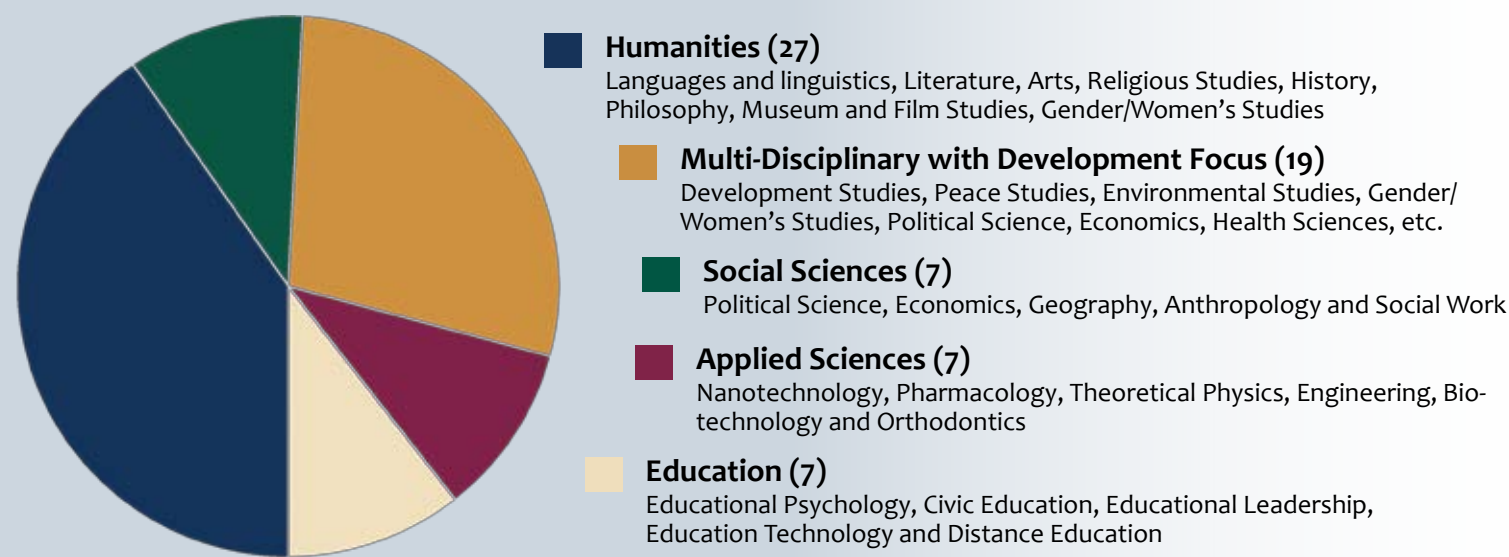
Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute Canada Office, Calgary

Statement of Financial Position

March 31, 2009

	MARCH 31			MARCH 31	
	2009	2008		2009	2008
ASSETS			LIABILITIES		
Cash	\$ 261,794	\$ 212,190	Accounts Payable	\$ 147,845	\$ 142,860
Term Deposits	415,227	417,675	Deferred Revenues	284,494	277,047
Accounts receivable	19,626	51,899		\$ 432,339	\$ 419,907
Prepaid expenses	4,720	645			
Office & Computer Equipment	\$ 9,638	\$ 10,416	NET ASSETS		
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 711,005	\$ 692,825	Endowment Funds	38,337	36,639
			Other Internally Restricted Funds	34,520	30,470
			Unrestricted Fund	205,809	205,809
			TOTAL NET ASSETS	278,666	272,918
			TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS	\$ 711,005	\$ 692,825

Grant Distribution by Area of Research - Canadian recipients



“I cannot express in adequate words how thankful I am to the Shastri Institute for believing in me and my work. I love India so much and the mandate of my life is to promote its achievements in science and medicine. Moreover, to show to Canadians how much we can learn from India and how important it is to have educational links with India.”

Dr. Robin Oakley, Dalhousie University

Dr. Oakley recently received four years of SSHRC funding for her work on *Biomedicine and Ancient Healing at the Crossroads*. This is a direct outcome of her 2007-08 Shastri faculty research fellowship.

In photo: Young Siddhavadiya consulting with elders about medical preparations in Tamil Nadu.



Statement of Operations and Changes to Unrestricted Fund

	YEAR ENDED MARCH 31	
	2009	2008
REVENUE		
Canadian International Development Agency	\$ 787,510	\$ 695,163
Foreign Affairs Canada	129,046	170,356
International Council for Canadian Studies	78,800	115,500
CIDA Youth Internship Programme	45,000	113,427
Membership and library fees	173,825	172,325
Interest income, Donations, and Other	20,765	24,905
TOTAL REVENUE	\$ 1,234,946	\$ 1,291,676
EXPENSES		
Knowledge Partnership Programme	\$ 375,143	\$ 357,319
Canadian Studies Programme	89,977	130,110
Canadian Studies Scholars	85,213	117,246
International Youth Internship Programme	37,819	94,069
40 th Anniversary Celebrations	36,706	-
Salaries, benefits and personnel expenses	432,834	380,018
Fund development	22,422	60,063
Governance	66,747	56,125
Communications	30,623	31,070
Public Relations	8,194	22,790
Audit, Legal, insurance and other	22,005	21,335
Office and equipment	12,449	12,213
Travel	14,814	9,318
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 1,234,946	\$ 1,291,676
NET INCOME FOR THE YEAR	-	-
UNRESTRICTED FUND - Beginning of Year	205,809	230,959
Transfer to President's Fund	-	(25,150)
UNRESTRICTED FUND - End of Year	\$ 205,809	\$ 205,809

These financial statements are based upon the Institute's audited financial statements for 2008-2009 but are not themselves audited. The financial statements, audited by Cremers & Elliott for the Canada Office and by Khanna Gulati & Associates for the India Office, are available from the Institute's offices.

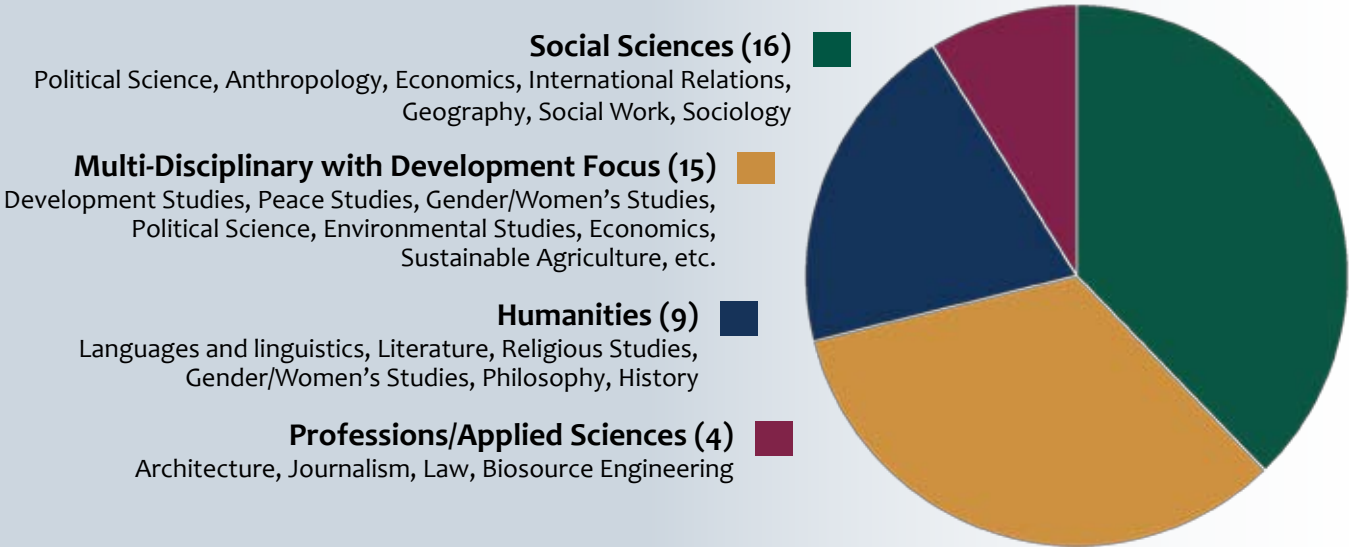
Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute India Office, New Delhi

Balance Sheet

March 31, 2009

	AS OF MARCH 31	
	2008	2007
SOURCE OF FUNDS	Rs.	Rs.
Capital Grants	3,431,107	3,319,902
Reserve Funds	1,786,029	1,775,553
	<u>5,217,136</u>	<u>5,095,455</u>
APPLICATION OF FUNDS		
FIXED ASSETS		
Gross Block	5,657,264	5,517,139
Less: Depreciation	(4,156,370)	(3,800,570)
Net Block	<u>1,500,894</u>	<u>1,716,569</u>
CURRENT ASSETS, LOANS & ADVANCES		
Cash and Bank Balances	10,604,583	6,910,905
Loans and Advances	2,944,941	2,014,881
Less: Current Liabilities	13,549,524	8,925,787
Less: Provisions	(8,205,924)	(4,435,931)
Net Current Assets	<u>(1,627,358)</u>	<u>(1,110,969)</u>
	<u>3,716,243</u>	<u>3,378,887</u>
	<u>5,217,136</u>	<u>5,095,455</u>

Grant Distribution by Area of Research - Indian recipients



“The field experience that I gained during my internship prepared me to create strategies to overcome challenges, use patience and compassion as a way of understanding difference, and engage in active partnerships with people from all walks of life. This experience and the skills I have gained will definitely be useful to me for my work back in Canada.”

Amenda Kumar (middle), Youth Intern, Chennai



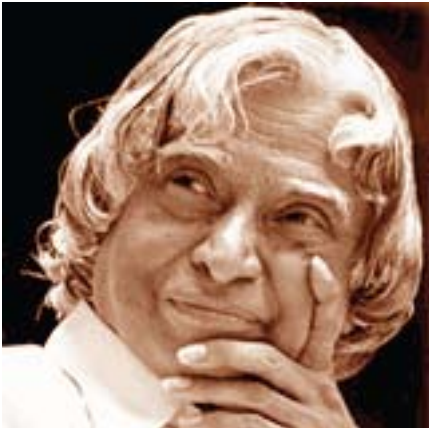
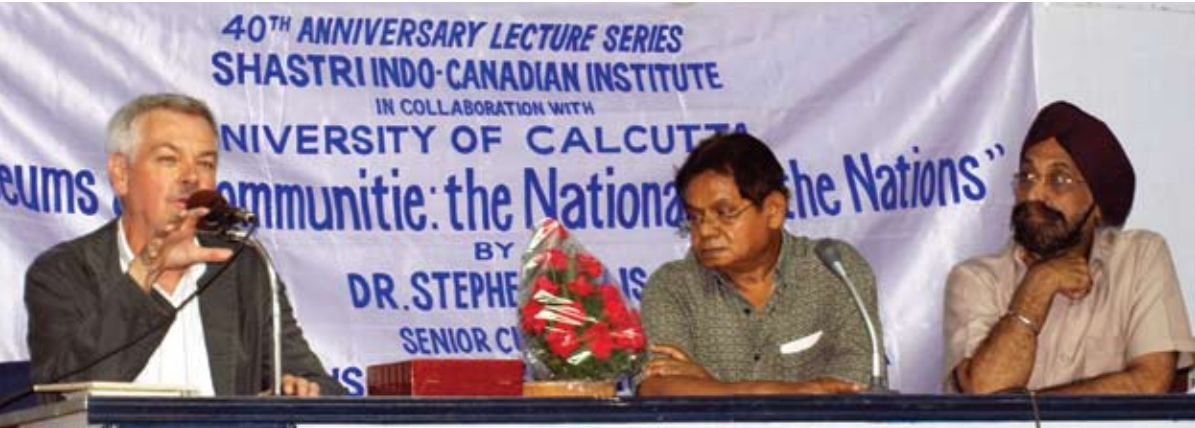
Income and Expenditures Account

	YEAR ENDED MARCH 31	
	2009	2008
REVENUE		
Operating	9,800,509	8,453,400
Programmes:		
CIDA - SICI Programme	-	161,273
SHARP Programme	-	100,010
Canadian Studies/Special Activities	1,073,275	2,030,118
Library Programme	9,392,336	9,085,216
Fellowship Programme	3,022,583	5,569,151
Seminars & Conferences and New Initiatives	113,829	492,847
Restructuring & Governance Initiatives	869,336	787,471
Visiting Lectureship Programme	116,100	412,012
Collaborative Research Projects	1,434,460	1,211,527
40th Anniversary Celebrations	674,396	237,612
Canadian Studies New Initiative Funds	61,782	-
	<u>26,496,822</u>	<u>28,540,636</u>
EXPENSES		
Operating	9,467,978	8,266,398
Irrecoverable Amount Written Off	-	375,099
Programmes:		
CIDA-SICI Programme	-	161,273
SHARP Programme	-	100,010
Canadian Studies/Special Activities	1,073,275	2,030,118
Library Programme	9,392,336	9,085,216
Fellowship Programme	3,022,583	5,569,151
Seminars & Conferences	113,829	492,847
Restructuring & Governance Initiatives	869,336	787,471
Visiting Lectureship Programme	116,100	412,012
Collaborative Research Projects	1,434,460	1,211,527
40th Anniversary Celebrations	674,396	237,612
	61,782	-
	<u>26,164,291</u>	<u>28,728,733</u>
	332,531	(188,097)
Depreciation	385,285	323,437
Less: Transfer from Capital Grant	(63,230)	(85,531)
	<u>322,055</u>	<u>237,906</u>
Net excess (deficit) of revenue over expense	10,476	(426,003)
Reserve funds brought forward	1,775,553	2,201,556
Reserve funds carried forward	<u>1,786,029</u>	<u>1,775,553</u>

Celebrating our 40th Anniversary

November 2008 marked the Shastri Institute's 40th anniversary. We have been celebrating throughout the year with special events held across India and Canada thanks to the participation of 24 of our member institutions. With some Shastri Institute funding, our members held conferences, seminars, film festivals, lecture series and cultural performances to promote awareness of the Shastri Institute and to celebrate the thriving relationship between India and Canada.

We would like to thank everyone who contributed to these events, with a special thanks to our two organizing committees. We would also like to recognize Drs. Abdul Kalam and Rajmohan Gandhi for their cherished contributions to events held in Canada and Ms. Deepa Mehta for honoring us with a pre-screening of her new film.



Executive Council

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Shanthi Johnson Member-at-Large University of Regina	Ranbir Singh Member-at-Large National Academy of Legal Studies and Research	R. Agrawal Government of India Representative Ministry of Human Resource Development	Peter Fawcett Government of Canada Representative Foreign Affairs Canada

Donors

	The Department of Secondary and Higher Education, Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India.
	Canadian International Development Agency
	Foreign Affairs and International Trade Canada

A special thanks to Dr. Kanta Marwah for her contribution to a new annual bi-national lecture series in commemoration of our 40th anniversary.

Keshav Chandaria Gordon Davis Sameer Deshpande Sheila Embleton Peter Harnetty David Hopper Milton Israel George Kurian Jack Laughlin Flora MacDonald N. Deo Mishra Avin Mohabir Edward Moulton Arun Mukherjee M.V. Naidu	Vasavan Nair Baldev Nayar Joseph O'Connell Siyaram Pandey Janet Rubinoff Paul Sachdev Balbir Sahni Naju Shroff Alexis Sornin Suresh Thadhani Gary vanLoon Jagannath Wani Cicely Watson Thomas Waugh
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And other anonymous donors.

On the cover: In her PhD dissertation, Karen Rideout (Student Excellence Award winner) is examining ways to shorten the physical and conceptual distance between producers and consumers of food as a route to counteract some of the social, ecological, and health problems of modern diets in India and Canada.



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