



Keynote Speaker: Ujjal Dosanjh, former Attorney General and Premier of BC and former member of the Parliament. Mr. Dosanjh is a long-standing political activist.



Ujjal Dosanjh started by saying he was asked to tell his story which is easy and difficult at the same time. Everyone has a unique story and family narrative, he said. Some choices are presented and others you create for yourself.

Mr. Dosanjh outlined his own background and family history. He was interested in politics from a young age, in part due to the example set by his grandfather during the independence movement in India. One thing his grandfather said was *do what is right and let the chips fall where they may* and that is something that has stayed with Mr. Dosanjh.

It is part of the greatness of this society, Canada, that it is inclusive and tolerant. It is not perfect and there are challenges. Multiculturalism is about creating a compassionate, inclusive society. Ultimately, society needs to have fundamental values versus traditions to operate. We, Canadians, need the courage to have this kind of debate.

Immigrants have a strong relationship with their land of birth. For their children and their children's children Canada is their home, therefore, it is important to engage in debates on policy, not traditions. We need to be able to question and examine everything. In political life, not everyone will agree with what was done. However, one needs to make the best choices at the time, even when difficult. Canadians, generally, continue to make good, informed choices.