



Greetings and a warm welcome to all of you attending the Fraser Health South Asian Health Institute (SAHI) Launch Celebration.

The launch of SAHI marks the beginning of an innovative new approach Fraser Health is taking in its health service delivery to the South Asian community. With over 300,000 South Asian people living in Fraser Health, SAHI is of tremendous value to British Columbians.

The University of British Columbia (UBC) has a long history of working collaboratively with healthcare organizations, practitioners and researchers in clinical settings. SAHI presents further opportunities for our Faculty of Medicine to put its teaching and research strength to work. It also demonstrates the value of partnerships like the one between the Canada India Network Society and Fraser Health in contributing to a healthier and more connected South Asian Community.

UBC is committed to continued emphasis on international research collaborations in India that bring about tangible changes to communities. Most recently, a \$30-million partnership supported by the Canadian government and state and industry partners in India will allow scientists from UBC, the University of Alberta, the University of Toronto and 11 leading institutions in India to join forces to tackle urgent issues in both countries. The India-Canada Centre for Innovative Multidisciplinary Partnerships to Accelerate Community Transformation and Sustainability, or IC-IMPACTS, will focus on water safety, disease prevention and treatment, and the development of safe and sustainable civil infrastructure.

I look forward to seeing the future results of innovative partnerships like IC-IMPACTS and SAHI, which will allow us to find – and apply – solutions to some of the most pressing health challenges in Indian and Canadian communities.

Please accept my warm wishes for a wonderful evening of celebration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Stephen J. Toope', written over a white background.

Stephen J. Toope
President and Vice-Chancellor