

A Night to Remember

SPECTACULAR GALA MARKS 1ST ANNIVERSARY

The *'who's who'* of the Montreal South Asian business community came out on November 19th to honor the 1st Anniversary of the creation of a new business chamber, **The Quebec – India Business Council (QIBC)**.

The event, held at Delta Centre-Ville, drew raves from the 200+ guests in attendance. Soothing sitar ragas set the ideal mood whilst guests, in vibrant sarees and elegant suits sipped drinks, enjoyed fascinating 3D artwork displays by artist Rita Baumgartner and mingled with the likes of Dr. Abdullah Nasher, Ambassador of Yemen, Louise O'Sullivan, Independent City Counselor and prominent business people during the cocktail hour.

The hall was a veritable dazzle of sound and lights, as guests were treated to gypsy, Latin and bhangra fusion dance performances, while the evening's keynote speakers - **Her Excellency Shyamala Cowsik**, Indian High Commissioner to Canada, the Honorable **Lise Therieul**, Minister of Immigration and **Madame Andree Lafortune**, Board Director from the Desjardins financial group, QIBC's main corporate sponsor, expressed congrats to the QIBC leadership team.

Keero Birla, Chairman of the QIBC Board spoke earnestly of QIBC's mission to promote and foster an exchange of contacts and opportunities among entrepreneurs in Canada and India. 'India is a hot-bed of business opportunity,' stated **Birla**, 'Everywhere you look, people want to do business with India and QIBC will be there to help.'

'The first year for QIBC has been exhilarating,' stated **Mercedes Beaulieu**, General Manager of the Caisse Desjardins Bois-Franc Cartierville and Vice-Chair of the QIBC Board. 'We hope to take QIBC across Quebec as the premier association of its kind.'

The gala was the highlight of a banner year for QIBC marked by sold-out business seminars and networking events. 'Our activities definitely serve a much-needed forum for business exchange and inspiration,' adds **Geeta Suchak**, member of the Board and the event's organizer.

Birla credited strong support from business and government sectors in QIBC's ongoing success. The association counts Desjardins, The Kanwal Group, Hotel Europa, Anderson Sima Maritime Ltd and the Government

of Quebec's Ministry of Economic Development, Innovation and Exportation, among its chief benefactors.

'Thank you for your unfailing faith and loyalty,' **Birla** announced, 'we are here to serve the community. Together we can!'

Event Credits include:

Event Organizer – Geeta Suchak; Décor – 1 Milk 2 Sugars Communications; Display artwork courtesy of Rita Baumgartner; DJ and lighting – Jiva Productions; Dance – Anita Bombita (gypsy), Arriba Dance (Latin) and Dhamaka (bhangra fusion); Video services – Technic Video; Photography – Colour Kraft.