
From: Raj Singh [mailto:]

Sent: December-17-19 3:02 PM

To: Mayor; Calendino, Attilio Pietro; Dhaliwal, Satvinder; Johnston, Dan; Jordan, Colleen; Keithley, Joe; McDonell, Paul; Volkow, Nick; Wang, James

Subject: Komagata Maru

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Hello Respected Mayor and City Councillors of Burnaby,

My name is Raj Singh Toor. I am the grandson of one of the passengers on the *Komagata Maru*, and Vice President and spokesperson for the Descendants of the *Komagata Maru* Society.

The *Komagata Maru* arrived in Vancouver on May 23, 1914 with 376 passengers, one of which was my grandfather. His name was Baba Puran Singh Janetpura.

No food, water or medication was provided by the government, even though it was the government's discriminatory law that prevented the passengers from disembarking. Only the local Sikh community provided the passengers with food, water and medication. And this help was limited by the Canadian government because it restricted the Canadian Sikh community from accessing the ship. Often the passengers went for 24 hours without food and water, and sometimes 2 or 3 days, or more. Passengers were getting sick.

The *Komagata Maru* was forcefully sent back to India after two months under the shadow of a military ship. The British were ruling India at that time, and when the *Komagata Maru* arrived in India, British troops shot at the passengers. Around 20 people were killed on the spot. Many were injured, and the rest of them were put in jail for a long period of time.

The Descendants of the Komagata Maru Society worked for more than 15 years for apologies from both provincial and federal governments. We never asked for any compensation. The BC Government apologized for this incident in the BC Legislature Building on May 23, 2008 and Federal Government apologized for this incident in May 18 2016. I witnessed both apology.

Referred to:

Executive Committee (2020.02.05)

Copied to:

City Manager

Dir. Corporate Services

Dir. Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services

Dir. Engineering



The City Of Brampton Council officially open the Komagata Maru Park in memory of the Komagata Maru Passengers June 22 2019. Even Brampton City is 4300 kilometres away from the Komagata Maru incident.

I am wondering if the City of Burnaby can name a park or street or Civic Assets in memory of the passengers of the *Komagata Maru*. This would be greatly appreciated, not only by descendants of the passengers, and by all South Asian Community in Canada, but by every Canadian who believes in treating all humans with dignity and respect.

Thanks,
Raj Singh Toor
Descendants of the *Komagata Maru* and Vice President and Spokesperson for the Descendants of the *Komagata Maru* Society

DESCENDANTS OF KOMAGATAMARU SOCIETY



Raj Singh Toor

Vice President and Spokesperson

Ph: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
Surrey, BC [REDACTED]

