

**[FMmandir] Sanatan Mandir Update#11**

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Dhanyatmans,

This Mandir Update comes to you with a mixed feeling. There are some significant achievements in the last one month alongwith some setback.

1. The Executive Committee had a meeting (in YMCA conference room) with Pillar Patrons to appraise them about Mandir plans and the possible risk and opportunities associated with Draper Road land options. The Committee, on behalf of the Fort McMurray Indian community thanked them for their voluntary support for the Mandir efforts. All the Pillars were quite enthusiastic and appreciative of the Committee's efforts.

2. The Committee also had a meeting (in YMCA conference room) with legal counsel, **Arun Shourie** of the SHOURIE BHATIA, Barristers & Solicitors, who offered their services to Mandir at no cost. With the expertise from similar Mandir establishments in Edmonton, the advice offered by Arun Shourie was awesome. We expect to use their services for the Mandir Development Trust and the land dealings. The Committee thanked Arunji for his generous offer and also for coming down to Fort McMurray to meet us.

3. It is a great pleasure to inform you that Sanatan Mandir Cultural Society has been conferred the status of a Charitable Organization by the Govt. of Alberta. This will go a long way in getting some grant and other recognition from Government bodies, municipality and Oilsand Companies in Fort McMurray.

4. We also got the first feedback from Revenue Canada on our application for charitable, not for profit status (whereby we can claim tax exemptions). The feedback is encouraging as only few documents to be amended and submitted. Once these documents are submitted, CRA will start their formal evaluation process. The final report could take 4-6 months. Thanks to all members who put lot of effort in getting the documents ready for submission.

5. Now, Mandir needs public recognition and status in Fort McMurray community. This will help in the CRA review process and any other funding opportunities. The Executive Committee humbly requests all members and organizations (Gujarati Society, Hindu Society etc.) to arrange and utilize all available opportunities to use SMCS banner.

6. Last but the least, we received a set back on our chosen land in Draper Road (Option 1); As many developments are underway in Draper Road, the landowner from Edmonton realized the potential commercial opportunities and withdrew his sale offer. Eventhough we were working on presenting a conditional offer, the time was not in our hand !

We believe in GOD – Everything is happening for a cause....Lord ViswaKarma wishes to build the Mandir at a different place....Let us wait for that beautiful place to come on our way !

The Committee is exploring all other opportunities for Land, including lease/sale from Province.

7. As we communicated last time, we need a list of volunteers who could dedicate time, energy and effort for Mandir Program Implementation (be it MahaPooja, Walk-for-values, Fundraiser (programs, flyer distribution, yard sale), please confirm your willingness to any of the Committee members.

With blessings from Guru Mahadevji,
Sanatan Mandir Executive Committee
In the service of Lord and the Community