



Speaking Points for

The Honourable Kash Heed Solicitor General

Date: Monday, November 2, 2009

**Event: B.C. Crime Prevention Week – Presentation of
Anthony J Hume Award to Manjit and Suman Virk
Hemlock Room, B.C. Legislature, Victoria**

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

- Good afternoon.
- Today we are here as part of Crime Prevention Week to honour two very special people.
- Manjit and Suman Virk have received B.C.'s highest honour in community safety and crime prevention - the Anthony J. Hulme (*silent L*) Award of Distinction.
- This award honours those who have made an outstanding contribution and extraordinary dedication to making our communities better places to live.
- And no one embodies the spirit of that commitment more than the Virks.
- The tragic death of their beloved daughter Reena brought the issue of bullying to the forefront of everyone's mind.
- With amazing strength that inspired many, the Virks turned their personal tragedy into an opportunity to help others.
- Despite their heartache, they chose to do everything they could to ensure that no other child or family would suffer the horrible consequences of bullying.
- For over a decade, they have spoken at schools and attended community events to teach children that bullying hurts.
- It can leave lasting scars on individuals - both visible and invisible - and it leaves a black mark on society at large.
- The Virks developed a DVD for schools to use, and wrote a book to help other parents who have suffered the loss of a child.

- They have also played a significant role in the promotion of restorative justice as a way to help kids who have made the wrong choices so that they are more likely to make the right choice next time.
- Their spirit of giving, borne from a time when they felt like everything had been lost is truly inspiring.
- Through their efforts, many young people have grown into compassionate and caring people - like the Virk's themselves.
- Many more children have been spared from the devastating effects of bullying.
- That is why it is my honour to present Suman and Manjit Virk with the Anthony J. Hulme Award of Distinction here today.
- (Minister presents award.)
- I would like also like to congratulate the other recipients of the 11th Annual Solicitor General Community Safety and Crime Prevention Awards that were presented earlier today in Vancouver.
- They have approached local crime and safety issues with outstanding commitment and concern.
- They are a vital part of preventing crime and building safe communities across British Columbia.
- Safe neighbourhoods depend on people like them.
- We value and support their partnership and innovation.
- So, on behalf of the Province, I want to express my sincere appreciation and thank all award recipients for all they have given to the people of British Columbia.
- Thank you.