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The Zoroastrian Society of Ontario (ZSO) is very pleased to host the XIV North American Zoroastrian Congress “**IMPACT – Unleash the Spark Within!**” The Congress will be held in Toronto, Canada from Friday June 29 to Monday, July 2, 2007 and we invite you to come feel the IMPACT! The WZCC will host an interactive day on Friday, June 29, 2007. This article provides details on the Congress, registration, social activities, hotel booking and travel reservations information.



Our Congress theme is **IMPACT – Unleash the Spark Within!** The Congress will feature innovative speakers and thought-provoking topics encompassing the impact the Zarathushti Deen has had on civilization. IMPACT will also showcase leadership within our community. The Congress will help you make connections with people, knowledge, and ideas. IMPACT will highlight success amongst Zoroastrian leaders in different spheres while providing networking and inspiration to the next generation. Content and activities will focus on everything from religion to culture, to commerce, to arts; all with a Zarathushti backdrop. We will offer activities and presentations targeted to individuals of all ages, with a parallel track designed specifically for youth. In addition, we will also feature artistic and musical talent from within the community.

IMPACT Congress Registration includes:

- **Friday, June 29, 2007:** Welcome Package and Complimentary mini-reception
- **Saturday, June 30, 2007:** Congress sessions, morning coffee break, FEZANA Awards Lunch and entertainment, afternoon coffee break;
- **Sunday, July 1, 2007:** Congress sessions, morning coffee break, afternoon coffee break, Gala Banquet Dinner with Zoroastrian Orchestra;
- **Monday, July 2, 2007:** Congress sessions, morning coffee break, Jashan and closing ceremonies.

Register BEFORE JANUARY 31, 2007 to SAVE with the Early Bird Special!!!!
www.zoro-impact.com

All Congress sessions have been created to deliver IMPACT. The North American Zoroastrian Congress is being chaired by Phee Vania, whose event management experience will be an asset to the planning of this Congress. She recently represented FEZANA at a United Nations (UN) Conference and was invited to join the UN planning committee for their next Annual Conference. The Vice-Chairs for the North American Zoroastrian Congress are Zarine Chenoy and Mehroo Chothia. They are working with a Congress Committee of creative and dedicated individuals to create and deliver a Congress with IMPACT. Delegates will have the opportunity to choose amongst a variety of topics, including but not limited to:

- Media portrayal of the Zarathushti Deen
- Zarathushti Social Justice and Social Contract
- Interfaith Influences and Interactions with Zarathushti Deen
- Profiling Zarathushti women
- Entrepreneurial spirit in Zarathushtis
- Being a single Zarathushti in North America

IMPACT will have you walking away with a sense of pride and admiration for Zarathushti Deen and for those who embrace the religion. On the first day the 'main tent' event will showcase prominent Zarathushtis, their contributions and their thoughts on our community. This memorable session will allow delegates a chance to interact with very high profile speakers, an incredible opportunity that should not be missed!

A parallel youth track has been planned for youth, by youth. Some of the interactive youth sessions will focus on:

- Growing Up with a Zarathushti Identity
- Selecting the appropriate University in North America and applying for scholarships
- Theatre and Arts
- Self defense training

All work and no play? NO WAY! The Congress youth committee has planned tons of social activities for the youth to enjoy. Our fun and exciting **Friday Evening** Patio Party will kick off the youth activities at the Congress. On **Saturday evening**, the youth will enjoy an offsite outing designed specifically for the youth. Come and see what else we have planned for you!

**Below is a TENTATIVE list of some program topics and speakers.
For updates and to REGISTER please visit: www.zoro-impact.com**

Opening Ceremonies

Keynote speaker -- Minoo Shroff -- Chairman of Bombay Parsi Punchayet, Chairman of Indo Iranian Friendship Society, **President, World Zarathushti Chamber of Commerce India**

Meet the Titans: *Enjoy the rare opportunity to hear views from the true Titans of our Zoroastrian community and ask them questions.*

Moderator – Mr. Minoo Shroff

Confirmed -- Lord Karan Billimoria

-- Check our website frequently to view updates on this exciting session

FEZANA Awards & Recognition Event: *Successful Zoroastrians who have made a real contribution are recognized by FEZANA*

Persian Numismatics and Economics: *Aspects of the economics of ancient Persia through history.*

Presenters – Dr. Keall -- former Curator of the Royal Ontario Museum

– Dr. Jehan Bagli -- Chair of the North American Mobed Council

Being a Single Zoroastrian in North America: *Roundtable interactive discussions on the realities of being a single Zoroastrian in North America*

Presenter – Phee Vania -- Chairperson of the North American Zoroastrian Congress

Zoroastrian seniors and their Wellbeing: *Examining allopathic and naturopathic views on holistic health care issues*

Presenters – Dr. Rustom Sethna -- Psychiatrist - Markham-Stouffville Hospital

-- Dr. Rob Ayoup, N.D. -- Naturopath

-- Dr. Sabrina Noria -- Surgeon – University Health Sciences Network

Examining the Vision of Zarathushtra: *Inaugural lecture of the Khorshed Jungalwalla lecture series, sponsored by FEZANA*

Presenter – Dr. Kaikhosrow Irani – Professor Emeritus of Philosophy, NYU

Interfaith Influences and Interactions with Zoroastrianism

Presenters – Dr. Gail Gibson on Christianity – Royal Ontario Museum

-- Mr. Daraius M Bharucha on Judaism – Chair, ZSO Religious Educ. Committee

-- Dr. Arvind Sharma on Hinduism – Professor of World Religions, McGill Univ.

-- Dr. Jamshed Choksy on Islam – Prof of History and Religion, Indiana Univ

Zoroastrian Women of Influence: *Learn more about some of the women who have shaped our community and been an inspiration to others*

Media Portrayals and Perceptions of Zoroastrians

Presenter – Ms. Aparita Bhandari -- Freelance Journalist

Zoroastrian Social Justice and the Social Contract: *How ideas from Zoroastrianism have shaped the concept of social justice and the social contract in the world.*

Presenters – Professor Niaz Kasravi -- Lecturer on Civil Rights, Amnesty International

-- Professor Mehraban Khodawandi -- Prof of Education, Lakeland University

Zoroastrian Philosophy and Culture:

Presenters – Dr. Farang Meher – Professor Emeritus, Boston University
-- Mr. Homer Abrahamian – Philosopher and Scholar of Zoroastrianism

Entrepreneurs Carousel: *Gain invaluable insights from successful entrepreneurs and network with others who have an entrepreneurial spirit*

Zoroastrianism in Iran under Arab Rule

Presenters – Dr. Jamsheed Choksy -- Professor of History and Religion, Indiana University
-- Mr. Fariborz Rahnamoon – Director/Editor, Iran Zamin

Worldwide Mentoring: *Official unveiling of a worldwide Zoroastrian Mentoring project currently being piloted*

Presenters – Phee Vania and Zarine Chenoy

Theatre & Arts Panel discussion: *Young Zoroastrians and their impact in arts and theatre.*

Presenters – Ms. Nazneen Contractor – Television and Stage Actress
-- Ms. Rahnuma Panthaky – Actress and Co-founder of two theatre companies
-- Ms. Michelle Mama -- Filmographer and Television Host

Leveraging Your Zoroastrian identity

Presenters -- Mr. Daraius M Bharucha -- Chair, ZSO Religious Education Committee
-- Ms. Nerina Rustomji – Professor, St. John’s University, NY

Education Streams and Scholarships: *Learn about which universities and scholarships best meet your needs*

World Zoroastrian Organization: *presentation on activities*

Closing Ceremony with Jashan

Your Congress Registration includes an extravagant Gala Banquet with exceptional entertainment. This elegant dinner and dance is your opportunity to dress to impress and to see and be seen. The Gala will be organized by Dr. Dhun Noria, who has a reputation of hosting stellar extravaganzas for the Zoroastrian Society of Ontario (entertainment in past ZSO Dream Balls has included a surprise appearance by a live unleashed tiger, amazing performances by award-winning ballroom dancers and hilarious performances by ‘Lucille Ball’ and ‘Marilyn Monroe’). We promise a Congress Gala Night full of entertainment, great culinary delights, and socializing to create memories you will cherish for many years.

For the closing ceremonies, IMPACT will be holding a very elaborate Jashan ceremony that will assemble Mobed’s from across North America.

Visiting Mobed’s who are attending IMPACT and who wish to participate in this incredible experience, please e-mail Jehan Bagli at jbagli@rogers.com. Let’s make this a spectacular conclusion to the North American Zoroastrian Congress with one of the largest Jashans to be performed in North America.



The Congress committee will unveil details of a Mentoring program that is being piloted globally. This unique program is being sponsored by FEZANA and is the first of its kind at any Zarathushti Congress. For more details, contact Phee Vania or Zarine Chenoy at Zoroastrian_Congress@hotmail.com. Visit www.zoro-impact.com to interact with successful members of the community and find a mentor or protégé who will impact and guide you to discover how to unlock and unleash your inner spark!

On June 29, 2007, the World Zarathushti Chamber of Commerce (WZCC) will be hosting a full day of networking and learning for those who wish to *unleash the entrepreneurial spark within!* The Toronto chapter of the WZCC, along with Big Fish Interactive – Canada's leading trainers in innovation, management, and entrepreneurial development – has designed a highly participative session that you will not want to miss. The rate for IMPACT early-bird attendees to attend this WZCC event is ONLY \$69 Canadian (full-time students) and \$99 Canadian (adults).

The Congress Tourism Committee has planned off-site events that will allow you to take in the cultural sights and sounds of the city of Toronto and its surroundings.

Optional outings include:

- Friday evening: Persian night
- Saturday evening: Toronto Tour & CN Tower Dinner
- Tuesday, July 3 Day Trip: Niagara-on-the-Lake and Niagara Falls & Casino



Come and enjoy Toronto, a world-class, multi-cultural cosmopolitan city. Home to more than 100 cultures, Toronto offers exciting cultural and culinary adventures and excellent shopping for all tastes and budgets. Some of Toronto's attractions include:

- CN Tower -- the world's tallest above-ground free-standing structure
- Canada's Wonderland theme park
- Distinctive cultural shopping areas
- Art galleries and museums
- St. Lawrence Market -- one of the world's 25 best food markets (Food and Wine magazine)



Coming to this congress couldn't be more affordable or easier! We are securing low rates for not only your hotel stay, but also your airfare. The Congress will be held at the luxurious, newly renovated **Sheraton Parkway Toronto North Hotel and Conference Center.** The hotel offers North Toronto's largest conference facility with an onsite shopping center! The Sheraton is walking distance to local trendy restaurants and cafes and a short ride away from the city's downtown core. For more information, please visit www.sheratonparkway.com.

The Sheraton Parkway Hotel staff is ready to welcome you and make your stay as comfortable and enjoyable as possible. Starwood Preferred Guest members can collect SPG points when you stay at the Sheraton. Special rates have been negotiated for Congress attendees from three days prior to three days after the Congress. **The Sheraton room rate of Canadian \$120 per night accommodates up to four persons per room** and includes free indoor / outdoor parking, free use of the Parkway Athletic Club, complimentary high speed internet access in all rooms, complimentary in-room coffeemakers, mini refrigerator, hairdryers, irons & ironing board and in room movies. Special rates have also been negotiated with the adjoining **Best Western for Canadian \$110 per night, with each room accommodating up to four persons.** Best Western guests are entitled to use most of the amenities of the Sheraton while enjoying economically

priced accommodation in traditional rooms. Best Western rooms also all have a microwave and mini refrigerator.

Both hotels offer ample space for networking and socializing and both hotels are connected to the Conference center. The hotel front desk can provide tickets to Paramount Canada's Wonderland, Ontario Science Centre, VIP Coupon/discount card for local dining and Vaughan Mill Shopping outlets.

To make your reservation at either hotel, please contact 1-800-668-0101 / 905-882-3108 or e-mail your request to reservationsmanager@sheratonparkway.com.

The booking code for the Sheraton Parkway is ZSO629 and 629ZSO for Best Western, or identify yourself as a Zarathushti Congress attendee. Hotel reservations should be made directly with the hotel.



More than 60% of the population of the USA is within a 90-minute flight of Toronto. Your Congress committee has negotiated fantastic deals for your travel needs. Millennium Travel Canada Inc. (American Express) is our official travel agent for the North American Zoroastrian Congress. They are a well-reputed Zarathushti owned travel agency that has secured very reasonable airfares for Congress guests. Staff has been exclusively trained by IMPACT committee members to handle the needs of Congress delegates. They will guide and advise you with accurate information and respective flight reservations to ensure you maximize your enjoyment at the Congress. For more information on how to secure the best airfare to attend IMPACT please call: 416-962-2200 or toll free 1-866-398-8080 and ask for Sandy Lee, ext 221 or Hilda Nazareth, ext 222 or visit: www.mtci-travel.com.

Your Congress committee is making every effort to ensure that your visit to Toronto will be memorable. Complete and send in the attached registration form today. **Register early before January 31, 2007 and maximize your savings!** Send your questions to zoroastrian_congress@hotmail.com. For more details on all aspects of IMPACT, please visit: www.zoro-impact.com.

We look forward to seeing you in Toronto in 2007!

With warmest regards and an invitation to join us

Phee Vania,
Chair, 2007 North American Zoroastrian Congress



Phee Vania holds a Bachelor of Arts Honors Degree, with a Major in English Literature, from the University of Toronto. A Certified Professional Development Trainer with a certificate in Designing Instruction, Phee has extensive experience evaluating, managing and delivering a variety of educational solutions for internal and external clients. She has been with IBM for the past 18 years and currently is on loan to the IBM Worldwide Corporate Learning Team with the mission to help the US, Canada, Latin America, Europe and Asia-Pacific deploy the Your IBM new employee orientation program to 164 countries.

XIV North American Zoroastrian Congress IMPACT Committee:

Phee Vania – Chair

Zarine Chenoy & Mehroo Chothia – Vice-Chair

Sam Vesuna – President of Zoroastrian Society of Ontario

Russi Surti – Executive Vice-President of Zoroastrian Society of Ontario

Aimee Karanjia, Anahita Daryushnejad & Mickie Katgara Tourism Sub-Committee Leads

Daraius Bharucha – Program Sub-Committee Lead

Dr. Dhun Noria -- Gala Banquet Sub-Committee Lead

Kamlu Mehta, Dilshad Kershaw & Roshni Captain – Support and Hospitality Leads

Kermin Mehta & Diana Katgara – Youth Sub-Committee Leads

Kevin Mancherjee -- Audio Visual Sub-Committee Lead

Mantreh Atashband -- Marketing and Communications Sub-Committee Lead

Niloufer Kavarana -- Volunteer Coordinatation Sub-Committee Lead

Perin McKnight & Freny Engineer – Registration Sub-Committee Leads

Phiroze Dotiwalla -- Finance Sub-Committee Lead

Sam Meer -- WZCC Liaison Lead