



GILL, Sardul Singh
November 12, 1931 - November 25, 2021

Sardul Singh Gill was born in Victoria in 1931. He graduated from UBC with a Bachelor of Commerce degree, joined Revenue Canada and rose to a senior position as an auditor before retirement.

He was a well-known and respected businessman in Victoria and in his off hours built up a successful commercial and residential real estate portfolio.

As a philanthropist he made a significant charitable donation to the University of Victoria and in recognition of his generosity UVIC created the Sardul S Gill school of Graduate Business in his honour.

He also made generous donations to the Royal Jubilee Hospital, the Victoria General Hospital, the Heart Fund, the Cancer Fund, the Gurdarwara temple and numerous other charities.

Sardul was predeceased by his spouse of 54 years Amar Kaur Gill, his son Stephen Singh Gill, his father Bhan Singh Gill, his mother Hardial Kaur Gill and his sister Parminder Dhaddey (Jarnal Dhaddey). He is survived by his children, sons Kevin Singh Gill, Robin Singh Gill and daughter Amir Kaur Gill.

Gill made the largest contribution ever by an alumnus to UVic. The Sardul S. Gill Graduate School at UVic's Peter B. Gustavson School of Business is named in his honour following a \$5-million donation he made in 2011.

Gill went to Victoria College, precursor to UVic, before attending UBC and becoming a chartered general accountant. Not only was his the largest gift to UVic by an alumnus, it is also the largest donation to a graduate school at UVic.

Gill said the impetus for the donation was his father, Bhan Singh Gill, who immigrated to Canada from the Punjab in India in 1906.

"He laboured all his life and encouraged me to pursue my education at a time when there were significant barriers to people of Indian descent in this country," Sardul S. Gill said of his father 2011.

“My father could not get a job for nine, 10 cents an hour but eventually found work in sawmills at Paldi, near Duncan.”

He told the *Times Colonist* his father and mother, Hardial Kaur Gill, were “staunch believers in education and now I want to honour them and the value they placed on higher education by giving something back to the institution that gave me a start in life.”

Gill remembered his high school counsellor at Vic High telling him he should pursue the trades or a sawmill job because of his ancestry.

But Gill eventually showed a knack for business and did well in it, accumulating apartment buildings and other commercial real estate in Victoria.

“Here we have a very, very modest man, a modest family, giving back to the community and saying: ‘I want to leave a legacy that supports others in their quest for education. It’s a remarkable gift,” then UVic president David Turpin said at the time.