

REACHING THE UNREACHED

Dear Seva Supporters,

Reaching the unreached...this is a cornerstone of Seva's work and belief system—that everyone has the right to sight. The best way to reach people suffering from blindness is to bring eye care to their doorstep because those who are poor, scared and unaware that they can be helped will not travel to an eye hospital for care. Seva provides access to eye care by creating permanent Community Eye Centres (CECs) in remote communities that can address 90% of all eye care problems and provide access to treatment for those who need further care.

Three years ago Seva Canada celebrated the opening of a Community Eye Centre in Bajura, Nepal, 1100 kilometres from Kathmandu. With Bajura, every district in Nepal now has a CEC.

But we are not done. Even a district eye clinic is not accessible to all as it can still be up to a 3 day walk away.

Over the next few years, Seva Canada will build 100 more CECs in Nepal. We think all Nepalis should have access to eye care within a day's walk, not three. With your help we will build CECs from the Himalayas to the plains bordering India. From Bajura in the far west to Taplejung in the east.

Seva Canada is not stopping in Nepal. Seva's donors recently funded the creation of Cambodia's first Community Eye Centre in Samlout in the Province of Battambang. One of the most devastated areas



DHANA KADHKA CARRIED BY HIS SON, BAJURA, NEPAL.

under the Khmer Rouge, Samlout is remote and desperately poor but year-round eye care will ensure the power of sight is available to everyone. We hope the success of the Community Eye Centre in Samlout will convince the Cambodian government to let Seva donors fund more CECs throughout Cambodia.

Entrepreneurial ophthalmologists from Burundi, Malawi, Congo-Brazzaville and Benin approached Seva and asked for help in creating Community Eye Centres. Seva donors supported their vision and helped create 8 CECs in Africa to bring eye care to 4 of the world's poorest countries.



RUMONGE COMMUNITY EYE CENTRE, BURUNDI

In Nepal and Cambodia the CECs are under the control of the government health system. In Africa, while licensed by the government, they are a private enterprise. And, they can make money while still providing affordable or free services to the poorest of the poor. In fact, they can make enough money to cover both start-up costs (equipment, supplies, building renovations) and operating costs (salaries, supplies, rent) in 2-3 years. Profitable, sustainable businesses, in Africa, providing quality, low-cost services to the poorest of the poor – wow, we were stunned and excited by the possibilities.

Permanent Community Eye Centres in Nepal, Africa and Cambodia are just the beginning. We still have so much to do and so many to build, but the potential to provide affordable eye care to all is undeniable.

We are committed to realizing our dream of reaching the unreached with the eye care they need and deserve and with your support, we know we can make this a reality.

Thank you for your trust and generosity,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Penny Lyons".

Penny Lyons,
Executive Director

Note: Community Eye Centres are the same type of facility offering the same services as a Primary Eye Care Centre or Vision Centre. These clinics are often called different names in different countries.

RIGHT HONOURABLE ADRIENNE CLARKSON: SEVA'S NEW HONOURARY PATRON



According to Merriam Webster, an Honourary Patron is defined as a person chosen as a special guardian, protector, or supporter. Seva Canada cannot imagine a more suitable patron than the Right Honourable Adrienne Clarkson.

Madame Clarkson was Canada's 26th Governor General from 1999-2005. In addition to her role as a distinguished public servant, she is also a broadcaster, bestselling author, biographer, lecturer, Privy Councillor and Companion of the Order of Canada. Madame Clarkson co-founded the Institute for Canadian Citizenship, is the Colonel-in-Chief of the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry, and acts as the Chair of the Executive Committee and a member of the Board of Directors at the Global Centre for Pluralism.

Seva Canada is both privileged and grateful for Madame Clarkson's support of our organization and our goal to provide the power of sight to all.

2015 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



SASHI, FORTUNATE, AND PARAMI ANSWERING QUESTIONS FROM PENNY

Thank you to everyone who came to Van Dusen Gardens on November 27, 2015 to attend Seva Canada's 2015 Annual General Meeting (AGM). This year we were joined by three visionary women in leadership roles in our eye care programs: Sasipriya (Sashi) Karumanchi from India, Fortunate Shija from Tanzania and Parami Dhakhwa from Nepal.

The evening began with a big thank you from Board Chair Nancy Mortifee to all of our donors and volunteers for continuing to support Seva's work to provide universal access to eye care. Auditor Norm Grdina presented the Auditor's Report and we welcomed five new board members: Charles Diamond, Sasipriya Karumanchi, Ben Capps, Vivian Yin, and John Andru.

This past year, long-time Seva Canada board member Dr. John Pratt-Johnson sadly passed away. He was remembered by a touching speech from Program Director Dr. Ken Bassett, who spoke about John's humour and fierce commitment to blind children around the world.

Executive Director Penny Lyons took the stage to give a brief overview of Seva's new 3-year strategic goals. Those goals are: universal access to eye care, creating financially sustainable programs and providing the tools and training to assist our staff and partners while generating the evidence required to support and inform our work.

Sashi, Fortunate and Parami then inspired and educated everyone on what it is like

to be a woman in a leadership role in their home countries and the strategies that are used in the field to break down barriers to eye care for women and girls. They shared personal experiences and stories of their own work in India, Tanzania and Nepal and of the women they have met who have benefitted from eye care services.

Board Member Susan Erdmann wrapped up the evening with a farewell to departing board members Dr. Peter Nash, Ian McLennan and Michel Maurer, who combined have contributed over 60 years of service to Seva Canada and our mission to prevent blindness and restore sight in developing countries.

After Susan's touching speech, we raised a glass to toast Peter, Ian and Michel's incredible dedication and contribution to Seva and held a reception in their honour.

The entire evening would not have been possible without the support of our wonderful volunteers, thank you for all that you did. And thank you to volunteer photographer Geoff Webb for capturing the evening, to view photos of the AGM visit bit.ly/SC2015AGM.

We hope to see you in the fall at our 2016 Annual General Meeting on November 18th.



IAN MCLENNAN, MICHEL MAURER AND PETER NASH

≡ UPCOMING EVENTS ≡

NICOLA WEALTH MANAGEMENT PRESENTS

Motown Meltdown

IN SUPPORT OF SEVA CANADA

A NIGHT OF MUSIC & DANCING IN SUPPORT OF SIGHT



MARCH 19, 2016

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MUSIC FROM MOTOWN TO MEMPHIS, NEW YORK AND BEYOND!

HOSTED BY:

David Willis (Stonabok)
& Angela Kelman

MUSICAL DIRECTORS:

David Sinclair
& Steve Hitham

PRODUCED BY:

Kendra Sprindling

CATCH ALL THESE AMAZING SOLO PERFORMANCES IN ONE ROOM, ON ONE NIGHT:

Alexander A-train Boynton Jr.
Joani Bye
Leona Cashie
Candus Churchill
Oliver Conway
Kryette Doe Santos
Olivia Steele Falconer
Warren Dean Flender
Al Harlow

Angela Kelman
Linda Kidder
Jane Moriffee
Marcus Mosely
Tom Pickett
Will Sanders

Daruz Sinclair Charon
Kendra Sprindling
Catherine St. Germain

Stephanie Standerwick
David Steele
Don Stewart
Shari Ulrich
David Willis
Garfield Wilson

AND MORE!

PRESENTED BY:



CONGRUITY SPONSORED BY:



About Nicola Wealth Management: Established in 1994, Nicola Wealth Management (www.nicolawealth.com) is Canada's fastest growing asset fund management and private investment counsel firm (Investor Economics, 2015). We work with high net worth private families and institutional investors across Canada, providing integrated planning services, portfolio diversification beyond stocks and bonds, and consistent and stable returns.



2016 SEVA CALENDAR SALE: ~~\$20~~ \$10 INCL. SHIPPING



Get your 13-month calendar featuring the breathtaking photography of Jon Kaplan today. It makes a great gift, one size fits all.

Proceeds from each sale go directly to restoring a person's sight.

YOUR GIFT...THEIR VISION

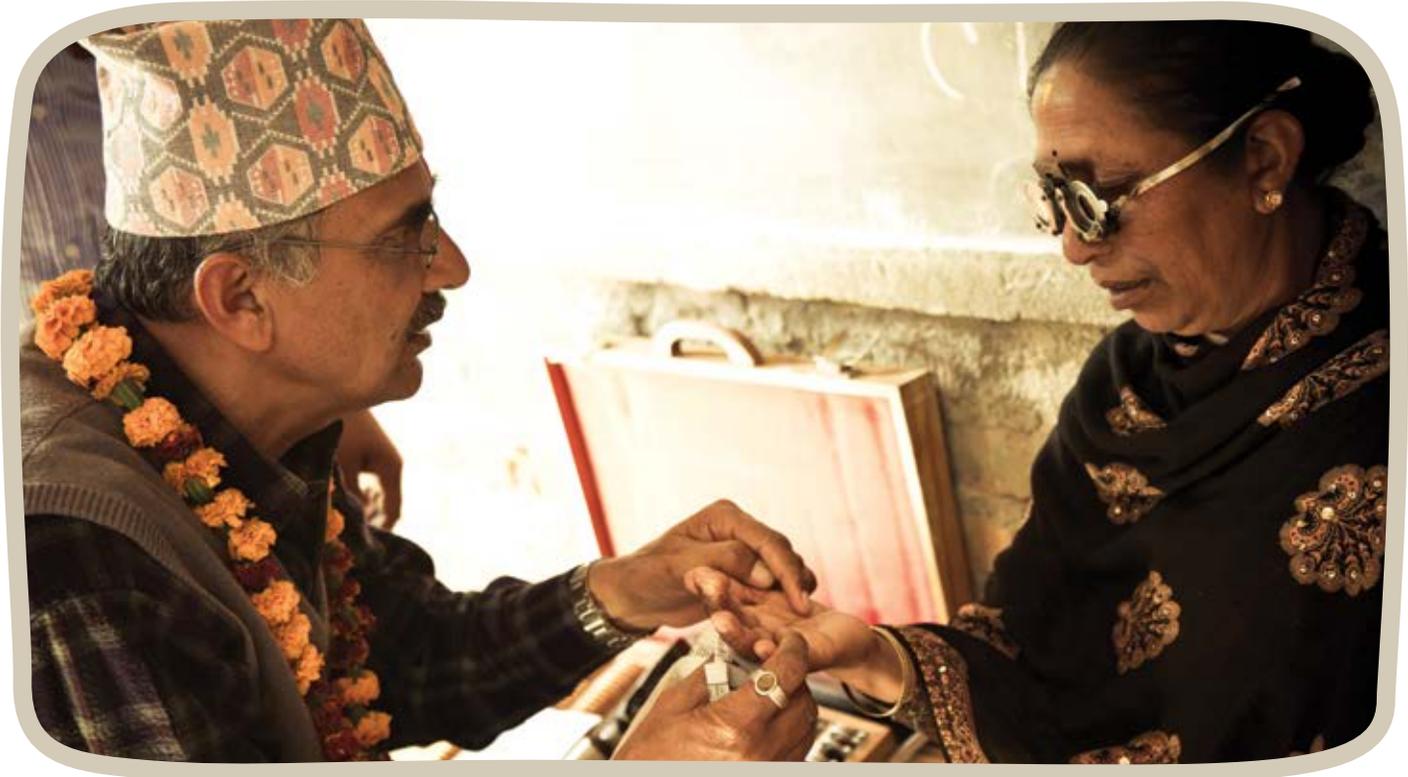
"It is like the darkness has been lifted."

-Seva Canada cataract patient

After you've remembered your loved ones, include a gift to Seva Canada in your Will. Call 604-713-6622 or email fundraising@seva.ca for more information.



LOCATION, LOCATION, LOCATION



KANDEL WITH A PATIENT

Gulmi District is located in the hill region of Western Nepal, where its diverse population, difficult geography and political instability make it a challenging place to provide eye care to those most in need. A key strategy used by Seva to address these challenges has been to establish permanent Community Eye Centres (CECs) to provide care year-round. CECs have been proven to reach the unreached – yet this success is dependent on the careful consideration of when and where a CEC is established.

Kandel, Seva Nepal's Program Director, who has helped Seva in launching 18 successful CECs across Nepal, explains that 'Seva will provide the fishing rod, but never cooked fish everyday', describing Seva's role as a catalyst.

In December 2015, Kandel travelled to Gulmi District to assess possible CEC sites in Purtighat and Shantipur. Purtighat is a remote region almost a full day's drive from the nearest eye care centre. It is an ideal location for a CEC as it is accessible to an unserved population of 75,000, can be linked to an eye care centre, and staff and a building are readily available. A key element lacking in Purtighat, however, is the engagement and support of the local community. Given this reality, Kandel focuses instead on awareness and relationship building and hopes that by his next visit the local community will be ready.

In contrast, the community of Shantipur is highly motivated to meet the eye care needs of its people. The community has

already secured a well-placed facility and has requested a meeting with Kandel to secure Seva's support in terms of expertise, staff, equipment and funds to set up an optical shop and pharmacy, key components to ensuring the facility becomes financially self-sustaining.

Overall, Kandel's assessment in Gulmi is in keeping with Seva's approach to any program or partnership; we work where the need is greatest, where we are wanted and where we can tailor our support to ensure we have the greatest impact possible.

HEROES IN THE FIELD: CAMBODIAN FIELD WORKER, BUNNAY REUK

In Cambodia, Seva Canada has two full-time field workers who travel by motorcycle for hours on bumpy, dusty, dirt roads to remote, rural villages within the province of Banteay Meanchey. Most of the people they meet are desperately poor farmers, living on less than \$1 per day, struggling to provide for their families.

Armed with a simple eye examination kit, the field workers screen villagers and refer and transport those that require care to the eye hospital, ensuring that women, children, the very poor and the elderly have access to care.

By using field workers to bring eye care to the villages, Seva saw a significant increase in the cataract surgical rate in each district.

We interviewed Bunnay Reuk, one of Seva's field workers, and asked him what inspires him to provide eye care to his people.

Q: Why did you want to become a Seva Cambodia field worker?

Reuk: When I was 16 years old, I saw a child playing outside who sustained an injury to his eye. The child eventually went blind in that eye and I felt terrible for him and his future, knowing what a struggle he would face. I really wanted to help the child but there was nothing I could do.

When I heard about Seva Cambodia and how they help blind people and people with bad vision, especially vulnerable old people I became really interested. I wanted to help people to see again.

Q: What is it about Seva that you really like?

Reuk: Seva's compassion with regards to how they help and treat people, especially the poor and elderly, is what I like best about Seva.

Q. Why do you think field workers have been such a successful addition to Seva Cambodia's eye care program, increasing the number of people that seek help?

Reuk: I think we have been successful because we are very compassionate and treat everyone with respect. We know how to convince people to trust us and go to the eye hospital for surgery. We also work closely with village and community leaders to create awareness of the available eye care services and notify people when screenings will be taking place. We all work together to be successful.

Q. How do you convince patients who are too scared to get sight-restoring surgery?

Reuk: I tell the patients that there is no pain with eye surgery, that the treatment and transportation is free and that the help is from a Canadian organization. If they are still too scared I keep going back and talking with them and try to bring someone who had a successful surgery to meet with them to discuss their experience.

Q. Are you married? Do you have a family?

Reuk: Yes, I have a beautiful wife and two children.

Q. What was your highest level of schooling?

Reuk: I graduated from high school and received training from Seva to become a field worker.

Q. Can you describe a typical village eye screening?

Reuk: First, I talk to the Village Chief and get permission to do an eye screening a couple of weeks in advance. Once



BUNNAY REUK

the Chief has agreed, we notify the community that there will be a free Seva eye screening by going house to house and talking to the villagers. I will also go to individual people's homes that I already know have eye problems from previous visits and refer them for surgery.

When I do an eye screening I pick a convenient, central location within the village, like a pagoda, so it is easy for people to travel there. Once people have gathered I describe the different eye conditions and treatments with a pamphlet that includes pictures. I tell them that it is better to get treated rather than wait because it will only get worse and I explain that the treatment and transportation to the hospital is free.

Once I have reviewed the eye conditions and process, I look at each person's eyes and do a visual acuity test. If they need surgery I give them a referral card and tell them what time the bus will be there to drive them and their caregiver, who also travels for free, to the eye hospital.



BUNNAY REUK AND MEAS NGOUN

If there is a patient that can't get to the pick-up location, I will arrange a way for them to get transported to/from the hospital. If the bus is full then I will take patients on my motorcycle to the

hospital so that everyone gets the care they need.

A week after their surgery, I travel back to the village to do a follow-up visit with each of the patients.

Q. Do you have a favourite sight-restoration story?

Reuk: I was doing home visits in a village when I met an 83-year-old widow, Meas Ngoun, who was living in a broken wheelchair paralyzed in both legs due to an untreated infection during the Pol Pot regime. Meas' daughter took care of him but he had developed cataracts and was going blind and becoming increasingly depressed. He didn't want to be a burden to his family and trouble them with his bad lot in life.

When I told Meas that he needed surgery he didn't know what to do, he couldn't get to the bus to be transported to the eye hospital because of his broken wheelchair. I knew how

important it was to make sure that he received surgery so I spoke with the Village Chief. The Chief got a car to drive Meas and together, the Chief and I carried him to the car and drove him to the hospital.

When Meas had his sight restored he was thrilled, "Seva gave me my life back!" He was so excited he wanted to see everything around him and finally watch TV. Meas, however, got the biggest, most joyful smile when he saw the faces of his children and grandchildren. "Losing your eyesight is the worst disability because you can't see the people smiling all around you," said Meas.

Knowing that I helped Meas regain his sight and hope makes me so proud to be a part of Seva Cambodia.

HOW YOU HAVE HELPED

2/3 of the world's blind are women and girls, yet they receive less than 1/2 the eye care.

But thanks to you, that is changing.

Over the holidays, Seva Canada held a special campaign to give eye care to women and girls. A generous anonymous donor, grateful for her own gift of sight, offered to match gifts so Seva donors could help twice as many people.

Over \$135,000 was raised to break down barriers to eye care, so women and girls can get the eye care and sight they deserve.

Thank you for creating a brighter future ahead!



Thanks to your generosity:
**Over 2,700 women and girls
will see again in 2016**

GETTING HER SIGHT AND INDEPENDENCE BACK



Sam Chem, lives in Daung village in Cambodia where she used to grow rice, corn and vegetables on her land. She did the farming and cared for her animals by herself. Her husband left her 20 years ago and she had no children, but she had always managed well on her own.

That was until Sam started to go blind from cataracts in both eyes and was no longer able to farm or care for her animals. Her niece came to live with her, using her wages from her job at a nearby garment factory to care for Sam.

Sam knew that she could get help at the Kampot Eye Unit, which is only an hour drive away, but she could not afford to travel to the unit.

Then, a Seva field worker, much like Bunnay Reuk from the story on page 7 came to her village to do an eye screening. After testing Sam's eyes, the field worker arranged for her to be transported to Kampot, free of charge.

Sam arrived at the Kampot Eye Unit and was scheduled for surgery on her



SAM CHEM AFTER EYE SURGERY

right eye. Sam was afraid of the surgery, she worried that the bandages would be removed and that she would still be blind.

The day after surgery, when her bandage was removed, Sam declared with a smile that she could see out of her right eye. The ophthalmologist scheduled her for surgery on her left eye and after another night at the hospital, Sam was able to see clearly in both eyes.

While Sam was grateful for all of her niece's help, she could not wait to take

care of her house and farm again. She was also glad that now her niece could work and save money for herself and her future instead of caring for Sam. Sam expressed her gratitude to the Seva Canada donors, ophthalmologist and field worker that made it possible for her to get her sight and independence back!

Thank you!

SEND EYE CARE TO REMOTE, RURAL COMMUNITIES

In the developing world, the rural poor have difficult lives, often relying on subsistence farming to survive. But imagine trying to farm without your sight.

Without reliable access to eye care in many areas, thousands of people go needlessly blind.

You have the power to change that.

Your donation today can bring high-quality eye care to the farthest corners of the globe. By breaking down barriers to access, you can ensure the power of sight is within everyone's reach.

Your gift will fund sight-saving treatments at community eye screenings, surgical eye camps, and Community Eye Centres in remote areas.



Please donate today to improve access to eye care for people in the most isolated corners of the globe.

YES! I want to give the power of sight.

Please accept my gift of: \$ _____

I prefer to give by:

Visa MasterCard

My cheque to Seva Canada is enclosed

Credit Card # _____

Exp. date _____

Cardholder Name _____

Signature _____

Name _____

Address _____

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Telephone _____

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A tax-deductible receipt will be issued to the name on the cheque or credit card.

Please send your donation to Seva Canada using the enclosed envelope.

Seva Canada Society
Suite 100 – 2000 West 12 Avenue
Vancouver, BC V6J 2G2

INSPIRING SEVA DONORS

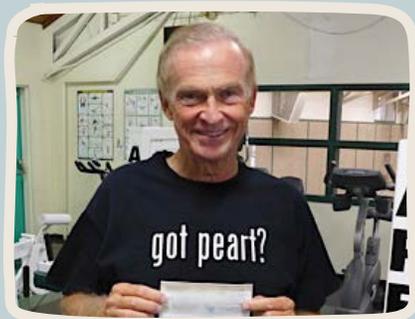


Drishti Mannan

Drishti is a dynamo, raising funds for Seva Canada through her online fundraising page by engaging both businesses and people in her network in Calgary.

"Choosing to raise funds for Seva Canada was simple; I just had to close my eyes and imagine my life without eyesight. On a lighter note, since my name means 'vision' in Hindi, it is instinctive that I support something that upholds my name."

Thanks to her efforts, Drishti has raised an astounding \$8,225 to support Seva's programs—enough to restore the sight of 55 children!



Jim McEwen

Seva gains when donor loses!

Jim signed up with DietBet.com for a weight loss challenge of losing 4%

of his body weight in 4 weeks. In this challenge, all participants contribute funds up front—and those who reach their fitness goals, split the winnings. Jim put up \$100 to start, and was inspired by his trainer, Danny Peart, to donate all of his winnings when he reached his goal.

"At this time of the year, when many are thinking about health and fitness, I encourage others to sign up for a DietBet challenge, with the winnings going to Seva," said Jim.

Thanks to his hard work, Jim won a prize of \$175 donation, which he donated to Seva Canada. It is enough to provide prescription glasses for 35 people!



Ben Bogdonov & Noah Marciano

When Ben and Noah's school, Vancouver Talmud Torah, assigned a special charity project, these 13-year-old boys leapt at the chance to spend some time learning about and raising funds for Seva Canada.

"I was inspired to raise funds for Seva because it is important that people realize that there is a serious blindness issue in developing countries. Seva saves many families a year and they need to be appreciated for that. Seva

deserved this money because they devote their time to the blind people and they need money to keep it going. So I am glad that I raised money for Seva. Thank you Seva for being the organization that helps people and raises awareness," said Ben.

Their efforts resulted in a donation of \$870 to Seva Canada, enough to restore the sight of 17 adults.



Mara Baudais and her groups, "Women's Gatherings" and "Celtic Celebrations"

Mara engages her community with Seva Canada, and finds creative ways to get people involved. Through her two groups, Women's Gatherings and Celtic Celebrations, everyone contributes \$1-10 each time they get together, and it really adds up!

"The two groups are keen to be raising funds for Seva because it not only helps yet another woman but also indirectly helps that woman's family. To know more about these groups please call 604-931-7070," said Mara.

Thanks to everyone's collective efforts, \$150 was donated to Seva over the course of 2015, restoring the sight of three women in remote regions of Nepal!

BECOME A MONTHLY DONOR

You can help blind people see again every day of the year. Join our Circle of Sharing family of monthly donors by visiting seva.ca or by calling **1-877-460-6622** toll-free.

"It makes me feel so good to know that my monthly donation is in the hands of people who care with such devotion, compassion and competence! As well, to know that people who I will never know can see the faces of their loved ones and the world around them because Seva does such a good job in bringing together the teams who can restore sight to those so in need."

– **Arlene McGibbon**
Monthly donor



ABOUT SEVA CANADA

SEVA'S VISION

Seva Canada's vision is a world in which no one is needlessly blind or visually impaired.

SEVA'S MISSION

Seva Canada's mission is to restore sight and prevent blindness in developing countries.

SEVA'S GUIDING PRINCIPLES

We are guided by:

- Our belief in equal access to eye care for all
- Our belief that with adequate resources, all people can meet their own needs
- Our commitment to working with international partners to build local, sustainable eye care programs
- Our respect for cultural, ethnic, spiritual and other forms of diversity
- Our commitment to inform and inspire Canadians to join us in achieving our mission

HONOURARY PATRONS

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The Right Honourable Adrienne Clarkson

The Honourable Judith Guichon,
OBC Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia

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CONTACT

Seva Canada Society
#100 – 2000 West 12th Avenue
Vancouver, BC V6J 2G2

Tel: 604-713-6622
Fax: 604-733-4292
Toll-free: 1-877-460-6622

Email: admin@seva.ca
Website: seva.ca

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