

==Contact Information==

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==Naming==

Requested name: Ila Sarkar

Requested use of name:

- Street

- Park

Background Information (Reason for name request):

Contributions over half a century in support of international education and community building and fostering women empowerment and community inclusiveness

If you have submitted a person's name, please provide a short biography (Given name, date of birth, place of birth, contributions, awards, achievements or other related information):

Biography of Ila Sarkar

Ila (born in Chittagong, British India, now Bangladesh On 30 June, 1940) Sarkar and Asit (born in Chittagong, British India, now Bangladesh on 17 February 1940) came to Saskatoon in 1970 in search of finding a new home in Canada after leaving their place of birth that was undergoing significant political turmoil and resulting discrimination based on faith and language. During the next fifty years, they have not only made this City as their home but proactively contributed in multiple ways to foster and sustain a community that provides opportunities to everyone irrespective of their faith, gender, language and national origin.

Over a period of more than four decades, Ila Sarkar has shown sustained commitment to the ideals of multiculturalism, advocating equitable access to the workplace for new immigrants, especially women and promoting intercultural connections of new Canadians with the mainstream society of Saskatoon, Saskatchewan and Canada. Dedicated to the cause of social inclusion, cultural diversity and gender sensitivity, Ila has provided services both in volunteer and professional capacities to the Saskatoon Open Door Society, Immigrant Women of Saskatchewan (now International Women of Saskatoon), Saskatchewan Intercultural Association, Canadian Federation of University Women (Saskatoon Branch), Save the Children Canada (Saskatoon Branch), India-Canada Cultural Association, Working for Women, Sherbrooke Community Centre, Canadian Diabetic Association (Saskatchewan Branch), Saskatchewan Lung Association, Saskatoon Refugee Coalition and other informal community groups. With changing demographics and more immigrants joining Saskatoon's aging population, Ila expanded her commitment to serve the needs of our community's seniors and focused on reducing social isolation of immigrant seniors and ensuring that services for seniors reflect their needs and aspirations.

Ila's interest in multiculturalism and internationalism was germinated when she, in the mid-sixties, she participated in the Cleveland International Program for Social Workers and Youth Leaders. In Saskatoon, she found her calling in the service of immigrants and refugees as the city became the new home for refugees from Chile and Vietnam. Her own experience of facing discrimination as an educated and professional woman made her keenly aware of the need for serving the newcomers in ways that would allow them to live in a society respectful of diversity where they are able to realize their full human potential. Volunteering for the newly formed Saskatoon Open Door Society, later becoming a staff member and then a Board member were the beginnings.

Ila came to Saskatoon in 1970 when her husband, Asit accepted a faculty position with the University of Saskatchewan. Trained in the newly established School of Social Work in East Pakistan, Ila entered her profession of Social Work with a focus on community building. As a participant in the Cleveland (U.S.) International Program for Social Workers and Youth Leaders, Ila became deeply engaged in intercultural discourses that solidified her commitment to leadership at the grassroots. She returned to the U.S. for graduate studies in Social Work at the University of Texas at Arlington but left when Asit came to the U of S. For the next few years, she took on the full time role of mother and kept her professional interests postponed but engaged herself as a community volunteer primarily with ICCA teaching dances to children, sewing costumes for children performers etc.

An important part of Ila's life in volunteerism was at the Sherbrooke Community Centre. Experience with the institutional framework of senior care in Canada led her to become a student in Health Care Administration at the U of S. In her research paper for the program, Ila made a strong case for incorporating cultural sensitivities in health care institutions, a perspective that has now been adopted by many mainstream agencies in the field of socio-health and family services.

In 1983, Ila together with a small group of immigrant women saw the need for an organization that would advocate for and empower immigrant women. As a founding member of the newly established Immigrant Women of Saskatchewan, Ila helped design programs and services for the immigrant women and refugee community in ways that recognized women's unique societal adaptation needs and deliver them, in collaboration with other service providers in culturally-appropriate ways. As a hands-on Board member and later as staff, Ila steered IWS towards innovative programming in English language training, employment training, women dealing with family violence and senior's health and well-being. In designing these programs, she emphasized the need for collaboration with established organizations such as YWCA, Saskatoon Family Services, Saskatoon Council on Aging and Saskatoon Health Region. Examples of some of these initiatives include:

- Job Strategy Program for Immigrant Women, 1987
- Family Violence Awareness Program, 1988-1990
- Needs Assessment Study for Immigrant Seniors, 1990-1991
- Family Violence Awareness Project, National Organization of Immigrant and Visible Minority Women, 1994
- Enrichment Program for Immigrant Seniors. 1996-1997. Saskatchewan Intercultural Association
- Our Health is in Our Hand - a health awareness program, 1999
- Employment Readiness Program, 2000-2002
- Enrichment Program for Immigrant Seniors, IWS, 2005-2006

In 2005, Ila took leadership in organizational renewal of IWS Saskatoon Branch into an independent organization named International Women of Saskatoon to make it more inclusive and broadbased while

still focusing on the unmet needs of the immigrant and refugee women. Her vision was to capitalize on the vast spectrum of cultural diversities within the women clients of IWS and linking them to Saskatoon's larger community of women so as to facilitate the immigrant women's identification with their new community in Canada. In 2007, IWS presented her with Award of Recognition to honour her long and dedicated period of service to the organization helping to enrich the lives of many immigrant women in Saskatoon. Because of Ila's early initiative, IWS is the only settlement agency to offer health and well being program for immigrant seniors on a regular basis.

Ila's internationalist perspective has also been central to her volunteer roles in organizations such as the SIA, Save the Children Canada and Saskatoon Refugee Coalition. She was Ambassador for the India pavilion at the Saskatoon Folkfest and Social Secretary of ICCA. In 1992, Ila was an invited participant in the International Forum of Women Managers in Manila, Philippines. Another of Ila's initiatives was, in 1999, to help steer the formation of a South Asian Women's group in Saskatchewan in order to focus on the commonalities of culture and values among India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bhutan and Maldives. In 1993, Ila received her Master of Social Work degree from the University of Regina where her research work involved a review of the international development programs of the Mennonite Central Committee in Bangladesh. Later, Ila taught for the University in the areas of social work practice for immigrants and minorities.

Ila's own experience in dealing with discrimination of visible minorities in workplaces contributed to changes, through the conciliatory intervention of the Saskatchewan Human Rights Commission, in the human rights practices of a prominent human service agency in Saskatoon and its subsequent tailoring of services to meet the needs of clients of different cultural backgrounds.

In September, 2014, Ila was awarded a 50th Anniversary Special Recognition Award by the Saskatchewan Intercultural Association for her long period of dedicated service to the cause of Intercultural Relations. During the same year, she was inducted into the Saskatoon Women's Hall of Fame by the Saskatoon Council on Women recognition for her exemplary contribution in promoting multicultural values, diversity in the workplace and upholding intercultural connectedness for the new as well as not-so-new immigrants. In a most unassuming way, Ila continues to mentor and empower immigrant women who are new to Saskatoon as well as those who, for various family commitments, have been out of the workplace for a period of time. Whether she is serving on an organization's Board or volunteering as just a member, she has remained true to her cause of promoting multicultural values, workplace diversity and advocacy of unique needs of women.

Attachment:

https://www.saskatoon.ca/sites/default/files/webform/ila_sarkar_civic_0.pdf

Additional comments:

I know Ila Sarkar and her family since 2008, when I chose Saskatoon as my primary residence, and started living here with my family. Ila has also been a great resource of knowledge and support to the community people irrespective of race, religion, gender. During any family crisis, our community got immense support from Ila and her family with advice, volunteering time, and philanthropic contributions. She has also been continuously striving to engage community members in the programs organized by other communities with the intend to integrate newcomers within greater community. The community in large is highly inspired and benefitted by the works of Ila Sarkar. I, on behalf of Saskatoon Community, highly recommend to select Ila Sarker for naming any street and park in the new neighbourhood.

I have also attached some ceremonial photos of Ila from different occasions recognizing Ila's works.

Regards

Shib Podder, P.Eng.

Do you wish to address the Naming Advisory Committee? Yes

==Naming==

Requested name: Asit Sarkar

Requested use of name:

- Street

- Park

Background Information (Reason for name request):

Asit Sarkar contributed in the City of Saskatoon over half a century in support of international education and community building and fostering women empowerment and community inclusiveness.

If you have submitted a person's name, please provide a short biography (Given name, date of birth, place of birth, contributions, awards, achievements or other related information):

Biography of Asit Sarkar

Asit (born in Chittagong, British India, now Bangladesh on 17 February 1940) and Ila (born in Chittagong, British India, now Bangladesh On 30 June, 1940) Sarkar came to Saskatoon in 1970 in search of finding a new home in Canada after leaving their place of birth that was undergoing significant political turmoil and resulting discrimination based on faith and language. During the next fifty years, they have not only made this City as their home but proactively contributed in multiple ways to foster and sustain a community that provides opportunities to everyone irrespective of their faith, gender, language and national origin.

Asit's contributions focused on promoting the value of international learning in his role as the founding director of the University of Saskatchewan's internationalization process. In that role, he also focused on connecting education, entrepreneurship and export that form important pillars of the Saskatchewan economy. In later years, particularly during his years of retirement, his focus has been exclusively on serving the community of Saskatoon and building on its ethnocultural strengths, including serving the Province in facilitating integration of new immigrants into the economy and the community. (see details below).

Contributions, Awards, Achievements and Other Related Information

1. Contribution to the City of Saskatoon
 - a. Service to Local Immigration Partnership – member, Community Connections and Social Networking Working Group, 2018-present
 - b. Service on the City of Saskatoon Citizens' Centennial Celebrations Committee - Chair, Finance & Fundraising Subcommittee, September 2003-2007
 - c. Service on the City of Saskatoon Committees
 - Member, Board of Revision 2012-2020 (Vice Chair, 2019, 2018, 2017)
 - Member, Licence Appeal Board 2017-2020 (Vice Chair, 2019, 2018, 2017)

- Member, Development Appeal Board, 2013-2021 (Chair 2017-2020)

2. Other Voluntary Contribution to the Saskatoon Community at Large

- Greater Saskatoon Chamber of Commerce - Member, Board of Directors, 1998-2004; Executive Committee, 2003-2004; Chair, Knowledge Industry Affairs Committee, 2001-2006; Member, Economic Development Committee, 1990-1994
- Canada-Ukraine Centre Inc. – Member of the Board, 2000–present; Treasurer, 2003-present
- Saskatoon and District Industry Education Council - Member, Board of Directors, 2004-2006

Committee, 2002-2004; Chair, Business Education Committee, 1999-2002; Member, Government

d. Saskatoon Open Door Society – Member, Women Entrepreneurship Hub Advisory Committee, 2020-present; Member of the Board, 2006-2010, (member, Governance Committee, Finance Committee, Human Resources Committee), Co-Chair 2008-2009

e. Rotary Club of Saskatoon-Nutana - 1976-present; President, 1999, Board Member 2015-2020, Assistant Governor – District 5550, 2018-20

f. Rotary International, District 5550, Member, World Community Service Committee and District Grant Committee, 2017-2020; Assistant Governor, 2018-2020

g. Folkfest Saskatoon – Representative of Bangladesh Pavilion, 2011-12

h. Bangladesh Community Association of Saskatchewan – Advisor, Bangladesh Pavilion at Folkfest and Member, Advisory Committee to the Executive

i. Saskatoon Bangla Heritage Language School, Adviser.

j. Saskatchewan Intercultural Association Inc., Saskatoon, 1996 Diversity makes good business sense, workshop presentation, March.

3. Philanthropy in Support of Community Building and Social Inclusion

- Saskatoon Community Foundation – Asit and Ila Sarkar Fund for Community Inclusiveness
- Multicultural Council of Saskatchewan – Asit and Ila Sarkar Fund for Reconciliation

4. Contribution to the University of Saskatchewan

- Founded the Centre for International Business Studies at the U. of S. College of Commerce (now

Edwards School of Business), in partnership with Foreign Affairs and International Trade Canada and Saskatchewan Economic Development and Trade (1989), focusing exclusively on enabling and expanding export market access for Saskatchewan's small and medium enterprises; led trade missions to Singapore, Malaysia and Thailand (1989), Singapore, Malaysia, Philippines (1990), Singapore, Malaysia, South Korea and Taiwan (1991), Malaysia, Thailand (1992) as part of MBA International Business Program; many of Saskatchewan-based exporters to both U.S. and Asia-Pacific markets got their strategic support from the work of the students (B.Comm. and M.B.A.) that were part of their export development teams.

b. Led the internationalization of the U of S with specific focus on building global citizenship of Saskatchewan's postsecondary students, serving as Director of U of S International and Special Adviser to the President (1993-2002):

i. Initiated new study abroad programs for U of S students in Brazil, China, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Guatemala, Japan, Mexico, Mozambique, Russia, Sweden, Uganda, Ukraine, U.K., Zimbabwe.

ii. Expanded the collaboration with Ukraine academic institutions in Chernivtsi, Lviv, Ivano-Frankivsk and Kiev involving multiple disciplines including Agriculture, Nutrition and other social sciences.

iii. Initiated new academic collaboration/exchange programs with China, Ethiopia, India, Japan, Malaysia, Mongolia, Russia, Thailand, Ukraine, Vietnam.

iv. Set up policies for significant expansion in the enrolment of international students at the U of S.

- c. Led the joint U. of S. – Province of Saskatchewan team to Ukraine for training and administrative Advice for the development of “Chernivtsi Oblast Entrepreneurship Development and Services centre” (1996-97) as part of Partners in Public Service Program of Canadian International Development Agency.
 - d. Served the University’s Student Wellness program as Member, University of Saskatchewan Faith Leaders’ Council, 2017-2019– a multifaith collaborative initiative on student wellness.
5. Contribution to the Province of Saskatchewan
- a. Contributed to the policy development for Saskatchewan’s growth through immigration and international trade linkages
 - i. Special Adviser to the Minister of Advanced Education, Immigration and Employment (2010-2013) – strategy development on the settlement and retention of immigrants; contribution to the provincial initiative to development economic, trade and higher education linkages with Asian countries with strategic synergies.
 - ii. Served as Minister’s representative on the International Education Council contributing to policy initiatives to enhance international student enrolment in Saskatchewan’s post-secondary institutions and developing new collaboration models involving Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute.
 - b. Did the first comprehensive study of Entrepreneurship in Saskatchewan (1976) reflecting the state of Saskatchewan’s entrepreneurial climate and public policy gaps. Led to the establishment of annual ABEX award by the Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce to recognize unique contributions of Saskatchewan businesses to the economy of Saskatchewan.
 - c. Established first collaborative program in business administration with North Battleford Tribal Council – Indian Business Administration Program (1983). Eventually transformed into the Aboriginal Business Certificate Program of the Saskatchewan Indian Federated College (later First Nations University).
 - d. Led the Saskatchewan team in support of Ukraine Academy of Public Administration’s training initiative on “Public Policies for Private Sector Development” (1997), as part of Training for Public Service Reform Program of Canadian International Development.
 - e. Served as member of the Asian Development Bank’s Eminent Persons Group to facilitate the transition of Vietnam’s Ministry of Planning and Investment into a private sector orientation (1997-1999), focusing on Saskatchewan and Canadian experience on reform of public enterprises and their transition into the private sector.
 - f. Served on the international project team of Saskatchewan Trade and Export Partnership for CIDA project Export Capacity Development for Bulgarian SMEs, 2001-2006
 - g. Currently serving as member, Saskatchewan Higher Education Quality Assessment Board, 2016-2022
 - h. Served Saskatchewan Economic Development as Member, Community Bonds Review Committee, 1992-94
 - i. Prepared for Saskatchewan Economic Diversification and Trade, 1991.
 - i. A Needs Assessment of Saskatchewan Exporters of Non-Traditional Goods and Services, 1991.
 - ii. A Profile of Saskatchewan Exporters, 1991.
 - j. Undertook , on behalf of Institute of Public Administration of Canada, Mission to Ukraine for training and administrative Advice for the development of “ Chernivtsi Oblast Entrepreneurship Development and Services centre”, Partners in Public Service Program of Canadian International Development Agency, 1997
 - k. Served as Member, International Development Committee, Canadian Bar Association, Saskatchewan Section, 2001-2006

- l. Leader of Canadian Resource Team, Workshop on Regional/Provincial Planning: Opportunities and Challenges, Public Policy Training Program, organized for the Asian Development Bank by the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada and Ministry of Planning and Investment, Vietnam, Hanoi, 30 June-4 July, 2008
 - m. Multicultural Council of Saskatchewan, Member of the Board, 2012-2014, Treasurer 2014-2016, President 2016-2018, Past President 2018-20
 - n. Saskatchewan Capacity of Internationally-trained Professionals - President, 2008-2009; Vice President, 2007-2008
6. Awards and Recognitions
- a. Honorary Doctorate - Chernivtsi National University, Ukraine – in recognition of sustained contribution towards student, faculty and research collaboration between the University of Saskatchewan and Chernivtsi National University, 2002
 - b. Award of Merit – Canadian Bureau of International Education for excellence in fostering collaboration between educational institutions in Canada and the developing world, 1999
 - c. Honorary Ambassador – Folkfest Saskatoon, 2012
 - d. Honorary Life Award – University of Saskatchewan Retirees Association for outstanding service to the University and the Retirees Association

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Do you wish to address the Naming Advisory Committee? Yes

ILA SARKAR

Induction into Saskatoon Women's Hall of Fame



SIA Intercultural Relations Award



International Women of Saskatoon

AWARD OF RECOGNITION

presented to

ILA SARKAR

*In honour of your long, selfless and dedicated service to IWS.
Your contributions and sacrifices have enriched the lives of many
immigrant women in Saskatoon. Thank you.*

On behalf of IWS General Membership



June 23, 2007

Combating social isolation

By Denise Pouchie

Life in the large city of Saskatoon is not always as easy as it seems. For those who are new to the city, the language barrier can be a major obstacle. It is often the case that people who are new to the city are not able to communicate in English.

It is a common experience for many people who are new to the city. They often find it difficult to communicate in English. This is especially true for those who are new to the city and do not speak English.

For many people, the language barrier is a major obstacle. It is often the case that people who are new to the city are not able to communicate in English. This is especially true for those who are new to the city and do not speak English.

Many people who are new to the city find it difficult to communicate in English. This is especially true for those who are new to the city and do not speak English. They often find it difficult to communicate in English.

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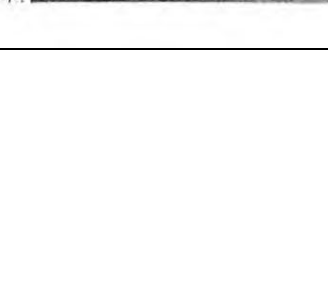
Phonics clockwise from top left: Josephine King from Bangladesh, inside a basket of soiled eggs.

To Zaiter, left, co-ordinator of Saskatoon Immigration Program, and Shigeru Imai, her assistant.

From left: Betty Yap (Chinese), Lily Yee (Hong Kong), Kanyia Galtzine (Ethiopia) and Eshman Gelaw (Iran) receive lessons in water egg decorating at the Ukrainian Museum of Canada on Spadina Crescent in Saskatoon.

Amelia (left, far) from Pakistan and Fatima Usul (second from left) water egg decorating.

But Photos by Denise Pouchie



ASIT SARKAR

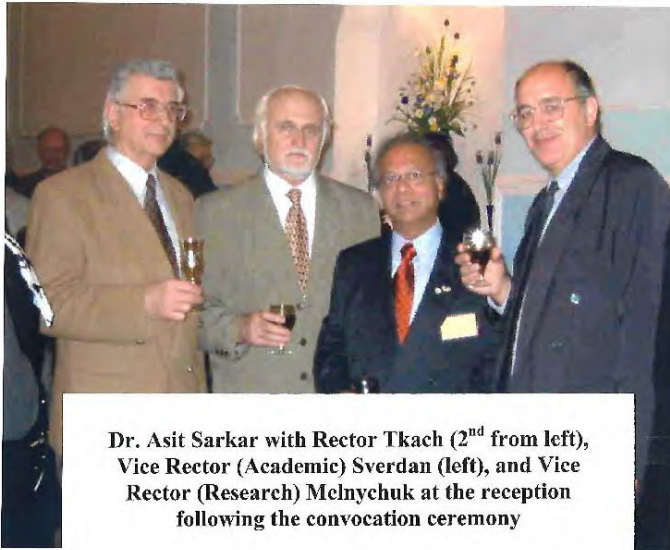


Dr. Asit Sarkar

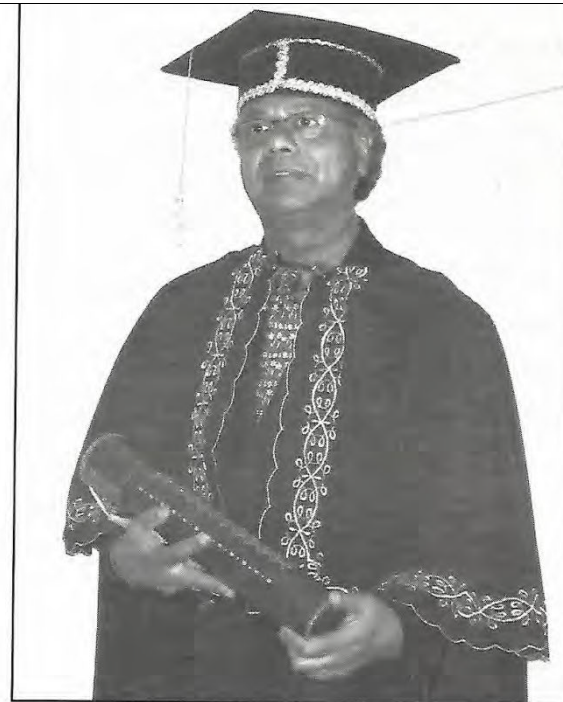
Dr. Asit Sarkar, Professor of International Business, has "officially" retired after thirty six years of service with the College of Commerce. He was the first Department Head of Management & Marketing and also served as Associate Dean of Commerce. His international activities spanned much of Asia and in later years Eastern Europe, notably Ukraine. His many publications, research grants, and accumulated experience started the careers of many graduates and younger

faculty members. In recent years, his contributions led to the creation of U of S International. He remains on campus with the Centre for Governance that he established.

The Edwards School of Business thanks Asit for his many years of distinguished and loyal service, and wish him all the best in his retirement, especially in the enjoyment of family life in Saskatoon.



Dr. Asit Sarkar with Rector Tkach (2nd from left), Vice Rector (Academic) Sverdan (left), and Vice Rector (Research) Melnychuk at the reception following the convocation ceremony



Chernivtsi University doctorate to Sarkar

Dr. Asit Sarkar, Professor of Commerce and former Director of University of Saskatchewan International, is photographed following a special convocation at Chernivtsi National University in Ukraine Oct. 4, at which he was awarded an Honorary Doctorate by the University. The doctorate was presented to Sarkar in recognition of his extensive efforts to sustain and enrich the 25-year exchange program between the University of Saskatchewan and Chernivtsi University. Sarkar's work with the Ukraine Academy of Public Administration and his efforts to develop the Chernivtsi Enterprise Centre were also recognized during the ceremony. Sarkar joins a select coterie of Canadians who have been awarded this honor, including former Canadian Governor General Ramon Hnatyshyn, former Saskatchewan Premier Roy Romanow and former U of S President George Ivany. A reception was to be held Nov. 27 at the U of S Faculty Club to allow the campus community to celebrate Sarkar's honorary doctorate. *Photo courtesy of Dr. Asit Sarkar*

ON CAMPUS NEWS, November 29, 2002

Folkfest Honorary Ambassador



U of Sask Retirees Assoc Honorary Life Award

