

## Delta Free Press columnist nominated for Canadian Top 25 Immigrant Award

Written by News Desk  
Friday, 11 February 2011 21:40

---



Canadian Immigrant, a leading Canadian resource for immigrants from around the world, has announced its 2011 nomination list for its annual, [Top 25 Canadian Immigrants of 2011 Awards](#). Voting begins on the 18th February and the results will be announced in May. For many, including us here at the

### **Delta Free Press**

, it comes as no surprise to see Delta local,

### **Alex Sangha's**

name on it.

Alex Sangha is known to be a fearless and outspoken voice for those who need to be heard. As someone who has been actively involved with mental health, gay and lesbian, environmental, and social issues, he's been at the forefront in educating Canada's immigrant and mainstream communities about a number of culturally tough-to-digest issues.

He is the founder of Sher Vancouver, a social, cultural and support group for South Asian gay and lesbian individuals, and of Greener Steps Sustainable Living, an integrated eco-site to promote and support green businesses. He is the co-founder of a mental health organization and has been speaking about mental illness for over five years. He also secured funding from the BC Government and other donors to launch an anti-bullying initiative called the "DOSTI" project which means friendship.

Says Alex, "It's a complete honour to be nominated for such an important award, which recognizes the contributions immigrants have made, and continue to make in Canada. I've been a fan of so many featured winners; ex- Governor General Adrienne Clarkson, and noted filmmaker Deepa Mehta. They have all played such an important role in defining what Canada is today. To be a part of such a body of knowledge, passion and wisdom is a privilege that I am thrilled to be a part of."

Says friend and colleague Ash Brar of Sher Vancouver, "Alex Sangha has achieved a lot in since his arrival in Canada. He's taken timely and relevant issues like the need for a better support structure for gay immigrants into consideration, and has built a rapidly growing network around it. As the former social affairs columnist with the Surrey North Delta Leader, **Delta Free Press**, and Indo Canadian Voice, he's proved that you don't have to be born in Canada to become a part of it and try to make a difference."

So it's no surprise that Alex has received a number of awards and recognition in honour of the work he's done, including being heralded by the Georgia Straight newspaper, in their Best of Vancouver issue, as a "bright light who challenges the status quo."

## **Delta Free Press columnist nominated for Canadian Top 25 Immigrant Award**

Written by News Desk

Friday, 11 February 2011 21:40

---

The Top 25 Canadian Immigrants is a peoples' choice award that recognizes people who have come to Canada and have made a positive difference living here. Voters get a chance to vote for the final 75 nominees, in a bid to elect 25 immigrants who act as spokespeople and mentors to newer immigrants. The winner receives a commemorative plaque, and sponsor Royal Bank (RBC) will donate \$500 to a charity of the winners choice, followed by a ceremony in their honour.