Final Report

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Project Title: *Alberta Sikh History Project*

1.1 Project Summary

IGRF funds were awarded to build a digital story map to be incorporated into the applicant's Alberta Sikh History Project website which itself is a part of the PI's ongoing research programme. The project offers an innovative, publicly accessible, digital history of the Sikhs in Alberta.

1.2 Project Outcomes and Impacts

The project made good progress. An ArcGIS story map is nearing completion covering the earliest period (1900-1950) of Sikh history in the province. Biographies for this early history have been written and have been included in the story map. This work will continue in the coming year to include Alberta Sikh history in the second half of the 20th century. The project's website has been entirely rebuilt to accommodate software upgrades to support the volume of documents to be uploaded, external links to ArcGIS, video capacity and an update bilingual plug-in (WPML). Student researchers gained experience working with primary historical documents, and the historical craft (and challenges) of writing biographies of persons who have hitherto been lost to history. Student researchers also had the opportunity to learn concrete strategies from Dr. Satwinder Kaur Bains, an award-winning curator and historian at the GurSikh Temple and Museum, a recognized National Historic Site Canada. The PI is currently working with various Sikh organizations in Calgary (namely, the Dashmesh Culture Centre and the Sikh Society of Calgary) to include a modular exhibit of the project's key findings to be housed in community venues. Most notably, the Dashmesh Culture Centre is currently undergoing significant expansion of their premises at a new location. The idea was proposed by the DCC executive board to include space in the new premises to accommodate the Alberta Sikh History Project. Similar initiatives will be proposed and discussed with the Sikh communities in Edmonton and in Lethbridge. The website and story map will be integrated into the PI's RELS 3353: Sikhs and Sikhism in Alberta to be offered for the first time in Winter 2023.