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INSIDE: Values

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Reflecting on Values



Rimp Sadhra

There are very few professions where the foundation is based on the pillars of honesty, integrity, and trust.

Those are the core values of being a BC Notary Public. They elevate our profession and instill confidence in the public. Held to a higher standard, we Notaries are accountable to the public and to our colleagues. That is what makes me proud to be a Notary.

I believe that identifying our values helps shape the way we want to live our life and what makes us happy. For many of us, these past few months have been a time for reflection on what matters most to us. For me, that has been my husband, my two kids, my health, my family and friends, love and laughter, and

my freedom. We take many of those for granted. It is during times of uncertainty, chaos, and fear that we learn what is most important to us.

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As committed as we Notaries are to our professional values, most of our values are in play well beyond our hours of operation. Being a good person is being a Notary outside our

profession, too. My values don't start at my office door and end when my day ends. They continue outside of work, in everyday life, and in matters that affect all of us. I believe my values show through all my decisions, actions, and choices in life.

A first-generation Canadian, the eldest of four, and a Sikh female, certain traditional values were embedded in me from the day I was born. While being raised a proud Canadian, it was a balancing act of being Canadian and maintaining traditional cultural values. My parents would emphasize the importance of being a good role model and aiming high. I was told, "What you do and



Jenna Asgari Photography

Fall family photo shoot with daughter Khushi and son Ari



Proud parents Parmjit S. (Tony) Khara (dad) and Tejinder Khara (mom) at my MA ALS Simon Fraser University Graduation

who you become as a person will set the tone for your brothers and sister to follow . . . so do your best.” Wow . . . no pressure!

There are certain traditions and expectations of being born a Sikh Punjabi female that weighed on me. There was always some form of underlying pressure to be successful, do the right thing, and to lead by example. While it was tough, in some weird and twisted way, I welcomed it and accepted the challenge.

I believe that one’s environment, upbringing, education, and life experiences shape a person’s ethics and character. As I reflect back on my childhood, having dinner together as a family every night was essential. The fundamental principles of honesty, integrity, respect, love, and education filled our dinner table every evening. “Do not lie or cheat, lend a helping hand to those in need, educate yourself, treat others with respect, and always stand up for what you believe in, even if it means standing alone.”

Those valuable teachings were what my younger siblings and I used to call my dad’s 2-hour “lectures”; we would sit trying to be active listeners. Those talks helped shape my values and principles and made me the woman I am today . . . I may not have realized that when I was younger. I see myself doing that everyday as we raise our own two children. I guess the learning and the teaching continues . . .



Celebrating our 15th Anniversary

While writing this article, I asked my husband Raman for his opinion on what he believed was a strong value of mine. “It’s definitely your selflessness. You don’t even realize it but you continuously put the needs of others before yours.”

“Rimpy and I have been married 17 years and she’s been like that since the day I met her.”

Raman has been my partner in work and life; our shared core values make us a team. We both agree that we believe in standing up for what is right and speaking the truth.

Raman has been my partner in work and life; our shared core values make us a team. We both agree that we believe in standing up for what is right and speaking the truth.

Taking action means doing what is right . . . not necessarily what benefits you individually but what benefits someone or society overall. It is standing up for what is right despite the challenges that path brings. There will always be an easier path to take in life but often taking the more difficult route is more satisfying when you reach your destination.

As Maya Angelou said, “Develop enough courage so that you can stand up for yourself and then stand up for somebody else.”

There is no better example of that as we watch recent protests around the world for social justice. The movement has gained momentum around the globe including in our own country, as individuals demonstrate the value of standing up for what is right. Staying quiet is part of the problem.

I saw a quote the other day from Martin Luther King, “We will remember not the words of our enemies, but the silence of our friends.”

As individuals and as professionals, we need to do our part and educate ourselves and be active listeners.

We need to have the difficult discussions at home, at work, and in our community, and not shy away from sharing our views in a productive manner.

I am reminded every day as I work and represent the profession of BC Notary Public that I hold myself to the highest level of trust and integrity. My personal values carry into my business and challenge me to do better and be better. As I reflect back, I believe the values embedded throughout my childhood, and acquired into adulthood, led me to my profession as a Notary Public. The one mantra I want to stick by and teach my children is, “Be happy to change your goals but not your values.” (Dalai Lama).

Like many of my colleagues, I have been busy running my Notary business. The key word is “running.” What motivates that running? Is it ambition? Is it success? Or my drive to build something, help others, and feel accomplished?

I think it goes back to my values. It is my desire to do my best, work hard, and set a good example for my children as my parents did for us. It is to help others in need, stand up for what I believe in, and to carry out my work with integrity and honour. The challenge for me is to continue to instill those values in our children. We can only hope that they have the courage to speak up for what is right and have the discipline to maintain their core values.

Overall, I think we all aim to achieve some form of balance with family and work combined with some laughs and love along the way. I think all of us can learn from each other, respect each other, and build on the foundation of equality, honesty, and integrity.

I will echo the words of many public officials lately: “We are all in this together and we must all do our part.” ▲

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