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## A DIRECTOR, BC NOTARIES ASSOCIATION

## On The Path to Success

"SOME PEOPLE DREAM OF SUCCESS, WHILE OTHER PEOPLE GET UP EVERY MORNING AND MAKE IT HAPPEN."

- Wayne Huizenga

The definition of success is unique to all of us. For me, success is an everyday achievement. Successful people are never content with the status quo—they are always striving for more.

Success is not achieved overnight or in a week or a year. It takes years of continuous hard work, dedication, and perseverance to achieve success and/or feel successful.

Some Notaries are sole proprietors; most run smallto-medium size practices with several staff. Each of us has our own vision of a successful practice.

Many measure success by how much money they make. Others measure their business by popularity, size of their business, or by how many staff they have. Some measure success based on their professional reputation.

I measure success as a feeling.

I always imagined I would be a businessowner one day. When I found my calling as a BC Notary, I envisioned a firm operating on a significant scale. I could say I wanted to be a Jessica Pearson (from the TV show *Suits*)—the noncontentious version, of course. Being a professional was going to be hard work but personally fulfilling—with multiple offices and staff, a large client portfolio, a flexible schedule where I would set my own hours, and most important be able to raise a family. I thought I would easily achieve work-life balance.

While taking the Master of Arts in Applied Legal Studies Program (MA ALS) at SFU for qualification as a BC Notary Public, I realized that to achieve my goal, I would need a business partner. Who was better suited than Raman, my partner in life? After he was also commissioned as a BC Notary, our goal was to be the best Notaries we could be, respected among our peers, running professional Notary offices with hardworking teams, creating positive work environments, and providing excellent customer service to our clients.

We worked long days in separate offices and would rush home to switch into our mommy and daddy hats. Family has always been at the forefront, with our kids our top priority. We focus on the happiness of our children.

Coming from corporate work environments, we both knew that reliable, personable, and trustworthy relationships with our clients would help us grow and achieve a successful business in the long term.

With work, we want to ensure we serve our clients well and that our offices are running smoothly and our staff are happy. To further our strategy of working together and expanding further, my brother Jay Khera was commissioned as a Notary and we opened a third Notary office.

Benjamin Franklin said, "Without continual growth and progress, such words as improvement, achievement, and success have no meaning."

As businessowners, we wear many hats on a daily basis. We may be the landlord or tenant; an employer; HR coordinator; a staff person, colleague or partner; compliance officer; IT specialist; marketing manager; the receptionist; conveyancer, and of course Notary. At first, it was all very challenging but I would do it all over again.

As businessowners we are always "on." With 0 staff or 10, running a business is a profession in itself. We manage people and their expectations. We are accountable to our staff, our suppliers, service providers, clients, the public, our professional body, and our peers.

In addition to being a Notary, I give back through teaching student Notaries and staff—confident and proud to be able to mentor new Notaries, be a support source for my peers, and increase the knowledge level and reputation of our profession. I am also humbled at the appreciation and trust our clients place in us.





The most valuable and fulfilling part of running our business is our clients. Many of our clients have been with us since we opened; they have seen us grow.

We take pride in letting our clients know we enjoy personal lives and responsibilities outside of work. We are parents and doing our best to raise our children. Some of our clients remember the days our daughter or son would be in the office playing on the floor. We share stories of our ageing parents, siblings, and other family events and obligations.



The West Coast Notaries Team: Keshia, Raman, Rimpy, Jay, Trudi

That feeling of success I was talking about earlier includes clients coming back again and again and referring their own families and friends to us.

I love being a Notary. I love being a businessowner. I love being an employer. I still enjoy getting up every morning and running my own Notary practice.

Is it hard? Yes! Do I want more? Yes! I feel there is always room for more efficiency, learning, and growth. I can always do more, do better, and achieve more!

In reality, the idea of work/life balance for a selfemployed businessowner often sees the pendulum tip in favour of work. I am sure the majority of my colleagues would agree that a businessowner thinks about work 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The office hours are not just 9 to 5—you can be on vacation sitting on the beach in Mexico and still think about the workday.

Being successful requires teamwork to manage our professional and personal worlds. That teamwork involves our co-workers, family, and even friends. Raman and I continue to set new goals and work together to achieve them.

Almost 20 years ago, my sister gave us a wedding gift . . . a painting from our engagement with a quote from Henry Ford, "Coming together is the beginning; keeping together is progress; working together is success."

As I reflect on the past 10 years as a Notary, I feel I am just getting warmed up. I am humbled by all we have achieved and even more excited to see what is next! ▲

**Rimpy Sadhra** is a BC Notary with West Coast Notaries; they have offices in Vancouver, Burnaby, and Coquitlam.