

# **Summit: Improving the International Student Experience**

**Illustrated notes of session discussions**

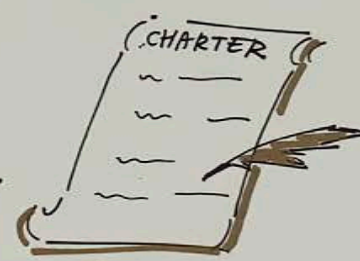
**Illustrated by Nazrin Alaskarov**

**Sheridan**

# SHERIDAN International STUDENT SUMMIT

SHELDON → "Sheridan recognizes the importance of honest & thought provoking conversations that enact change."

Roll up your sleeves

- critical to our classrooms
- make our communities vibrant
- courageous + committed to their education

INTERNATIONAL  
**LEARNERS**

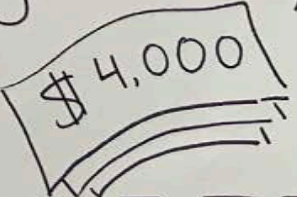
- ↳ big dreams + courage
- ↳ burden of expectations
- ↳ unique obstacles

- \* rent
- \* groceries
- \* academic fees

MEET BASIC NEEDS

★ SHARED PRINCIPLES + ACTIONS

RAISED \$4,000 for SHERIDAN'S STUDENT EMERGENCY BURSARY FUNDS



# Gupreet & Christine

How do we better the application stage?

... the education?

... the labour market?

Years to get post-secondary institutions aware of the problems

POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS

Brampton Charter

BEST PRACTICES

WHY?

FEAR

of expressing oneself and of consequences.

THE MOST IMPORTANT THING

①

remove the work hours (limited) barrier

②

fill the gaps together

③

come together +

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

PROVIDE

A LOT of

TAKE CARE OF THE STUDENTS

\$

for Canadian economy

MAP OUT SOLUTIONS

SCHOOLS NEED TO TAKE RESPONSIBILITY OVER CONCERNS OF INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS.

COLLABORATION



help support themselves + economy of Canada

Brampton CITY



International Students

- ① Healthcare
- ② Science
- ③ Research

COME

from

ALL OVER THE  
GLOBE



HOME TO INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS



- LAW
- FINANCES
- BUSINESS

here to listen



guard.me

past 25 years:

assist education with funding

provide insurance

Amy

- student from Hong Kong
- first year experience advisory committee

Amin

- member at Toronto Regional Council
- mentor at George Brown
- passionate about helping international students

Parina

- student of psychology
- nervous about being away from home
- trying to develop her identity in a new home.

Puneet

- chemical engineer alumni
- research assistant at Sheridan
- interested in quantum physics.

Rajveer

- international student from India

Andrew

- international student from Ukraine

Amir

"WHERE DO I GO?"

- education?
- housing?
- rent?
- food?

IT'S BEEN A BIG JOURNEY

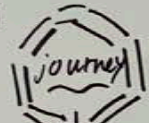
SO MUCH TO FOCUS ON

**HOPES + ASPIRATIONS**

VISITING THE CAMPUS

NEW CULTURE + LANDSCAPE

OPPORTUNITY TO LEARN



HAVE A ROADMAP ONCE YOU LAND

Family Family Family

**MAKE a MENTOR**

**COLLABORATE & MAKE CONNECTIONS**

How did you manage expectations?

★ Hope to do well

★ Meet new people

**KEY STAKEHOLDERS**

- ↳ professors
- ↳ student services

**punct**

miles & miles away from home

"It is a lot"

- DO WELL IN STUDIES
- GET A GOOD JOB



listen to all the root problems

**Amy**

Coming from

Hong Kong

Welcoming environment

**RIGHT CHOICE**

- HIGH QUALITY OF EDUCATION
- EMBRACES DIFFERENT CULTURES.
- GREAT CAREER PROSPECT

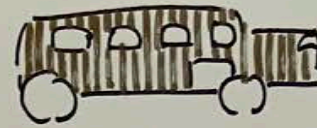
Andrew

Canada is the Switzerland of America

find a job  
Get hands on experience

help my country

work in Canada



TRANSPORTATION

NOT A LOT OF OPTIONS

G  
A  
P  
S

lack of



Housing

Can't go back

HOME  
RIGHT  
NOW

HAVE  
TO  
STAY  
HERE



from a small Caribbean island to SNOW

My goal: reside in Canada

inspired by my dad

Pursuing a degree in finance



scholarship funding education

HOW TO COMMUTE



on campus housing

need more resources

COULD NOT FOCUS WITHOUT IT

Leia

# Parina

~ was too young ~> small dreams

"I'm scared..."

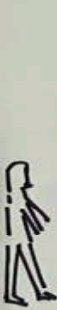
how will I find a job?"

"I'm still young"

study well

Get a job someday

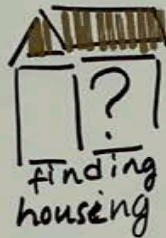
GAPS



DO SOMETHING FOR MYSELF + OTHERS' MENTAL HEALTH



- expensive transit
- lack of student support or funding



finding housing



making friends



finding a job

Fundamental problem from the

UPPER LEVEL

Software  
Engineer

new  
to  
Canada



many facilities  
& services  
available to  
students

Rajveer

→ struggles of every day  
life were surprising

covid impacting  
lineups

oooooooooong lines



# ???

## CULTURAL BARRIERS

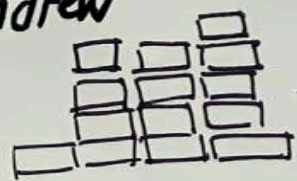
# ???

→ RACIALIZED COMMENTS  
→ RACISM (lack of opportunities  
for students who  
don't fit in specific  
communities)



- students  
too focused  
on their studies  
- not enough  
outside experiences

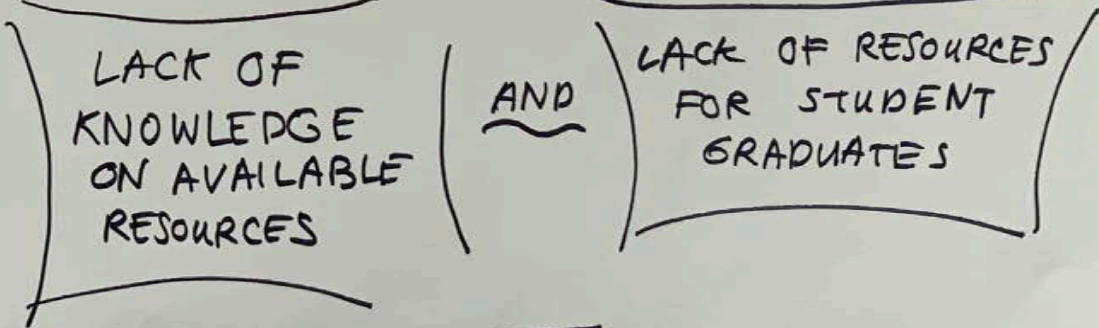
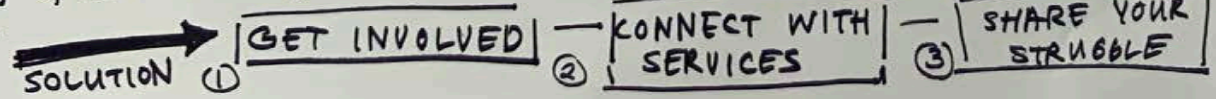
Andrew



→ "building  
a pool  
of mentors"

Lack of social support

- ~ poor working conditions
- ~ mental health challenges
- ~ lack of awareness of how challenges impact mental health.





# ENGAGEMENT STRATEGIES for

# International Student Experience

iCent app

APP TO ACCOMMODATE STUDENT ACADEMICS + PROVIDE SUPPORT SERVICES

+ POST ENROLLMENT SUPPORT



CREATING Shared Value

ENSURING STUDENTS ARE SUCCESSFUL IN THE JOB MARKET

+ PROVIDING ENTREPRENEURIAL MENTORS

co-opetition

## Student Refugee Program

LOCAL COMMUNITY MEMBERS WORKING TOGETHER ON THE STUDENT REFUGEE PROGRAM

+ MAINTAIN PARTNERSHIP WITH LOCAL COMMITTEES

2100+ Students

+ 1 YEAR OF STUDENT PARTNERSHIP

+ ACADEMIC, FINANCIAL, HOUSING SUPPORTS FOR NEWCOMERS

## Peel newcomer Strategy group

CREATING A SEAMLESS IMMIGRATION EXPERIENCE

+ AMPLIFY VOICES OF IMMIGRANTS & DISPLACED PERSONS

edu-nova

# CANADA INDIA

Research Centre

for  
**LEARNING + ENGAGEMENT**

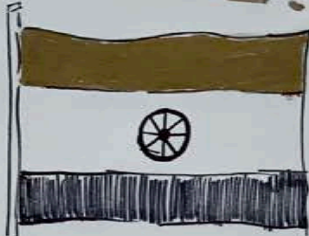
BRING  
FOCUS  
TOGETHER

FOCUS:

India +  
South  
Asia

## NEED:

DOMESTIC STUDENTS  
TO UNDERSTAND  
UNIQUE CHALLENGES  
THAT INTERNATIONAL  
STUDENTS FACE



HOPING THAT  
CANADA BECOMES  
A MORE WELCOMING  
PLACE FOR THESE  
COMMUNITIES

facilitate

MORE  
RESEARCH

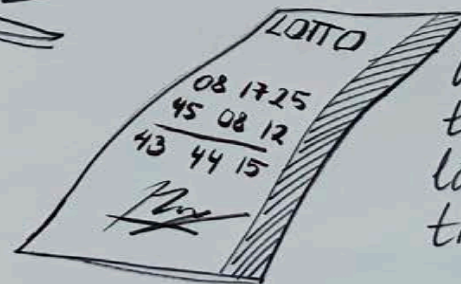
Main Challenges

- mental health
- homesickness
- financial burden

NEVER GIVE UP  
WORKING ON YOUR  
DREAMS



WELCOME  
WITH  
OPEN  
ARMS



Winning  
the  
lottery  
ticket

# PANEL DISCUSSION

NEED to  
give students  
more opportunities

CREATE an  
easy pathway

BE more open to  
suggestions

ELIMINATE unfair  
conditions

TREAT students like  
adults

OPEN up jobs to  
international students  
from the federal level

REMOVE BARRIERS

## SHASTRI

> Promote education in Canada + India

- > Mission:
- ~ Provide access to knowledge + resources
  - ~ Conduct research
  - ~ Provide advising, counselling + referral services to students
  - ~ Partnering with Canadian institutions

# pathway programs for students

2006-2018  
studies

\* good for students who need additional supports

◦ threat ◦  
to TRAPS

operated by  
private partners  
+ local businesses

◦ vulnerability ◦  
to negative  
outcomes

AND MISTREATMENT

◦ lack of regulation ◦

# IMPROVING HEALTH ACCESS

STIGMA → COVID  
→ Mental + Physical Health  
etc.

Questionnaire

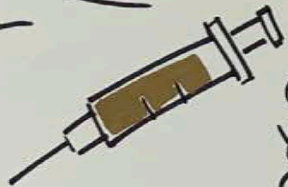
Follow-ups

Av. 25yrs old  
→ Majority - India

GAP IN RESEARCH

lack of cervical cancer screening

lack of immunization



CONSTANT YEARLY CHANGES

lack of coverage

Common Complaints

Fatigue

Substance consumption

1-5 cigarettes/day



lack of protection  
85% lack of birth control use

## CHALLENGE

↳ lack of support + resources after graduation.

↳ many supports that students are not eligible for  
↳ declined for funding + declined grants

52% ANXIETY  
29% DEPRESSION

↑ instances of anemia + B12 deficiencies + hypertension

increased engagement



Students had positive experiences w/ female nurses.

↳ unplanned pregnancies

7 DAYS  
24 HRS



IMPORTANT RESOURCE

FOR international students

PARENT THAT PROTECTS

- \* no food
- \* no friends
- \* no home
- \* big expenses
- + difficult jobs

- ↳ students who do co-op
- ↳ summer school



We can all make a difference  
 "these are our children"  
 think from the heart

POSITIVES

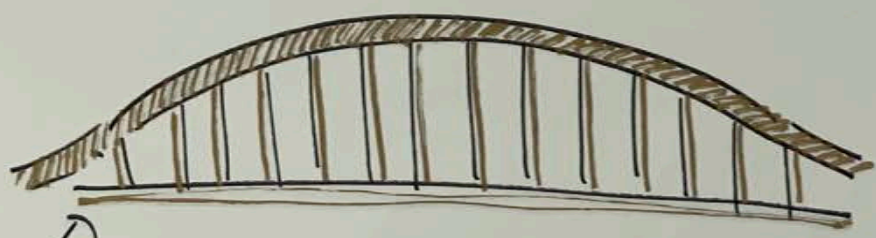
- ↳ improvement to economy
- ↳ bring down theft
- ↳ reduce human trafficking

Remove →

**BARRIERS**

**soch**  
mental health

- ↳ conduct mental health evaluations
- ↳ help students transition into the work force



BRIDGE THE GAP

# JASPREET

- ★ Works for the civil liberties organization
- ★ 31 member / mostly female + young people
- ★ legal accom. for articles of faith
- ★ Sikh refugees in Afghanistan support
- ★ Punjabi legal council

# WHAT'S MISSING



→ need allowance of more than 20 hrs of work

DISMANTLE THE CAKE → exemptions for academic probation  
→ recognition of disabilities + granting accommodations

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF DIRE CONDITIONS OF LIVELIHOODS

"operate with compassion."

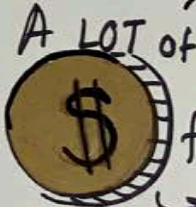
PROBATION

DIRE CONSEQUENCES

72 years of income to pay off tuition

prevents academic engagement

→ lack of funding for higher edu.



A LOT of \$ for UNIS

→ leads to mental health issues

"students are drowning in systemic situations"

no protection

## PROBLEMS



- lead to deficits
- differences in academic cultures + system
- students are overwhelmed + don't understand expectations
- need comprehensive education

PUNJABI INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

paying huge fees

big investment of resources

come from rural farm communities

# DIVERSITY

of  
Student Experience

## TUTORING

- ↳ soft - skills
- ↳ bi-weekly sessions + test preparation

## LIBRARY SUPPORTS

- ↳ help with employability

## 18 VIRTUAL COMMUNITIES

- ↳ Support with academic advisors + upper level students

## STUDENT AMBASSADORS

## EDUCATION ON ACADEMIC INTEGRITY



BILL 21

# BRAMPTON City

## Council panel

more students

WE NEED Affordable PLACES TO LIVE

DEDICATED SECTION FOR HOUSING

challenges

to live  
to survive

future leaders

grow a family

voters

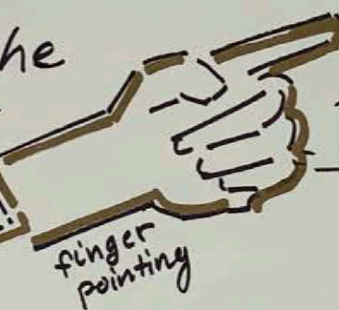
LOANS WITH 10% FORGIVENESS

Remove the and move forward

Call for support  
PEEL REGION SUPPORT

may lead to crime

ROBUST CONVERSATION



finger pointing



nurturing neighbourhood program

"we give supports at the region of Peel who need health and youth supports."

"How do we make the city attractive for **EVERYONE**?"

establish trust

BOOMING ARTS CULTURE

MEETING THE MAYOR

RIDE ALONGS

MORE CRICKET

# Make Ontario a more welcoming place



IF YOU WORK HARD, YOU CAN SUCCEED

NEED TO STEP UP

HOUSING SHORTAGE

LAND OF OPPORTUNITY

PARMIN  
What is the government doing to break stereotypes?

**PROTECTION AGAINST exploitation?**  
→ REFUSE UNSAFE WORK  
→ GET IN TOUCH: WITH MINISTRY OF LABOUR

# ACCOUNTABILITY

## TO ENHANCE STUDENT EXPERIENCE

NO  
false information  
in marketing to  
prospective students

TRUTH IN ADVERTISING

ASOS ACT

→ Australian education  
changes

→ TUITION  
ASSURANCE



MAKING  
SURE ALL  
Voices ARE  
HEARD

LIK: -  
LIKISA - FOCUS ON  
STUDENT NEEDS

↙ advise  
line +  
training  
provided



→ active  
partici-  
pation  
from students

↔ funded  
by the  
English + Scottish  
government

★ BRING AWARENESS

★ CELEBRATE  
EDUCATION

NEW ZEALAND:

CODES TO  
REGULATE EDUCATIONAL  
PROVIDERS TO MAKE  
SURE THERE IS STUDENT

→ Safety & Well-being →

building  
relationships  
+  
trust



# SHIFTING

the

# INTERNATIONAL

# STUDENT experience

accessibility } add to  
gender } intersectionality

ONE VOICE



> outreach through social media

> students need to share their experience w/ employers + landlords

International

economic contributors

face a lot of barriers



Nicolas

↳ from Hong Kong  
↳ covered numerous student stories

the narrative shift from foreign to

"We need to add more voices"

How do we  at international students?  
resilient + strong



We have to cover stories that others aren't covering.

WSO

ORGANIZATION

⇒ poor mental health

⇒ poor living conditions (sharing space w/ many other students)

⇒ students can't work more than 20 hrs/week

↳ many end up working cash jobs

⇒ dealing with wage theft

"WE NEED TO FIND SOLUTIONS AND MORE INTERNATIONAL VOICES + STORIES, SO WE CAN ENACT POLICIES"

> policy to bring more international students  
> they are our community

Courage to move from home



ENTRY TO CANADA



treading on a bumpy road

COMPLETE STUDIES

GET A JOB

MOVE TO A SMALL TOWN AND WOR/BURN OUT

TRANSFER HOPES AND DREAMS TO MY CHILDREN



50% of people report concerns

# LOOKING BACK

WE ARE AGENTS OF CHANGE



## CULTIVATE YOUR LEADERSHIP

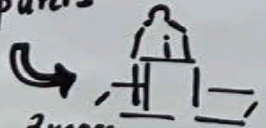
"Create collective action."

LUAN



Kick start that career

from computers



3 years later



to speaking on stage

CLARITY IS KINDNESS

- Maria

WE NEED THE HELP

"see a human being on a journey"

> We need an understanding + a baseline knowledge of student needs.