

**DESH PARDESH**  
**Founding Membership Meeting**  
**March 28, 1993**

**RESOLUTIONS**

1.     **Resolution #1**  
That Desh Pardesh be established as a permanent organization according to the objectives and principles outlined by the Desh Pardesh working committee in October 1992 (see attached)
  
2.     **Resolution #2**  
That membership in Desh Pardesh be open to all people of South Asian origin who pay a one dollar membership fee.
  
3.     **Resolution #3**  
That Desh Pardesh continue to base it's operations primarily in the Metro Toronto area
  
4.     **Resolution #4**  
That the Board of Directors of Desh Pardesh be made up of eleven members all elected at large by membership election at the Annual Membership meetings and that the Board be structured in the following manner:  
One representative from the UK  
One representative from the US  
One representative from Canada West of Ontario  
One representative from Canada East of Ontario  
Seven representatives from Toronto
  
5.     **Resolution #5**  
That annual membership meetings be held in conjunction with the Desh Pardesh annual festival.
  
6.     **Elections for Board of Directors**  
The founding Board of Directors of Desh Pardesh:

UK representative	Ian Rashid
US representative	Radhika Balakrishnan
Canada West of Ontario	Fatima Jaffer
Canada East of Ontario	Dolores Chew
Toronto:	Deborah Barretto
	Sarojini Lanj
	Deena Ladd
	Kalpesh Oza
	Steve Pereira
	Zul Hirji
	Shyam Selvadurai

# **DESH PARDESH**

*Home Away From Home*

## **OBJECTIVES & PRINCIPLES**

*As accepted by the Desh Pardesh Working Committee  
October 1992*

1. To establish Desh Pardesh as an Ontario organization of South Asian artists, cultural producers and activists to facilitate new expressions, and encourage the development of Diasporic South Asian arts, culture and politics in the West according to the following **operating principles**:
  - a. Desh Pardesh strives to forge links among local South Asian artists and cultural producers in Ontario as well as with their counterparts across Canada and throughout the West.
  - b. Desh Pardesh is lesbian and gay positive, feminist, anti-racist, anti-imperialist and anti caste/classist. Desh exists to ensure that the voices and expressions of those constituencies in the South Asian community which are systematically silenced are provided with a community forum. In particular, independent artists, cultural producers and activists who are women, lesbians and gays, people with disabilities & working class people and seniors.
  - c. Desh Pardesh is a secular organization that recognizes the historical, geographical, linguistic, and religious diversity within the South Asian community. Desh is opposed to all forms of religious fundamentalism, communalism, and works to forward the voices of all cultural and linguistic groups in the South Asian community equally with emphasis on those whose histories and artistic/cultural expressions are least understood in the South Asian context, namely South Asians in the Diaspora.
  - d. Desh Pardesh works in concert with other communities, artists, and activists of colour with compatible objectives to make links between South Asian, First Nations and people of colour cultures and communities.
2. To organize an annual festival and conference to facilitate broad community participation and involvement in the realization of the above objectives.

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3. To create a network and resource/data bank of South Asian artists, cultural producers & activists for the purpose of mutual support, exchange and creative dialogue .
4. To facilitate the development of independent groups of South Asian artists & activists to create specific projects which further the cultural, artistic and political aspirations of their constituency or discipline.
5. To run workshops, seminars and other training & development sessions for independent artists and cultural producers in the South Asian community.
6. To produce publications, reports, newsletters and audio-visual documents to further the work of the organization as necessary.