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Media Advisory
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Museum of Health Care Announces Upcoming Display Celebrating Kingston's First Doctor of Indian Origin

(KINGSTON, ON) – A new display at Kingston's Museum of Health Care will tell the story of Dr. Lajjavati Mohan, the first doctor of Indian origin to practice in Kingston.

Opening to the public on October 12th, the display will feature objects and photographs that trace the life and work of Dr. Mohan, who is an important figure to Kingston's Indo-Canadian and medical communities. Dr. Mohan moved to Kingston in 1957 and was one of very few female physicians in Kingston at the time, and the first of Indian diaspora. She began her medical practice in the Kingston area in 1959, and was also a gynecology and associate staff member at the Kingston General Hospital and Hotel Dieu Hospital, before her passing in 1995.

Created in partnership with the India-Canada Association of Kingston, the Dr. Mohan display is part of the Museum of Health Care's ongoing efforts to provide a platform for cultural communities in Kingston to share their stories. "Dr. Mohan's story is amazing," says Museum Curator, Maxime Chouinard. "From her service in the Second World War to her arrival in Kingston, right at the time when Canada was reforming its immigration policies. She is a subject of pride for the Indo-Canadian community of Kingston, and I believe hers is an important tale to share, especially in today's world," he adds.

The India-Canada Association of Kingston (ICA) is a non-profit and non-political community organization that has formally existed in the Kingston area since 1979. Their mission is to contribute significantly to the preservation, awareness and promotion of Indo-Canadian cultural heritage in the Greater Kingston Area.

"By several accounts, Dr. Mohan was well liked by her patients, and continued to make house-calls in and around the Kingston area well into her sixties," says Naresh Naran, volunteer and past president of ICA Kingston. "Dr. Mohan's achievements, despite all the societal challenges faced as a woman of colour in an era in which sexism and racism were commonplace, are indeed an inspiration to us all. We are grateful for the efforts of Mrs. Sushma Sarada, Dr. Inder Sarada, Mr. Vipin Kumar, Maxime and others that have contributed in making this commemoration possible."

The Dr. Mohan display will be open for public viewing at the Museum of Health Care at 32 George Street beginning October 12th. Through the fall and winter, the Museum is open to the public Tuesday to Friday from 10am to 4pm; admission is by donation.

The Museum of Health Care invites media to view this new display and interview those who participated in its development. Please contact the Museum at 613-548-2419 or info@museumofhealthcare.ca to make arrangements.

For more information, contact: Kevin Moorhouse, Museum Manager and Program Director
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