



Bisman Kaur

BOD CANDIDATE

1. Provide a brief introduction of yourself.

I completed my high school education in 2022 from Holy Child Senior Secondary School. After graduation, I took a gap year to fulfill the necessary requirements for applying to Conestoga College. It was a challenging journey—filled with hard work, determination, and perseverance—but my efforts paid off when I got accepted. Moving to a completely new country at the age of 18 was daunting, but my parents always encouraged me to face challenges with courage. They never let fear overpower me, constantly reminding me to stay focused on my goals.

Through my involvement in student life, I discovered the Sikh Students Association (SSA) in January 2024, and it completely changed my perspective. In April, I took on the role of Vice President, which significantly enhanced my leadership, communication, and people skills. I later became the President of SSA, a position that has deeply enriched my personality, strengthened my confidence, and helped me feel more connected to my faith. This journey has been nothing short of life-changing, allowing me to grow in ways I never imagined.

2. What inspired you to run for this position and what do you hope to accomplish if elected?

I am inspired to run for the CSI Board of Directors because I am passionate about student leadership, advocacy, and creating a welcoming environment where every student feels supported and engaged. As an international student, I understand how overwhelming it can be to adjust to a new environment. Many students hesitate to participate in extracurricular activities due to shyness, fear, or lack of awareness of the benefits. I want to change that by ensuring that all students, especially new ones, feel comfortable and encouraged to be part of the CSI community.

3. What qualities and skills do you have that make you a strong student leader and effective board member?

I believe that a strong student leader should be passionate, adaptable, and committed to making a difference, and I embody these qualities through my experiences in leadership, advocacy, and community service.

One of my biggest strengths is my passion for advocacy. From an early age, I have been actively involved in school debates, Model United Nations (MUN), and public speaking competitions, which have helped me develop critical thinking, communication, and persuasion skills. These experiences have strengthened my ability to listen to diverse perspectives, engage in meaningful discussions, and represent student voices effectively.

4. Why should students vote for you and what sets you apart from other candidates?

If elected, I will:

- Advocate for student concerns and work towards meaningful solutions.
- Support mental health initiatives to ensure students have access to the resources they need.
- Encourage student involvement to create a stronger, more connected campus community.
- Make well-informed, practical decisions that prioritize students' best interests.

I am committed to making a positive, lasting impact at Conestoga. If you want a leader who is dedicated, approachable, and ready to take action, vote for me!

5. What are some of the most pressing issues facing students on campus and how do you propose to address them through your work with the student association?

One of the most pressing issues students face on campus is mental health. The pressures of academic life, adjusting to a new environment, and managing personal challenges can often lead to stress, anxiety, and feelings of isolation. I've seen many students struggle with these issues, and it's clear that more support is needed to help students maintain their mental well-being.

6. How do you plan to engage with students from diverse backgrounds and ensure their perspectives are represented in the board's decision making process?

I believe that fostering an inclusive environment requires a deep understanding of diverse perspectives, and I bring a unique balance to this as someone who has grown up in India, a country known for its rich cultural and religious diversity, and attended a Christian school while being a practicing Sikh. This background has taught me to appreciate and respect all cultures and religions, and I have always strived to create spaces where everyone feels comfortable and heard.

