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### **Scholarship created in memory of BC's first Indo-Canadian Mayor**

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Golden, BC. -- With the loss of their favourite son, the Golden community hopes his life will become a perpetual beacon for local students and their pursuit of politics.

Greatly admired in the Columbia Valley, Mayor Aman Virk passed away suddenly on March 26<sup>th</sup> while visiting family in India. He was only 39 years old. Shadowing his impact, friends from around the world have donated to a memorial scholarship created in his name.

"Local government was more than a passion and a duty for Aman Virk – it was a way of life," explained Golden's Manager of Corporate Services, Jon Wilsgard. "We have lost an unforgettable citizen and charismatic natural leader who humbled us with his dedication and inspired us with his humanity."

Considered a great facilitator, he ensured all sides of an issue were considered. Raised in Golden, Virk left after high school but could not leave the small mountain town behind. He was a business owner, a Rotary Club President, instrumental in creating the Mount 7 Rec Plex and Town Councillor for 12 years before becoming Mayor in December 2008. The only thing that equalled his love of his community was his love of family, as a son, a husband and a father.

A Scholarship Fund has been started by family and has received interest from around the world. The Aman Virk Memorial Scholarship Fund is accepting donations from individuals and groups that want to help recognize his achievements and ensure that young people will always be able share his commitment to community. The award will go annually to a Golden Secondary School graduate who expresses an interest in studying political science at university.

"Together with community support," said long-time friend and Golden & District Community Foundation Chair, Glen Ewan, "we will continue to honour Aman's vision of supporting exceptional Golden youth toward their studies of political science."

To make a contribution, cheques or money orders, payable to the Golden & District Community Foundation – Virk Fund, can be mailed to the Foundation at Box 1485, Golden, BC V0A 1H0.

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