

Aditya Jha

President & CEO, Karma Candy Inc, Canada >>

Co-founder, Osellus Inc., Canada & Osellus Asia Pacific Company Limited, Thailand >>

Founder & Chairman, POA Educational Foundation >>

Chair, UNICEF Canada India HIV/AIDS Campaign >>

Board Member, First Nations Financial Management Board >>

Board Member, Ontario Investment & Trade Advisory Council (OITAC) >>

Board Member, Brainhunter Inc. (TSX: BH) >>

National Convenor, Canada India Foundation (CIF) >>

Follow Aditya Jha on Twitter ([jhaaditya](#))

A philanthropist & community worker at heart and an entrepreneur with passion, Aditya Jha's life journey in Canada is about building a successful career/ entrepreneurial venture and in the process help cause of Canada. Through his entrepreneurial feats of actualizing dream with high risk taking as well as his acts of generous giving to those outside his community; he has demonstrated a rare sensitivity towards the societal needs of Canada.

Aditya is President & CEO of Karma Candy Inc, one of North America's largest contract manufacturer of branded and premium private label chocolate and candy products. It manufactures for some of the top national and international confectionery brands as well as for global retailers. He is also Co-Founder of Osellus Inc., Canada and Osellus Asia Pacific Ltd, Thailand. Prior to this, Aditya co-founded a software company, Isopia Inc., Canada, which was acquired by Sun Microsystems in July 2001. He had a successful career at Bell Canada as General Manager, eBusiness & Product Marketing before he co-founded Isopia. Aditya also founded a private charitable foundation (POA Educational Foundation) in 2001 and has created endowments (\$815,000) at four institutions (Ryerson University, York University, Trent University and George Brown College), and these endowments grant in total thirteen scholarship awards (\$40,000 annually) to students (large focus on students from the aboriginal community of Canada). He is the Chairperson for UNICEF Canada India HIV/AIDS campaign (\$3 Million). Aditya sponsors and is running a unique initiative (fifth year) in the area of Venture Philanthropy working with the office of the Grand Chief of Nishnawbe Aski Nation as well as Ryerson University and Trent University to nurture entrepreneurship within aboriginal communities of Canada (<http://www.projectbeyshick.com/>).

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An entrepreneur in pursuit of excellence

Aditya is Chairman & CEO of Karma Candy Inc, one of the largest Canadian contract manufacturer of branded and premium private label chocolate and candy products. Prior to this, he co-founded a software company, Isopia Inc., after having a successful career at Bell Canada as General Manager, eBusiness and Product Marketing. In July 2001, despite the downturn in the technology industry, Isopia was a major acquisition by Sun Microsystems Inc., USA. Subsequently, he co-founded another software product company, Osellus Inc., Canada and Osellus Asia Pacific Company Limited, Thailand. He also has business interests in hotel, real estate and fast-food industry.

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Aditya's recent speeches

- Dr. Aditya Jha's remarks at the 'Ted Rogers Business School CEO Outlook Conference' - Engaging India: Doing Business with a rising Giant »

- Ryerson University Honorary Doctorate Convocation Speech by Aditya Jha: "What Got Us Here, Won't Take Us there" »

- Starting & Managing Successful Venture: A new Canadian's Perspective »

- Giving - A charity to self or others

Keynote speech by Aditya Jha at annual gala of AIM for SEVA»

- Diwali Recognition Speech (Event:Diwali Dhamaka Location: Mississauga)»

- Reflections on moving forward CANADA-INDIA Educational Initiatives (Event:Canada - India Research Roundtable at York University Location: Schulich Business School)»

- Talk at the Sangam Conference at Schulich School of Business for the Technology Panel »

- Project Beyshick Business Plan Award ceremony (Ontario Legislature) »

- "Rising Tide lifts all Boats" - NAN Business Award Gala in Timmins »

- Ryerson reception to recognize and thank Aditya »

Read Also ...

- A word from the chairman »

- About the Foundation »

{/styleboxop}Nurturing entrepreneurs, supporting higher education through private foundation

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Aditya also founded his private charitable foundation (POA Educational Foundation) in 2001 and has created endowments at four institutions (Ryerson University, York University, Trent University and George Brown College), and these endowments grant in total thirteen bursary awards (\$42,000 annually) in perpetuity to students. He was the Chairperson for UNICEF Canada India HIV/AIDS campaign (\$3 Million) and one of the Cabinet Members for Ryerson University Business School's capital campaign (\$72 Million).

His private foundation (www.poafoundation.org) has also supported other projects: with Ryerson University a research project on Economic Value of Indo-Canadians; Pathways Education Program for the inner-city kids of Regent Park community in Toronto; Share the Music program of Roy Thomson Hall through endowment to give Canadian aboriginal youth access to best musical performances in Toronto; Defibrillator project at the Trillium Hospital, Mississauga; Toronto International Film Festival as Gold Patron; Canadian Museum of Human Rights; 50 student residence for kids from landless families in Bihar, India ; and Nelson Mandela Children's Fund and various other charitable causes. He also supports the yearly \$15,000 Business Plan & \$5,000 Career Plan Contest award for the First Nation individual participating in Project Beyshick. He has supported digital literacy project by donating laptop and desktops to 150 kids in Nepal.

Accolades and awards that reflects pursuit of excellence

Aditya is the appointee of Government of Canada to the Board of Directors of First Nations Financial Management Board, of Government of Ontario to Ontario Investment & Trade Advisory Council (OITAC) and Advisory Council Member of Dean, School of Social Services, Ryerson University.

Aditya was conferred Honorary Doctorate at Ryerson University's Ted Rogers School of Management in 2009. He is the Canadian Immigrant magazine's (Toronto Star) Top 25 Canadian Immigrants 2010 for his achievement and contributions that have positively changed the face of Canada since arrival and is inductee to the Top 30 Most Influential Indo Canadians of India Abroad magazine Power List 2009. He was awarded the 2008 Desi News Grant's Community Achievers Awards. The Indo Canada Chamber of Commerce (ICCC) awarded its 2004 "Technology Achievement Award" for his achievements in the field of Technology. He was awarded CEO award in 1998 from BCE Inc. for his innovative work at Bell Canada; President's Award at Bell Nexxia in 1999 and was selected as President's Club member at Bell Canada in 1997.

Professional achievements: the intellectual capital

He was an Adjunct Faculty at the National University of Singapore (1989-94). He has been an invited speaker at the Ted Rogers Business School, Ryerson University; Schulich Business School, York University; Rotman Business School, University of Toronto; and University of Ontario Institute of Technology and other prestigious institutions in Canada and abroad. His approach to philanthropy is featured in the Economist Intelligence Unit (Economist magazine) report entitled "The New World of Wealth-Seven key trends for investing, giving & spending among the very rich" and also presented before the Standing Senate Committee on Foreign Affairs & International Trade on Rise of China, India and Russia and its implication on Canadian policy. Aditya was the Keynote speaker at the 16th Annual Nishnawbe Aski Nation Business Awards in 2006 and AIM for SEVA annual Gala in 2007. He has published/presented papers in several international journals/conferences, has served as Editorial Review Board member of two prestigious journals and has been invited speaker at various international conferences (USA, Paris, Holland, Canada, Hong Kong, Singapore, India etc.) as well as has moderated three business roundtables for increased trade linkages between India and Canada. He is a Toronto Star "My City Your City" blogger. Aditya started his professional career after investing 4½ years as Research Scholar at School of Computer & Systems Sciences, Jawaharlal Nehru University, India and has M.Sc. in Mathematical Statistics & Post Graduate Diploma in Computer Science.

Motivated for Community Building

He is the National Convenor of Canada India Foundation which focuses on public policy advocacy in Canada India corridor and has recently concluded an MOU for \$10 Million endowment for setting up Canada India Public Policy Centre at the University of Waterloo. He is actively involved with the new Canadian groups of Indian, Nepalese, Sri Lankan, and Pakistani origin in Canada and had been a Keynote speaker at their events as well. He is a Charter Member of the prestigious Indus Entrepreneur Group and has served on the Board of the Indo-Canada Chamber of Commerce.

Recent Articles in Media:

- "What it takes to succeed in business - Candy magnate Aditya Jha shares his secrets to sweet success" [Link >>](#)

- "Passion makes things happen" [Link >>](#)
- "Natives get a hand up from Indo-Canadian" [Link >>](#)
- "'Spirit of art' led curator to ROM" - [Link >>](#)
- "Toronto philanthropist Aditya Jha talks of charity" [Link >>](#)
- "From Different Worlds" [Link >>](#)
- "We are the New Radicals" - book by Julia Moulden [Link >>](#)
- "CBC Radio One - First Nations Entrepreneurs" [Link >>](#)

Some Personal Quotes:

- In Life, you always get more than what you deserve or less than what you deserve - You never quite get just the right amount. If you get less you must work harder & smarter, and if you get more then you must give back;
- Before I became active with 'giving' to charitable causes, I looked at giving as charity to others. Now, I see giving as charity to myself. You are giving to your expanded self, your passion, your talent to make your desired changes and to your obligation to payback to the favorite social circumstances as only those favourable social circumstances allow people like yourself, your kids and for all, that you care about to prosper;
- We never have spare money to give but I have no doubt in my mind that we can always spare to give;
- Nobel laureate, Herbert Simon estimated that the "social capital" is responsible for at least 90% of what people earn in wealthy societies. I am trying to make a case that all of us have obligation to give and pay back to that "Social Capital" and ALL of us can "SPARE to Give";
- I strongly believe that a handful of well intentioned First Nation leadership, with an open mind, great deal of determination, and certain degree of impatience to shake-up the existing mode of aboriginal business operation in partnership with corporate Canada that can make the First Nation community a highly prosperous community too;
- Smart hard work takes you much farther than just being smart or just working hard;
- Don't start a business only because you have a great idea or you don't have a regular job. Ask yourself if you have the passion to work on it . Passion will make things happen for you. ';