

THE NEW VIEW



TAKE A GOOD LOOK

1 - 2 *AGM & Economic Development*

3 *Skye Avenue Kitchen + Lounge*

4 *Hub Liquor Store*

5 *Eat kanadiyan*

6 *Umami Ramen*

7 *Black Bond Books*

8 *Community Calendar*

12 *Community Engagement*

13 *Interview With Our Past Intern*

AGM & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

If you are a member of the Downtown Surrey BIA, you won't want to miss this year's Annual General Meeting. Arrive between 11:15am-11:40am so you can register to vote. All commercial property owners within the DSRIA boundaries and pay into the BIA Levy through your property taxes or you operate a business out of one of the commercial properties within the Downtown Surrey Business Improvement Area are entitled to vote.



The meeting will start promptly at 11:45am. At the AGM, you will be asked to vote on the 2023 Audit, our 2024 budget and the slate of people standing to be a Director for the Board for 2024-2026 (note: there are no nominations accepted from the floor). All information will be available in advance on our website <https://www.downtownsurreybia.com/About/AGM> in advance and a package will be provided upon registration. At the end of the AGM, we will be recognizing two long serving Board members for their service to the organization.

AGM & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Following the AGM, a lunch buffet will be provided – no charge. You can have lunch while you enjoy the opportunity to network.

The highlight this year will be our guest speaker, Andrew Ramlo who will start at 12.30 with a Q & A to follow. The topic discussed is **Changing people, Changing places - growth and change in the lower mainland**, hosted by our Economic Development Committee.

Andrew Ramlo is the Vice President of Advisory Services for Rennie, Andrew leads the advisory team in providing analytical and strategic support for real estate developers, investors, retailers, local and provincial governments, crown corporations, and public agencies.

Wednesday, February 21	Civic Hotel
Schedule DSBIA AGM	
11:15-11:40am	● Arrive at Civic Hotel, Civic Ballroom
11:45am	● AGM starts ending with special recognition of two long serving Directors
Lunch & Guest Speaker	
12:00 noon	● Lunch Buffet starts, arrival of attendees for the Economic Development Committees presentation by Andrew Ramlo.
12:30	● Andrew Ramlo, speaker and Q & A
1:15pm	● Business Card Draw

330 - 10362 KING GEORGE BLVD., SURREY, BC V3T 2W5

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SKYE AVENUE KITCHEN + LOUNGE

By Farrel Ermono

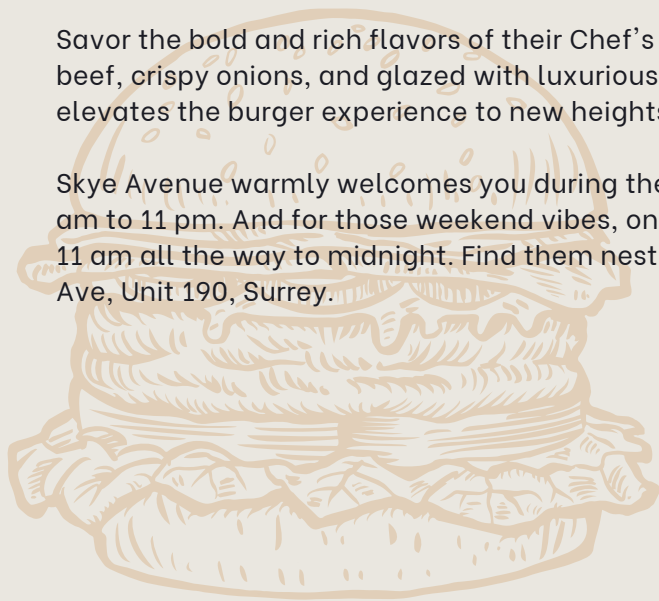
SKYE Avenue Lounge, a recently opened restaurant at Central City, seamlessly fuses together an artfully curated culinary journey. SKYE Avenue Kitchen & Lounge embarks on a flavorful journey, showcasing artisanal craftsmanship and offering an extensive selection of spirits and wines. Their menus are thoughtfully prepared, highlighting the richness of Canadian cuisine infused with delightful European and Asian influences.

Their diverse menu offerings include Lunch, Dinner, Cocktail & Wine, and Dessert, with Brunch and No Rush Hour menus soon to join the lineup. Additionally, Skye Avenue is eagerly awaiting the debut of its curated whiskey collections, soon to grace their menu.

Delight your taste buds with their exquisite dishes, such as the Beef Carpaccio. Crafted from meat sourced from Snake River Farm, aged Pecorino Toscano, truffle cookies, and arugula, this dish offers paper-thin slices of ultra-fresh raw beef adorned with creamy, nutty Pecorino Toscano cheese, while fresh arugula adds a spicy kick, elevating this starter to perfection.

Savor the bold and rich flavors of their Chef's Burger, prepared with house-ground organic-fed beef, crispy onions, and glazed with luxurious truffle aioli. Accompanied by sea salt fries, this dish elevates the burger experience to new heights.

Skye Avenue warmly welcomes you during the operating hours: From Sunday to Thursday, from 11 am to 11 pm. And for those weekend vibes, on Fridays and Saturdays, they open a little later, from 11 am all the way to midnight. Find them nestled in the heart of Central City Mall at 13450 102 Ave, Unit 190, Surrey.



BOTTLEWORKS LIQUOR STORE

By Farrel Ermono

Exciting News! A brand new shop has just opened its doors at King George HUB. Welcome to Bottle Works, conveniently located in Unit #135 at King George Hub. Step inside to discover a world of craft beer, cider, boutique wines, and specialty spirits right in the heart of Downtown Surrey. With over 20 cold doors, you're sure to find something that tickles your taste buds. Bottle Works is here to serve you from 10 am to 11 pm, making it your go-to spot for a wide selection of beverages throughout the day. But what really sets them apart is their exceptional service. Online reviews rave about the store's convenience, cleanliness, and the friendly and helpful staff.



Prices are competitive with other local stores, and you can find anything you're looking for here. Plus, the knowledgeable staff are always ready with great tips and recommendations to elevate your shopping experience. Adding to its convenience, Bottle Works has now partnered with UberEats for delivery services. Making it even easier to enjoy your favorite beverages without leaving your home. Whether you're hosting a last-minute gathering, need to replenish your stock, or simply want to enjoy a quiet evening in, Bottle Works is your one-stop solution. With this feature, you can browse their extensive selection of drinks online, place your order through UberEats, and have it delivered straight to your door.

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EAT KANADIYAN

By Farrel Ermono

Are you tired of the same old food options you've been ordering for the past two weeks? We've got just the place to cure your culinary boredom: Eat Kanadiyan! You'll find it conveniently located inside Lucky Supermarket at the Dell Shopping Centre, and if you're in the mood to stay in, you can even order through UberEats.

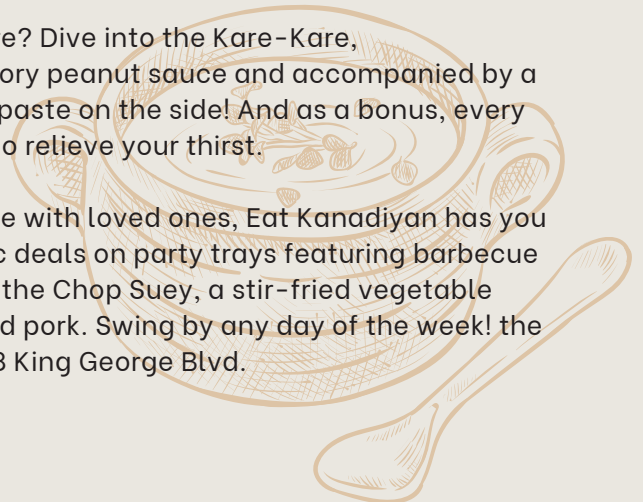
Eat Kanadiyan serves up dishes inspired by the rich culinary traditions of the Philippines. Filipino cuisine has evolved over centuries, blending Austronesian roots with influences from Malays, Chinese, Spanish, American, and indigenous cultures. The result? A delectable fusion of sweet, sour, salty, and spicy flavors that will tickle your taste buds.



You must try their signature dish, the Crisporsilog. Picture this: super crispy pork paired with fragrant garlic rice, two perfectly cooked eggs, a side of vegetables, and a garnish of fresh green onions and black pepper. To top it off, it comes with a flavorful spiced vinegar for that extra zing.

Craving something different from the usual rice-based fare? Dive into the Kare-Kare, a hearty beef stew featuring beef tripe, all bathed in a savory peanut sauce and accompanied by a variety of green leafy vegetables. Don't forget the shrimp paste on the side! And as a bonus, every Kare-Kare order comes with a complimentary can of pop to relieve your thirst.

If you're planning a celebration or just a cozy feast at home with loved ones, Eat Kanadiyan has you covered with their party packages. You can enjoy fantastic deals on party trays featuring barbecue pork or chicken skewers. Another mouthwatering option is the Chop Suey, a stir-fried vegetable delight, enhanced with the savory goodness of chicken and pork. Swing by any day of the week! the doors are open from 9 am to 7 pm, waiting for you at 10628 King George Blvd.



UMAMI RAMEN + GRILL

By Farrel Ermono

Last week, I was in the mood for something warm to eat and ended up near Surrey Central Station. That's when I spotted Umami Ramen. I decided to pop in around 2 pm, after most people had finished lunch, for a quieter time. The lady at the front gave me a friendly welcome, which was nice in the quiet restaurant. I'm a student at SFU, studying communication, and I was actually looking for a local business to write about. Plus, Umami Ramen was close to my office, making it a convenient spot to try out.

The vibe of Umami Ramen was authentic and welcoming. It was clean, filled with Japanese decorations that made the space feel genuine and inviting. Despite its size and the number of tables, it maintained a cozy atmosphere. The lady running the place was super friendly and made me feel like I was more of a guest than a customer.

I was there for ramen but found out they serve a whole range of dishes, even South Asian ones like Tom Yum, Malaysian Roti Canai, and Hainanese Chicken. I stuck with my craving and ordered the beef ramen. As I waited, I tested out their Wi-Fi, thinking this could be a decent spot to work from occasionally. The internet was surprisingly good - I managed to watch some YouTube videos in high quality without any issues.

My ramen arrived quickly, within about 10 minutes, and the portion was huge for \$15. Diving into the broth, it was creamy, with spices that hit just the right note. The bowl was packed with beef slices, a boiled egg, black fungus mushrooms, and bamboo shoots. The noodles themselves were soft and soaked up the broth beautifully. I also got a lemon tea, which was really refreshing, especially with real lemon slices in it.

Overall, my lunch at Umami Ramen felt like a little adventure. It wasn't just about trying out a new place to eat; it was about experiencing the warmth and unexpected surprises of a local spot. The blend of authentic Japanese ambiance with a touch of homey service made it a memorable meal.



BLACK BOND BOOKS

By Hannah Gill



Looking to hit your reading goal this year? Look no further than Black Bond Books. Nestled in the heart of the Central City Shopping Centre, this proudly independent Canadian bookstore carries a legacy spanning three generations of book lovers. Celebrating its 60th anniversary this past October since its establishment in Manitoba in 1963, the store's timeless charm makes it a must-visit literary landscape.

The store offers a warm and welcoming ambiance and draws you in with its colourful and thematic displays. The business prides itself on catering to the unique tastes of its customers, tailoring its selection to the diverse interests of the community. Immerse yourself in their most popular collections featuring manga, romance, and young adult titles, or explore their wide variety of other genres such as self-development, history, or children's books. Beyond its array of stories, Black Bond Books ensures its collection has something for everyone to enjoy through its stunning assortment of journals, puzzles, and board games.

What sets Black Bond Books apart is its exceptional customer service. The staff are knowledgeable and passionate about books and take great pleasure in helping customers of all reading levels discover the perfect book. Searching for a specific title? No worries! Staff are delighted to help locate items in stock or order books into the store free of shipping or duty fees. Online reviews consistently rave about the store's supportive staff, the competitive pricing, and repeatedly call it their favourite place to shop.

Black Bond Books is not just a bookstore but an engaging part of the community, hosting exciting events like meet and greets and book signings with your favourite authors. Whether you're an avid reader, searching for the perfect gift, or simply eager to learn something new, Black Bond Books is the perfect spot to explore!

Dear,
I feel that
you would upset
your nerves
strong. Glad to
cover and the
see you.
Have a
great
time

COMMUNITY CALENDAR



FEBRUARY

Babytime Wednesdays | 10:00 am - 10:30 am | City Centre Branch This program is for babies 0-1 and their caregiver. Join us for songs, stories, rhymes and bounces to help your baby develop speech and language skills. After a 30 minute storytime, there will be a social time for babies and their caregivers.! 604.598.7427 or surreylibraries.ca

Family Storytime Fridays | 10:00 am - 10:30 am | City Centre Branch This program is for children of all ages and their caregivers. Join us for fun stories and songs for the whole family! Help imaginations grow and build a love of reading

Mini Meat Draws and 50/50 Draws Every Saturday and Sunday tickets on sale at 5pm at Whalley Legion #102 - 10626 City Parkway, Surrey.

Live Bands at Whalley Legion every Friday, Saturday and Sunday evening at Whalley Legion

Craft 'N' Yarn Tuesdays 6-8:30pm City Centre Branch Join us for a casual crafting session. Bring your current project to work on in the company of others. Crafters of all kinds, abilities, and ages welcome. City Centre Branch 10350 University Drive, Surrey, British Columbia V3T 4B8

Family Fun Saturdays 2-4pm This program is for children of all ages and their caregivers. Join us for KEVA® Planks and board games for the whole family.

Family LEGO® Club Saturday 2-4pm City Centre Branch 10350 University Drive, Surrey, British Columbia V3T 4B8 Room 120 Contact 604-598-7426

Microsoft® Office Champion Friday 2:30-4:30pm Are you ready to take your Microsoft Office Word, Excel & PowerPoint skills to the next level? Join our upcoming workshop and become a champion in Microsoft Office. Sign up now and take the first step toward your dream job! Priority is given to Permanent Resident, Convention Refugee, Live-in Caregiver and CUAET holders In Partnership with Options and Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada City Centre Branch 10350 University Drive, Surrey, British Columbia V3T 4B8 Room: Computer Learning Centre Contact jay.kim@options.bc.ca 604-954-0486 Registration Required

- 02** | **Kick off Black History Month** 3pm – 7pm at Surrey Arts Centre – 13750 88 Avenue Surrey
- 06** | **Karaoke** at Whalley Legion 7–11pm
- 07** | **LA Bingo Wednesdays** at Whalley Legion from 1–3pm
- 09** | **Winter Opening and Panel Discussion** 6:30–9pm Surrey Arts Centre
– 13750 88 Avenue Surrey Free
- 13** | **Karaoke** at Whalley Legion 7–11pm
- 14** | **LA Bingo Wednesdays** at Whalley Legion from 1–3pm
- 20** | **Karaoke** at Whalley Legion 7–11pm
- 21** | **LA Bingo Wednesdays** at Whalley Legion from 1–3pm
- 21** | **BLAC Film screening** 5:30pm – 8:30pm Surrey Art Gallery – 13750 88 Ave Free
- 23** | **Feelin' Stronger Every Day Tour** – West Coast Chicago 7:30pm – 9:30pm Surrey Arts Centre – 13750 88 Avenue Tickets \$59
- 24** | **Coast To Coast Tribute in concert** – all proceeds go to the Surrey Food Bank.
8:30pm – 10:15pm Main Stage Surrey Arts Centre, 13750 88 Avenue. Tickets \$45
- 27** | **Karaoke** at Whalley Legion 7–11pm
- 28** | **LA Bingo Wednesdays** at Whalley Legion from 1–3pm



MARCH

Babytime Wednesdays | 10:00 am – 10:30 am | City Centre Branch This program is for babies 0–1 and their caregiver. Join us for songs, stories, rhymes and bounces to help your baby develop speech and language skills. After a 30 minute storytime, there will be a social time for babies and their caregivers.! 604.598.7427 or surreylibraries.ca

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05 | **Karaoke** at Whalley Legion 7–11pm

06 | **LA Bingo Wednesdays** at Whalley Legion from 1–3pm

10 | **Family Art Party** 11am – 3pm Surrey Art Gallery – 13750 88 Ave Free

12 | **Karaoke** at Whalley Legion 7–11pm

13 | **LA Bingo Wednesdays** at Whalley Legion from 1–3pm

15 | **Surrey Steps Up** 5pm – 9pm YOUTH Surrey City Hall, 13450 104 Ave, Surrey, BC V3T 1V8 Free

19 | **Karaoke** at Whalley Legion 7–11pm

20 | **LA Bingo Wednesdays** at Whalley Legion from 1–3pm

26 | **Karaoke** at Whalley Legion 7–11pm

28 | **LA Bingo Wednesdays** at Whalley Legion from 1–3pm



APRIL

Babytime Wednesdays | 10:00 am – 10:30 am | City Centre Branch This program is for babies 0–1 and their caregiver. Join us for songs, stories, rhymes and bounces to help your baby develop speech and language skills. After a 30 minute storytime, there will be a social time for babies and their caregivers.! 604.598.7427 or surreylibraries.ca

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02 | **Karaoke** at Whalley Legion 7-11pm

03 | **LA Bingo Wednesdays** at Whalley Legion from 1-3pm

06 | **A Very Old Man with Enormous Wings A thrilling piece of theatrical magic for children and adults to share!** 4 - 4:45pm or 7 - 7:45pm Studio Theatre at Surrey Arts Centre 13750 88 Avenue, Surrey, BC Tickets Child \$16 | Adult \$21

09 | **Karaoke** at Whalley Legion 7-11pm

10 | **LA Bingo Wednesdays** at Whalley Legion from 1-3pm

16 | **Karaoke** at Whalley Legion 7-11pm

17 | **LA Bingo Wednesdays** at Whalley Legion from 1-3pm

23 | **Karaoke** at Whalley Legion 7-11pm

24 | **LA Bingo Wednesdays** at Whalley Legion from 1-3pm

27 | **Party for the Planet Civic Plaza.** Plant sale, displays and more!

30 | **Karaoke** at Whalley Legion 7-11pm

SUPPORTIVE HOUSING ON BENTLEY ROAD

In response to the growing homelessness crisis in Surrey and the proposed construction of a supportive housing facility on Bentley Road, the Downtown Surrey Business Improvement Association (DSBIA) hosted a meeting at the Chuck Bailey Rec Centre on January 24. Attended by representatives from BC Housing, City of Surrey staff, Surrey Urban Mission, and businesses and residents, the central focus of the gathering was to gain insights into the proposed supportive housing facility on Bentley Road and to facilitate a meaningful dialogue.



Surrey Urban Mission, the current operators of the Safe Sleep housing across from Chuck Bailey Rec Centre, drew attention to the challenges faced by homeless individuals aged 50 and above, a significant demographic found within Safe Sleep. As the potential operator for the proposed 60-bed supportive housing facility on Bentley Road, they envision the facility as a means for sixty individuals to transition from shelters to long-term, sustainable placements.

BC Housing started the discussion by pointing out the 65% increase in homelessness within Surrey over the past three years. Preferring a solution beyond short-term shelters, they proposed a preference for supportive housing. This approach entails the provision of subsidized studio homes equipped with on-site support services, including meals, health, and education. Emphasizing the potential economic benefits to the community, BC Housing anticipated a reduction in expenditures related to health and correctional services.

The City of Surrey outlined a strategic vision to transition away from temporary housing solutions, such as bunk beds and small shelters in leased spaces. Their goal is to embrace more livable spaces in permanent purpose-built housing. The Bentley Road facility, partially funded through the federal Rapid Housing Initiative, is slated to be a six-story building featuring sixty suites. The targeted demographic comprises vulnerable populations that are homeless or at severe risk of homelessness.

An interactive session addressed pivotal concerns related to community acceptance, navigating challenges faced by couples in supported housing, and formulating strategies to ensure the seamless transition of individuals from existing shelters to new supportive housing. Stakeholders underscored the significance of behavior policies and transparent communication in fostering an environment conducive to the well-being of residents and the broader community.

Details about the Bentley Road supportive housing facility unfolded during the meeting, assuring attendees of a front desk manned by a minimum of two staff members 24/7. There was a commitment to meeting 5% or 10% accessibility requirements in housing, ensuring inclusivity. Stakeholders emphasized the creation of a cohesive community through partnerships with various stakeholders within the community.

1A
 to support a
 community

INTERVIEW WITH PAST INTERNS

DANIEL BREEDVELD



By Farrel Ermono

Last month, the Downtown Surrey BIA had the opportunity to catch up with Daniel Breedveld, a former intern who significantly contributed to our organization during his tenure. Daniel first joined us in the summer of 2016 as a Videography Intern, where he honed his skills by producing a remarkable series of 58 promotional videos for businesses located in Downtown Surrey. This endeavor not only involved videography but also required him to identify and coordinate with businesses, arrange meetings, and conduct interviews. Following this successful stint, Daniel returned the subsequent summer to undertake another internship, this time focusing on marketing. In his role as a Marketing Intern, he played a pivotal role in the “Explore the George” marketing campaign, conducting surveys of over 100 local restaurants and compiling the findings into the 2017 restaurant guide.

Daniel’s experiences at the Downtown Surrey BIA and his collaboration with the Surrey City Development Corporation (SCDC) were instrumental in shaping his understanding of community building. Working closely with the SCDC allowed him to grasp the varying impact levels of different roles in fostering a thriving community, akin to his interactions with many local business owners. This exposure led him to a profound realization about his passion for enhancing community life, bridging gaps between individuals, businesses, non-profits, and social initiatives. It’s this drive that makes him so passionate about his current role as the Marketing & Communications Manager at Promise Vancouver. Having been with Promise Vancouver for nearly four years, Daniel is deeply committed to its mission. Promise Vancouver is a non-profit organization in the Downtown Eastside focused on supporting local youth, aligning perfectly with his desire to make a positive impact within the community.

Six years after his internships with the Downtown Surrey BIA, Daniel has advanced in his career and continues to serve passionately in his role at Promise Vancouver. Reflecting on his time with the Downtown Surrey BIA, Daniel acknowledges the invaluable lessons learned and the diverse experiences he gained. His internships allowed him to undertake multiple projects across different disciplines, expanding his network and exploring various fields such as videography, marketing, urban development, community building, and planning. Daniel highlights the continued connection with other DSBIA interns, illustrating the lasting impact of these experiences. He appreciates how the DSBIA provides a platform for students to engage with professionals and experts from a wide range of roles and fields, emphasizing the organization's role in facilitating student exploration and learning in areas of interest.



**JIVEN
LAL**



By Hannah Gill

In the summer of 2022, Downtown Surrey Business Improvement Association (DSBIA) welcomed Jiven Lal: a passionate political science student taking on the role of the Business Research Intern.

During his time at DSBIA, Jiven played a critical role in various projects, compiling information for the 2022 Restaurant Guide and working alongside the safety and graphic design interns to distribute safety magnets and keychains to local businesses. Most notable was his dedication to researching and drafting the 2023 Renewal document for DSBIA's Extraordinary General Meeting. Not only was his contribution important for the future plans of DSBIA, but witnessing the tangible results of his hard work became one of the highlights of his internship.

DSBIA equipped Jiven with practical research skills, allowing him to learn flexible and creative approaches to gathering information. Additionally, DSBIA was critical to his networking skills, as it provided an environment where he gained diverse perspectives, asked questions, and built new relationships.

Since his time at DSBI, Jiven has embarked on a remarkable career journey. He graduated with honours in political science from Simon Fraser University, and has seamlessly transitioned into an internship at the Legislative Assembly of British Columbia in Victoria - a program that has long captured his interest. As a BC Legislative Intern, Jiven will gain first-hand experience in the parliamentary system and contribute directly to government activities. In reflection, Jiven believes the DSBI played an instrumental role in paving the way for his current internship, and credits the DSBI for fostering the skills and experiences needed to take on his new and exciting journey.

Despite moving on to new endeavors, Jiven looks back on his time at DSBI with gratitude and cherished memories. Some of his favourite moments include his time at Movies Under The Stars as the event MC, and the day-to-day comradery between the interns. Jiven's connections extend beyond his time at DSBI, as he stays in touch with many of his fellow interns and finds great joy in witnessing them flourish through their career journeys.

Looking ahead, Jiven remains passionate about exploring the fields of law and politics, and has thoughts of pursuing a master's program or law school. However, he also recognizes the importance of staying present, expressing a desire to embrace every opportunity that comes his way.

The DSBI is thankful to have had Jiven on the team and we wish him continued success through his journey ahead.

