

# SURREY KHALSA DAY PARADE

## FOOD PREPARATION TIPS AND 'NO HELIUM POLICY' ANNOUNCED FOR 2016 VAISAKHI PARADE IN SURREY

For Immediate Release  
March 29, 2016

**SURREY, BC** – The annual Vaisakhi Parade, taking place on **April 23, 2016**, will once again host a lively and celebratory event to mark the birth of the Sikh faith and is expected to draw **in excess of 250,000 people** to the community to celebrate and enjoy one of the most important elements of the annual event, the amazing foods of India. Each year hundreds of local business and individual families present free food offerings to the crowd in celebration of the Parade.

Organizers of the event, the Gurdwara Sahib Dasmesh Darbar, along with a number of supporting agencies including: Fraser Health, the Surrey RCMP, the City of Surrey, (including the City of Surrey Bylaws office), are reminding businesses and individuals participating in the Parade-route kiosks and stands to carefully observe the following practices which is not a complete list:

- **Hands:** Have a hand-washing station next to the food preparation area. Wash hands before starting food preparation as well as frequently throughout the day and use liquid soap as well as disposable paper towels to dry hands.
- **Sanitize:** Sanitize food cutting tools and preparation area before starting. As well, have a bleach-water solution (one ounce bleach per four litres water) available for sanitizing work surfaces.
- **Thermometers:** Have a probe thermometer available to check internal food temperatures.
- **Food Temperatures:** Refrigerators should be capable of keeping foods colder than 4 degrees Celsius (40F); hot foods must be properly cooked or reheated to 74 degrees C (165 F), before being held in chafing dishes at 60 degrees Celsius (140 F) or warmer.

**THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION FOR TEMPORARY FOOD PERMITS IS APRIL 8<sup>TH</sup>, 2016.**

Check the Surrey Vaisakhi Parade website ([surreyvaisakhiparade.ca](http://surreyvaisakhiparade.ca)) for complete information on [safe food handling](#) and to download the [Temporary Food Permit](#) that **must be completed prior to the event** in order to serve food at the event.

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Due to a global helium shortage as well as the potential disruption to the airspace caused by a large number of balloons being released accidentally, all participants are asked to respect an absolutely **“NO HELIUM BALLOON”** policy. Helium is listed as being classified under a “global shortage” and causes a serious safety concern for air traffic due to large numbers floating into the air traffic space above the Parade route. We are asking for corporate and individual support in respecting the ‘no helium balloons’ policy on parade day.

Anyone setting up a food stand at this years event are asked to ensure that all tents are **NOT** set up on the sidewalks alongside the route. This causes a significant public hazard.

For more information about the event including the parade route visit: [www.surreyvaisakhiparade.ca](http://www.surreyvaisakhiparade.ca). To arrange an on-site interview on the day of the event, please refer to media contacts below.

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