

Letter of support for Srushti Gangdev

When Overstory Media Group was launching in May 2021, one of the first publications that it was able to build from the ground up was the Burnaby Beacon — and Srushti Gangdev played an integral role in making that happen.

Srushti's dedication to her community of Burnaby, B.C. was clearly demonstrated when she chose to leave her position with Global News in Vancouver to create a publication for her neighbours and fellow community members.

Srushti saw a gap in the coverage the community was receiving and knew that she could use her skillset as a reporter to help educate local residents on what's going on in their backyard, as well as highlight issues that need attention, and celebrate the things that make Burnaby a great place to call home.

We are incredibly fortunate to have Srushti as a founding team member of the Burnaby Beacon. Her in-depth and investigative reporting have resulted in positive changes in the community. She was the first to report on a decision by the province to cut off COVID-related care coverage for new B.C. residents, and shortly after her story was published, the province walked back that decision.

She took great care in the way she told the story of a local 13-year-old girl who was reported missing and was found to be murdered in 2017. Srushti delicately told the story of who the young girl was by interviewing a close friend of hers, and has kept the community informed on the trial of her accused murderer.

When there were unconfirmed reports of shots fired at Metrotown SkyTrain station, Srushti sprung into action and travelled to the scene to document what was happening, and also provided immediate updates to the Burnaby community through tweets and video.

These are just a few examples of Srushti's impact on the Burnaby community over the past year through her dedication to informed, responsible, and excellent journalism. We look forward to continuing to work with Srushti for years to come, and to watch her role in the community continue to grow.

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