

Punjabi, Indo Canadian, South Asian

A Definition of Terms

Punjabi

This word can be connected to two different types of people from the provinces of Punjab and Pakistan. A person might trace their heritage, history or birthplace to the North-Western Provinces of Punjab in India and in Pakistan. Alternatively, the term is a reference to the language of Punjabi and the culture of Punjab. A person may not be from the Province of Punjab, but may still identify as Punjabi because that is their mother tongue and by extension their culture of Punjab.

Indo Canadian

This term describes Canadian citizens, or people living in Canada, who also identify as having ancestry, history, language or culture from India. This may also include the generations of peoples who are descendants of immigrants who were born in India. The term does not mean that the person was necessarily born in India, but could also be an individual who identifies themselves in both Canadian and Indian contexts.

South Asian

South Asia encompasses the countries of India, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal, Pakistan, Maldives and Sri Lanka. It is a term used by people who currently reside in the areas within the South Asian geography. South Asian is also used to identify a person with cultural roots from the region who is living within a diaspora such as Canada, US, UK or Australia.