



## PROCLAMATION

**WHEREAS:** Astoria, Oregon is the oldest American settlement west of the Rocky Mountains, founded in 1811; and

**WHEREAS:** By 1911 Astoria had a working waterfront that included fishing, canneries, and lumber mills that contributed to the economic vibrancy of the city; and

**WHEREAS:** Workers in these industries included in large part immigrant laborers from China, India, and Finland; and

**WHEREAS:** The Hammond lumber mill in Alderbrook listed about 100 Punjabi Sikh Indians working alongside Finnish immigrants from 1910-1922; and

**WHEREAS:** The Punjabi Sikhs were inspired by the success of the American Revolution against Great Britain, and by Finland's struggle for independence from Russian occupation; and

**WHEREAS:** The Punjabi Sikhs met at the Finnish Socialist Hall in 1913 and formed the Ghadar (mutiny) Party; and

**WHEREAS:** Supporters of Ghadar, thousands of whom living in the United States and Canada, returned to India, and inspired their countrymen to fight for their independence from Great Britain, which was achieved in 1947; and

**WHEREAS:** The Ghadarites fought and died not only for the freedom of their home country, but also for the innate rights of the immigrant worker to lead a dignified and discrimination-free life; and

**WHEREAS:** 2013 is the 100-year anniversary of this historic meeting that recognizes the universal right of sovereign nations to independence and self-rule.

**NOW, THEREFORE,** I, Willis L. Van Dusen, Mayor of Astoria, do hereby proclaim 2013 as a celebration of the

### CENTENARY OF THE FOUNDING OF THE GHADAR PARTY IN ASTORIA, OREGON

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF,** I have herewith set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Astoria to be affixed this 18<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2013.

  
Mayor

