



**Goan Archives Canada Inc.**  
**Collection from the Canadian Goan Community**  
**Donated to the**  
**The Peel Art Gallery, Museum and Archives**  
**(PAMA)**  
**September 2012**

**PAMA Archives Box # 8**  
**Ref # GA2012-A-8**  
**General Contents:**  
**The Goa Action Watch Campaign 1996**

**Box Id No: GA2012-A-8**

General Description of Contents:

- A. About the Goan Archives**
- B. About Goa & the Goan Community**
- C. General Description of Contents**
- D. Listing of items in this box**
- E. Comment Sheet(s)**

**Revision History**

<b>Original Issue</b>	<b>Prepared by</b>	<b>Checked by</b>	
<b>INITIALS</b>	<b>John J. D'Souza</b>		
<b>DATE</b>			

## Section A: About the Goan Archives-

### What is the Mission of Goan Archives?

The Goan Archives (GAC) mission is to assemble, preserve, organize, and store, publications and documents generated by Goan Community Groups in Canada over the last 40 years. The intent is to facilitate study and understanding of the Community by scholars and researchers in the future.

### When & How was it started ?

On August 5, 2009, Cecil D’Cruz , Claude Gomes, Lazarus Pereira, Uvy Lopes, & John J. D’Souza, met to form a Steering Committee which initiated the organization. In the spring of 2010, Maurice Pinto and Muriel Lucas were invited to join the group.

### What Has Been Achieved to Date?

1. On November 11, 2009 GAC conducted an Open House in the East GTA to inform the public and collect items for archiving..
2. The success of the Open House led to the conduct a similar session on January 2010 for the West GTA, at Square One Mississauga
3. Through the Open House collections and individual donations approximately 450 items were collected covering more than 40 Goan organizations.
4. In April 2010, GAC issued a Phase I Report documenting the items collected and outlining the next steps. This report can be viewed at <https://sites.google.com/site/goanarchivescanada/> and can be downloaded in full.
5. On August 9, 2011 GAC obtained registration as a non-profit corporation in Ontario.
6. In October 2010, GAC met with the Archivists of the Peel Heritage Complex in Brampton and were invited to place the Goan Archives Collection at their centre.

### The Peel Art Gallery, Museum and Archives (PAMA) 2012 Donation

Box #	TITLE
1	Goan Archives Canada Inc.- Documentation
2	About the Canadian Goan Community
3	Seminal Goan Events held in Canada
4	Goan Organizations in the Greater Toronto Area (GTA )
5	The Goan Overseas Association of Ontario
6	Goan Sporting Activities
7	The International Goan Organization
8	The Goa Action Watch Campaign 1996
9	Goan Tiatr
10	Goa Village Feasts & Religious Events
11	Unclassified: Family Histories & Memorial Cards Misc Items – Press clippings – photos
12	Donated Goan Books for safekeeping at PAMA

End of section A

## Section B About Goa & the Goan Community

### Where is Goa ?



*Goa is India's* smallest state in terms of area and the fourth smallest in terms of population. Located on the west coast of India in the region known as the Konkan, it is bounded by the state of Maharashtra to the north, and by Karnataka to the east and south, while the Arabian Sea forms its western coast. Panaji (also referred to as Panjim) is the state's capital. Renowned for its beaches, temples and world heritage architecture, Goa is visited by hundreds of thousands of international and domestic tourists each year.

Goa encompasses an area of 3,702 km<sup>2</sup> (1,430 sq miles). It lies between the latitudes 14°53'54" N and 15°40'00" N and longitudes 73°40'33" E and 74°20'13" E. Most of Goa is a part of the coastal country known as the Konkan, which is an escarpment rising up to the Western Ghats range of mountains, which separate it from the Deccan Plateau. The highest point is the Sonsogor, with an altitude of 1,167 meters (3,827 feet). Goa has a coastline of 101 km (63 miles).



### Goans in Canada

**Source:** <http://www.multiculturalcanada.ca/Encyclopedia/A-Z/g2/2>

From the mid-nineteenth century on, Goan Christians began migrating in large numbers to territories throughout British India, in search of better job opportunities in cities such as Bombay and Karachi. Because they were Christian, and familiar with European culture, the Goans were acceptable to the British, who also recruited them to work in the British colonies of East Africa and Persian Gulf ports such as Aden, where their vocational training and clerical skills were in demand. Yet, even today, Goans still resent the term “Goanese,” which the British used disparagingly to refer to Goan Christians in lower-class service occupations, such as cooks, tailors, butlers, waiters, and ayahs (nannies).

Although Goans started immigrating to Canada in the 1960s, it is estimated that over 90 percent of the community arrived during the 1970s, a large number from East Africa and Pakistan, and a smaller group directly from Goa. Still more recently, there has been an increasing number of Goan immigrants to Canada from Middle Eastern countries. Regardless of what country they may have left, the immigrants and their descendants born in Canada identify as Goans, not with the last country in which they resided (if other than Goa). With regard to Hindus from Goa, only a very few have emigrated; those who are in Canada prefer to identify with Hindu Maharashtrian Canadians from Goa's neighbouring state, Maharashtra. Hence, the discussion about Goans in this entry (and this collection) will focus on the Roman Catholic community.

Since Goans are not listed separately in Canadian census data, no clear immigration and settlement statistics are available. It is estimated that there are approximately 13,000 in Ontario and 10,000 in the rest of Canada. The estimated total population of 23,000 is calculated on the basis of the membership in the Toronto-based Goan Overseas Association (GOA), the Montreal-based Canorient Christian Association (CCA), and Goan associations and clubs in the cities of Hamilton, Ottawa, Winnipeg, Edmonton, Calgary, and Vancouver. END OF SECTION B

## Section C General Description of Contents

### *Goa Action Watch*

#### Canadian Initiative: To “Stop Child Sex Trade in Goa, India”

The following article was published in the 2001 International Goan Directory

*Formed:* Toronto, June 1996

*Mission:* To foster global awareness of the social problems in Goa and to be a visible and responsive presence in Canada



The Greater Metropolitan Area of Toronto is home to more than 25,000 people who trace their heritage, and have strong family ties to Goa, a small State on India's west coast. Goa offers cheap charter flights from Europe, bargain accommodation, lack of comprehensive child protection legislation, easy availability of hard drugs, and a hitherto unconcerned police force.

The community in Toronto was alerted to the problems of child sex abuse through the Internet, the print media, and through eye-witness accounts of returning visitors.

This concern led to the formation of Goa Action Watch, (GAW) which is an organization of concerned citizens, and supported by existing community based social organizations.

GAW, in conjunction with other world-wide groups, instituted a campaign to:

- Make the community in Canada aware of the serious problems facing the children of Goa;
- Ask community members to write to their Members of Parliament in support of Bill C-27;
- Initiate a petition drive to appeal to the Government of Goa to institute:
  - Stronger policing of the “flesh trade” in Goa;
  - Severe fines and sentences of those found guilty;
  - Control of tour operators who serve this unacceptable practice.
- Petition the world community on the World Wide Web to voice their concerns and sign the web page.

Over the period April-August 1996, volunteers attended social gatherings, village celebrations, sport meetings, visited schools and churches, in an effort to inform the public of the problems facing the disadvantaged children of Goa, asking for support by signing the petition.

The response to the petition was tremendous. These petition sheets were sent to Goa, with an appeal to the Government to take effective action to avoid “**the biggest catastrophe**” facing India and Goa as a result of the unhindered sex trade.

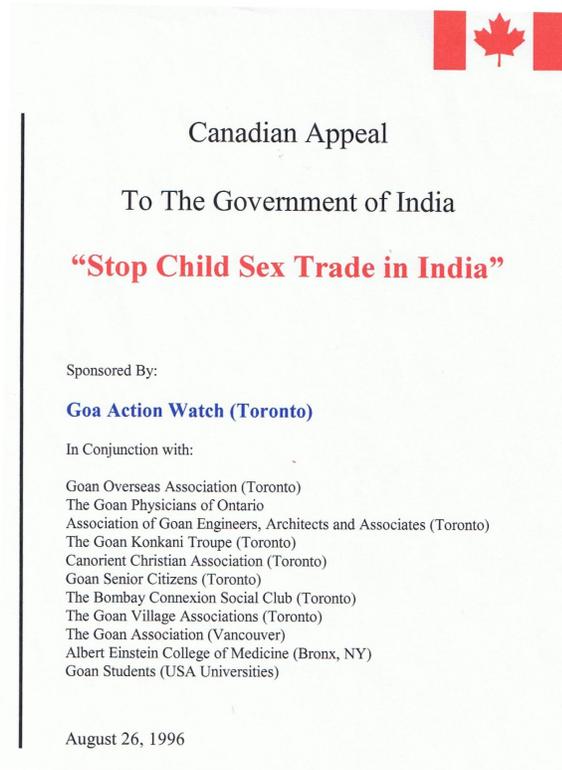
In November 1996 members of GAW appeared as witnesses before the House of Commons Standing Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs to address concerns about the inadequacy in the proposed extra-territorial child sex legislation (Bill C-27) in covering the situation in Goa. The Bill has since become law.

During the period 1996-1999 GOA ACTION WATCH received monetary support from the Goan Physicians of Ontario to conduct its activities. In the year 2000 the committee consisting of Elma De Souza, Tim de Mello, John J. D'Souza, Monica Pereira and Dr. Terry DaSilva felt that its mission was accomplished, and there were institutions in-place in Goa to support child welfare initiatives. The balance of funds that accrued amounting to \$2,000 was donated to **CHILDLINE** in Goa.

*Copies of the signature petitions and letters sent to India are in the archive binders*

## Section C General Description of Contents (contd)

This box in general contains copies of the signed petition sheets plus copies of letters sent to various elected officials in India and Canada . It also contains files in 3 ring binders of letters and documents of the Goa Action Watch organizing committee.



**Section D Listing of items in this box**

<b>PHC Box #</b>	<b>Doc Number</b>	<b>Item #</b>	<b>Donor List #</b>	<b>Donor Initials</b>	<b>Publication/Title</b>	<b>Publisher/ Author</b>	<b>Category</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Printed pages</b>
A-8-W-1	Item 551-900-1	551	900-1	Anon	Goa Action Watch - Canadian Appeal to Government of India	Goa Action Watch	Petition	1996	20
A-8-W-1	Item 552-900-1	552	900-1	Anon	Goa Action Watch - letter to PM of India	Goa Action Watch	letter	1996	1
A-8-B-1	Item 553-900-1	553	900-1	Anon	Goa Action Watch - Binder of signature sheets to Petition	Goa Action Watch	3" - 3 ring binder	1996	250
A-8-B-2	Item 554-900-1	554	900-1	Anon	Goa Action Watch - Minutes of meeting etc	Goa Action Watch	3" - 3 ring binder	1996	200 est
A-8_B-3	Item 555-900-1	555	900-1	Anon	Goa Action Watch - Incoming & outgoing mail	Goa Action Watch	3" - 3 ring binder	1996	180 est

**D Comment Sheet**

*Left blank for future use*