

Humboldt Broncos Crash Driver Pleads Guilty

Jaskirat Singh Sidhu Said: 'I Don't Want A Trial'; 16 People Lost Their Lives, 13 Hurt In Accident

MELFORT, Sask. : The Indo-Canadian driver of a transport truck involved in a deadly crash with the Humboldt Broncos junior hockey team's bus pleaded guilty on Tuesday to all charges against him.

"I plead guilty, your honour," Jaskirat Singh Sidhu said as he stood before a judge in a court in Melfort, Sask.

Sixteen people lost their lives and 13 players were injured when Sidhu's semi-unit loaded with peat moss and the Broncos bus collided in rural Saskatchewan last April. Sidhu was charged with 16 counts of dangerous driving causing death and 13 charges of dangerous driving causing bodily harm. "His position to me was, 'I just want to plead guilty. I don't want you to plea bargain. I don't want a trial,'" Sidhu's lawyer, Mark Brayford, said outside court, his client beside him with his head down.

"Mr. Sidhu advised me: 'I don't want to make things any worse. I can't make things any better, but I certainly don't want to make them worse by having a trial.'"

Brayford, who recently took on the case, said more evidence still needs to be handed over to the defence, but Sidhu wanted to avoid further delays.

"He wanted the families to know that he's devastated by the grief that he's caused them,"



Jaskirat Singh Sidhu leaves provincial court with his lawyer Mark Brayford (centre right) in Melfort, Sask., Tuesday, January 8, 2019. THE CANADIAN PRESS/Kayle Neis

Brayford said. "And he's overwhelmed by the expressions of sympathy and kindness that some of the families and players have expressed to him in spite of the fact their grief is entirely his fault."

Crown lawyer Thomas Healey said he might need up to five days for sentencing, which is to begin Jan. 28, and would not be commenting until after that.

The maximum penalty for dangerous driving causing death is 14 years. It's 10 years for dangerous driving causing bodily harm.

The Broncos were on their way to a playoff game in the Saskatchewan Junior Hockey League when their bus and Sidhu's rig collided at an intersection not far from Tisdale, Sask.

The bus was travelling north on Highway 35 and the semi

was westbound on Highway 335, which has a stop sign.

A safety review of the rural crossroads done by a consulting firm for the Saskatchewan government was released last month. It said sight lines are a safety concern at the spot.

A stand of trees, mostly on private property, obstructs the view of drivers approaching from the south and east — the same direc-

tions the bus and semi-trailer were coming from when they collided, the review said.

It recommended negotiating with the landowner to remove the trees, and also suggested rumble strips, larger signs and painting "Stop" and "Stop Ahead" on the road.

The report's authors determined that six collisions had taken place at the intersection between 1990 and 2017 and another 14 happened on roads nearby.

One of those collisions was deadly. In 1997, six people were killed when a pickup truck heading east failed to stop on Highway 335 and was hit by a southbound tractor-trailer.

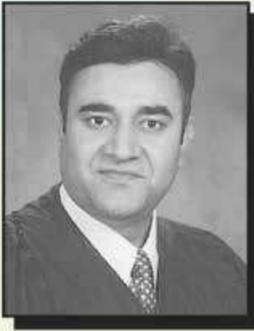
In December, the Saskatchewan government further introduced mandatory training for semi-truck drivers. Starting in March, drivers seeking a Class 1 commercial licence are to undergo at least 121.5 hours of training. Previously, Saskatchewan Government Insurance accredited driving schools but training was not mandatory.

The owner of the Calgary trucking company that hired Singh was also charged after the crash.

Sukhmander Singh of Adesh Deol Trucking faces eight charges relating to non-compliance with federal and provincial safety regulations.

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MP Kamal Khera Hosts New Year Levee For Brampton W. Constituents



BRAMPTON: Kamal Khera, Member of Parliament for Brampton West hosted a New Year's Levee at her Brampton West office on Sunday, January 6th, 2018.

The event brought together residents of Brampton West who shared their thoughts and concerns with Ms. Khera while welcoming the new year. The successful event was not only accompanied by great food and music but also demonstrated a true representation of Brampton West's cultural make-up.

Ms. Khera spoke to the crowd about upcoming initiatives for 2019 as well as reminded them of the services available at her constituency office.

About 400 people dropped in at 35 Van Kirk Drive, Unit 10 over the course of

the Sunday afternoon, taking time to talk to MP Kamal Khera. Attendees had their photos taken with the MP and enjoyed a refreshment as part of the experience.

"It was humbling to see my friends, supporters and constituents taking out time on the first Sunday afternoon of this new year and spend it at my office with me," MP Khera said.

"Residents of Brampton West constantly remind me of the work that needs to be done in Brampton and renew my commitment to Brampton West. Events such as these give me the opportunity to interact with residents first-hand and indulge in dialogue which in turn dictates the positive change our government has been working towards since 2015."

Student Falls Of Cliff While Taking Selfie, Dies

DUBLIN: An Indian student has died after falling off a cliff in Ireland while taking a selfie.

The unidentified Indian national in his 20s was studying at a university in Dublin. He lost his balance while taking the photograph at the popular tourist attraction the Cliffs of Moher in County Clare last Friday.

The tragedy happened south of the main viewing areas near the visitor centre. There were hundreds of people enjoying the scenery and cliff walk at the time, the Irish Mirror reported.

Emergency services were mobilised as soon as the alarm was raised. A winchman from the helicopter recovered the man from the sea. The victim was flown to nearby Doolin where he was formally pronounced dead.

The police are treating the death as a tragic accident.



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