

# Voice

Thai Pongal Publication 2015  
தைப் பொங்கல் வெளியீடு



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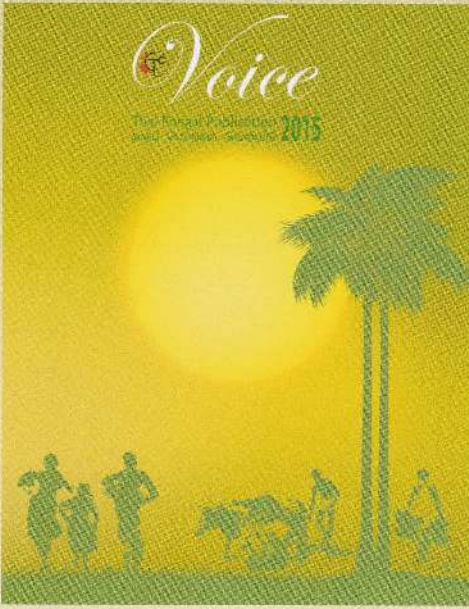
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# Voice

Thai Pongal Publication 2015  
தைப் பொங்கல் வெளியீடு

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## தமிழ்த் தாய் வாழ்த்து

வாழ்க நிரந்தரம் வாழ்க தமிழ்மொழி  
வாழிய வாழியவே  
வான மளந்தனைத்தும் அளந்திடும்  
வண் மொழி வாழியவே  
ஏழ் கடல் வைப்பினுந் தன் மணம் வீசி  
இசை கொண்டு வாழியவே  
எங்கள் தமிழ் மொழி எங்கள் தமிழ் மொழி  
என்றென்றும் வாழியவே  
சூழ்கலி நீங்கத் தமிழ் மொழி ஓங்கத்  
துலங்குக வையகமே  
தொல்லை வினைதரு தொல்லை யகன்று  
சுடர்க் தமிழ் நாடே  
வாழ்க தமிழ் மொழி வாழ்க தமிழ் மொழி  
வாழ்க தமிழ் மொழியே  
வானம் அறிந்தனைத்தும் அறிந்து  
வளர் மொழி வாழியவே.

## Canadian National Anthem

O Canada!  
Our home and native land!  
True patriot love in all thy sons command.  
With glowing hearts we see thee rise,  
The True North strong and free!  
From far and wide,  
O Canada, we stand on guard for thee.  
God keep our land glorious and free!  
O Canada, we stand on guard for thee.  
O Canada, we stand on guard for thee.

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## கனடியத் தமிழர் பேரவை நோக்கம் மற்றும் குறிக்கோள்

கனடிய தமிழர் பேரவை ஒரு இலாப நோக்கற்ற, கனடியத் தமிழரின் குரலாய் விளங்கும் அமைப்பாகும். ரொறன்ரோவிலே தலைமைப் பணிமனையைக்கொண்ட பேரவை நாடு முழுவதும் 11 கிளைகளோடு ஒரு தேசிய அமைப்பாக விளங்குவதோடு உறுப்பினரால் தெரிவு செய்யப்பட்ட இயக்குனர் சபையையும் கொண்டதாகும்.

பக்கச் சார்பற்றுச் செயற்படும் கனடியத் தமிழர் பேரவை கனடியக் குழுக்கள் செயற்பாடுகளில் தமிழர்களின் பங்கேற்றலை ஊக்குவித்தல், தமிழர்களின் முக்கிய பிரச்சினைகளை முதன்மைப்படுத்துதல் மற்றும் கனடிய விழுமியங்களைப் பேணுவதுடன் வேற்றினச் குழுக்களும் அரசாங்கங்களும் ஏனைய அமைப்புகளும் தமிழர்களின் சுமுக, கலாச்சார மற்றும் அரசியல் பிரச்சினைகளைப் பேசச் செய்தல் போன்றவற்றை முக்கிய நோக்கங்களாகக் கொண்டதாகும்.

### கனடியத் தமிழர் பேரவையின் குறிக்கோள்கள் சில கீழ்வருமாறு:

- உள்ளூர், கோட்டம், மாநிலம் மற்றும் நாட்டுக்கு முதன்மை வாய்ந்த செயற்பாடுகளில் கனடியத் தமிழரது பங்கேற்றலை ஊக்குவித்தல்
- கனடியத் தமிழர் தொடர்பான சிக்கல்களை முன்னிலைப்படுத்தித் தீர்வு காண்பதற்குப் பல்வேறு மட்டக் கனடா அரசுகளோடு இணைந்து செயற்படல்
- தாயகத்திலும், உலகெங்கும் வாழும் தமிழரது குமுக, பண்பாட்டு, அரசியல் வேட்கைகளை ஏற்றுப் போற்றுதல்
- மனித உரிமை, பல்பண்பாடு, சமயப்பண்பாட்டுப் பல்வண்மை, பால் ஒப்புமை, பன்மைநெறி, தொண்டுநெறி ஆகிய கனடாவின் விழுமியங்களை மேம்படுத்தல்
- தமிழ்மொழி மற்றும் பண்பாடு பற்றிய ஆய்வு, கல்வி, பயன்பாடு என்பவற்றை மேம்படுத்தல்
- கனடாவின் பிற இனப்பண்பாட்டுக் குழுமங்களோடு உறவு பூணுதலும் வளர்த்தலும்
- கனடா மற்றும் பன்னாட்டு அமைப்புகளோடு இணைந்து, உலகளாவிய தமிழ் மக்களின் இன்னல் போக்கலும் மாந்த நேய உதவி வழங்கலும்
- அனைத்து வேறுபாடுகளையும், பொறுதியின்மையையும் ஒழிப்பதற்குப் பாடுபடுதல், அனைத்துக் குழுமங்களுக்கும் ஒப்பான உரிமை மற்றும் வாய்ப்பு நாடிப் பாடுபடல், சிறப்பாக பால் ஒப்புமை நாடிப் போராடல்.

## Mission and Objectives

The Canadian Tamil Congress (CTC) is a nonprofit organization which serves as the voice of Tamil Canadians. Headquartered in Toronto, the CTC has chapters across the country and an elected board of directors. The non-partisan organization works as the community's spokesperson on the municipal, provincial, federal and international levels.

- Uphold Canadian values of human rights, multiculturalism, religious and cultural diversity, gender equality, pluralism and volunteerism
- Promote the participation of Tamil Canadians in activities of local, regional, provincial and national importance
- Work with various levels of Governments in Canada to highlight and resolve issues impacting Tamil Canadians
- Cooperate with Canadian and international organizations in alleviating the suffering and provide humanitarian assistance to Tamils worldwide
- Champion for equality, equality rights and equal opportunity for all diverse groups, in particular gender equality, by working towards the elimination of all forms of discrimination and intolerance
- Recognize and support the social, cultural and political aspirations of the Tamils in the island of Sri Lanka and worldwide
- Advance the research, study and usage of the Tamil language and culture
- Develop and enhance working relationships with other ethnocultural groups in Canada

## Mission et Objectifs

Le congrès Tamoul canadien (CTC), est un organisme à but non lucratif qui représente la voix des Tamouls canadiens. Le siège social étant à Toronto, le CTC possède chapitres dans l'ensemble du pays ainsi qu'un conseil administratif élu. L'organisme agit comme un porte-parole nonpartisan de la communauté au niveau municipal, provincial, fédéral et international.

- Confirmez les valeurs canadiennes des droits de l'homme, multiculturalisme, diversité religieuse et culturelle, égalité entre les sexes, pluralisme et volontarisme
- Favorisez la participation des canadiens tamoul dans les activités d'importance locale, régionale, provinciale et nationale
- Travaillez avec de divers niveaux des gouvernements au Canada pour accentuer et résoudre des problèmes effectuant les canadiens tamoul
- Coopérez avec des organismes canadiens et internationaux à alléger la douleur et fournissez l'assistance humanitaire aux tamoul dans le monde entier
- Champion pour l'égalité, les droits d'égalité et l'égalité des chances pour tous les groupes divers, en particulier égalité entre les sexes, en travaillant vers l'élimination de toutes les formes de discrimination et d'intolérance
- Identifiez et soutenez les aspirations sociales, culturelles et politiques des Tamoul sur île du Sri Lanka et dans le monde entier
- Avancez la recherche, l'étude et l'utilisation de la langue et de la culture tamoul
- Développez et augmentez les relations de travail avec d'autres groupes ethnoculturels au Canada

# Program

1	<b>Lighting of Traditional Lamp</b>	10	<b>Performance – Tamil Heritage</b> Centre for Leadership and Innovation (CFLI)
2	<b>Canadian National Anthem and Tamil Thai Vazhthu</b> CFLI Students and Vaaraki Wijayaraj	11	<b>Dinner</b>
3	<b>Silent Tribute</b>	12	<b>Greetings</b> City of Markham Greetings from City of Toronto Consul General of India in Toronto
4	<b>Tamil Cultural Welcome Dance</b> Students of Niranjana Chandru	13	<b>Tamil Cultural Dance Performance</b> Students of Nirainjana Chandru
5	<b>CTC President's Address</b> Raj Thavaratnasingham	14	<b>Presentation of Leaders for Change Award</b> Bernie M. Farber
6	<b>Canadian Tamil Congress Presentation</b>	15	<b>Presentation of Living Hero Award</b> Rev. Dr. S. J. Emmanuel
7	<b>Greetings</b> Town of Richmond Hill Government of Canada Government of Ontario City of Mississauga	16	<b>Presentation of Cheque</b> Heart and Stroke Foundation
8	<b>Presentation of Service Excellence Award</b> Dr. Shan Chandrasekar	17	<b>Vote of Thanks</b>
9	<b>Greetings</b> Leader, Liberal Party of Canada	18	<b>Raffle Draw and Sweet Table</b>  <b>Master of Ceremonies</b> Ragavan Paranchothy



# Message from the President



On behalf of the Canadian Tamil Congress, I am pleased to wish you all a very Happy Thai Pongal and welcome you to our 8th Annual Dinner. Traditionally, the Tamil calendar month of January is heralded as the welcome of a new beginning and the "Pongal" day as one of thanksgiving to all.

Many Tamils from Sri Lanka arrived in this incredible country we now call home from war torn areas and years of discrimination. From humble beginnings many Tamils have reached new heights and have gone on to make a mark for themselves, in all aspects of life. It is not at all surprising to find a dentist of Tamil origin in a far corner of New Brunswick, a teacher in the prairie land in Saskatchewan or an oil patch worker in the Albertan oil fields. Many Tamils are now taking part in public life, and more Tamils got elected to political office in 2014 than in any other years. We are very proud of their achievements. In CTC in rewind, you will see the incredible milestones CTC continues to reach.

As an advocacy organization for the rights of Tamils everywhere, CTC's work in Ottawa with the Canadian government and decision-makers, bilaterally and multilaterally with various international lawmakers, as well as at the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC), is ongoing and as vigorous as ever. Once again, we were well represented at the UNHRC sessions in Geneva, Switzerland in March, June and September 2014, and will be there again in March 2015. It was an incredible feeling when CTC played an important role in the passage of the UNHRC resolution in March 2014. We know that justice for our brethren on the island will not come without international attention and pressure, and we are resolved to do everything we can.

The work we do at the Canadian Tamil Congress would not be possible without your generous support—the volunteers who give countless hours to complete our projects, the members who generously finance us to keep the CTC engine running every month with an office and dedicated staff, the advertisers who every year grace our magazine and the sponsors who make large donations for various special projects, and of course, our wonderful members. When we gather next year, we will be celebrating our 15th year.

As we embark upon this new year, I see many opportunities and challenges ahead for us. If you are a member, we thank you. If you are not a member, please come and join us-together we will continue to make a strong and positive impact on the future of our community.

On behalf everyone at the Canadian Tamil Congress, I once again wish you a very happy Thai Pongal. May your 'way' be a 2015 filled with happiness, good health and prosperity.

Best wishes,

Raj Thavaratnasingham  
President, Canadian Tamil Congress

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# Thai Pongal

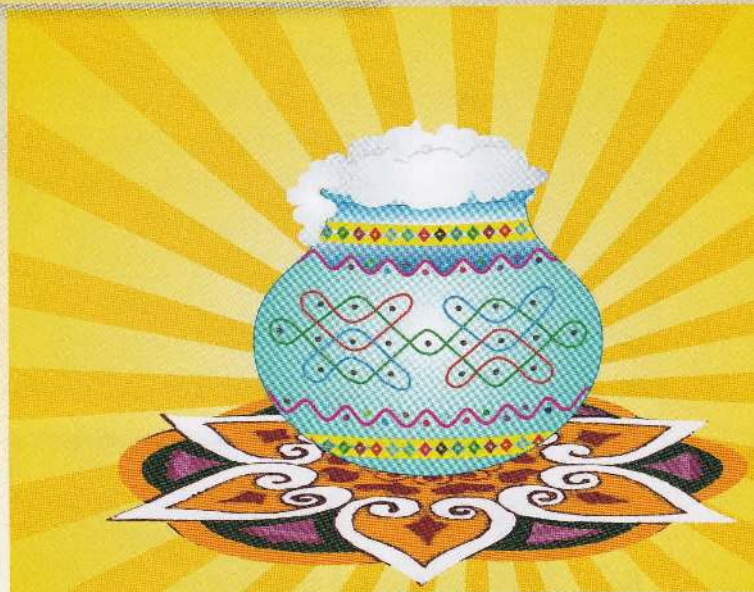
## The Thanksgiving Festival of Tamils

Thai Pongal is a harvest festival equivalent to Thanksgiving Day and it is celebrated by Tamils across the world. Considered to be one of the oldest harvest festivals, Pongal is said to have originated in the pre-Christian era in Tamil Nadu. In the Tamil language, pongal literally means “boiling over” or “spill over”. The boiling of milk in a clay pot until it spills over is symbolic of the heart’s desire for abundance and prosperity. Celebrated at harvest time, Thai Pongal is traditionally intended to thank the Sun God and farmstead livestock that help create the material abundance.

The Pongal festival falls on the first day of the month of Thai of the Tamil calendar (14th or 15th of January according to the Gregorian calendar) and is enveloped by a sense of newness. Celebrated traditionally at harvest time, it is a festival signifying the wealth of food and prosperity associated with the wish for a bountiful harvest. By thanking the rain, sun and the farm animals that contribute to the production of rice, the most staple food of the Tamils, this festival expresses that harmony and inter-dependence between all created realities that make this planet a great place to live and grow.

Pongal is celebrated by the Indian state of Tamil Nadu as well as Tamils worldwide, including those in Sri Lanka, Malaysia, Mauritius, South Africa, England, USA, Singapore and Canada. Transcending any religious differences, Pongal is celebrated by Tamils of all religious persuasions. During this special time, the household is often filled with excitement and preparation.

A flat square pitch is made and decorated with kolam drawings and it is exposed to direct sunlight. Coloured rice flour is used to draw the kolam and it defines the sacred area where the pongal is prepared. A hearth made of natural firewood is set up using three bricks. The cooking begins by placing a clay pot with water on the hearth. A senior member of the family will begin the cooking and the rest of the family dutifully assists him or her. The



climax is when the Pongal spills over when cooking. The spill over of milk is a propitious symbol of abundance and good omen and is accompanied by the shouting of “Pongalo Pongal!” A member of the family will then ceremoniously put three handfuls of new rice inside the boiling pot.

Other ingredients of this special dish are chakkarai (brown sugar) or katkandu (sugar candy), milk (cow’s milk or coconut milk), payaru (roasted green gram), raisins and cashew nuts. When the meal is ready, it is first served on a banana leaf and the family prays for a few minutes to thank the sun, nature and farmers. The pongal is then served with fruits to family, relatives, friends and neighbours.

The richness of Tamil culture and historical traditions is symbolized in the Tamil New Year and Thai Pongal festival. By celebrating this festival, the Tamil Diaspora helps perpetuate our rich culture and traditions. It also gives an emotional link to our kith and kin at home or scattered across the globe.

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Premier of Ontario - Première ministre de l'Ontario

January 17, 2015

### **A PERSONAL MESSAGE FROM THE PREMIER**

On behalf of the Government of Ontario, I am delighted to extend warm greetings to everyone attending the Canadian Tamil Congress' Thai Pongal Dinner.

In Tamil communities across Ontario and throughout the world, this is a time of great joy, a chance to reconnect with family and to join friends and the community to give thanks for blessings received.

As Premier, I am honoured to take part in this beautiful tradition, one that has been celebrated for more than a thousand years. This and other customs and values of the Tamil community have enriched our unique multicultural landscape, strengthened our links with the global community — and continue to help us build a society that is diverse yet harmonious.

I offer my very best wishes for a joyous celebration — and for good health, happiness and prosperity in the year ahead.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Kathleen Wynne'.

**Kathleen Wynne**  
**Premier**



# கைத்தொழில் அடித்தூக்கள்



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Minister for Multiculturalism



Ministre du Multiculturalisme

### Greetings from the Honourable Jason Kenney, PC, MP

I would like to extend my warmest greetings to all those celebrating the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Tamil Thai Pongal Festival and Annual Gala Dinner hosted by the Canadian Tamil Congress (CTC).

Thai Pongal is a special time of the year for many Canadian Tamils as it is the perfect occasion to celebrate and give thanks for a generous harvest. This event provides an opportunity for all Canadians to recognize the tremendous contributions of the Tamil community and share in the joyous spirit of this great festival.

We are all privileged to live in a country where we can discover the diverse traditions of our fellow Canadians and join them in their celebrations. As Prime Minister Harper noted: "Canada has been immeasurably enriched by such a broad array of ethno-cultural traditions. Each community is part of the cultural diversity that is one of Canada's greatest strengths in this globalized world."

As Minister for Multiculturalism, I would like to thank the CTC for organizing this event and for your ongoing support to your community and to our great country.

Best wishes for a successful festival!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jason Kenney".

The Hon. Jason Kenney, PC, MP  
Minister of Employment and Social Development and  
Minister for Multiculturalism



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**Greetings from Canada's Citizenship and Immigration Minister**

I would like to extend my warmest greetings to all those attending the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Thai Pongal Gala Dinner, hosted by the Canadian Tamil Congress. I would like to thank the organizers for your hard work and dedication in making this event a success.

Thai Pongal marks the beginning of the harvest and a time to give thanks for our abundant blessings. Today, we gather in the spirit of gratitude with friends and family to celebrate opportunity, new beginnings, peace, and prosperity.

This event is also an opportunity for Canadians to reflect on the tremendous contributions that Canada's Tamil community has made in many fields of endeavour. It is a wonderful chance to celebrate the strength of our pluralism, reflecting the diversity of Canada, and showcasing our success as a welcoming nation.

As Canada's Citizenship and Immigration Minister, I would like to convey our government's appreciation for the contributions that you make to Canada's success as a prosperous and pluralistic democracy. Best wishes for a wonderful celebration.

Sincerely,

Chris Alexander,  
Canada's Citizenship and Immigration Minister



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January 17, 2015

Dear Friends,

I am delighted to offer my warmest wishes as you come together to celebrate Thai Pongal – the Harvest festival celebrated by Tamils in Canada and world-wide. Thai Pongal signifies a time for renewal, a time to gather and celebrate shared values of working together to build a better society for all.

Canadians of Tamil descent have deep roots in Canada, demonstrating tremendous strength in the face of adversity and a determination to succeed in your new home. You have made an incredible contribution to Canadian society by preserving and celebrating your culture, contributing to the rich fabric of the Canadian mosaic.

New Democrats recognize the important contributions of the Canadian Tamil Congress and join with you in celebrating these achievements. As you gather together to celebrate with family and friends, I hope you will have the opportunity to reflect and take pride in all you have accomplished in helping Tamil families integrate and adapt to Canadian life.

On behalf of all New Democrats, please accept our best wishes for a happy Thai Pongal celebration, and a prosperous year in 2015!

Enjoy the festivities!

Sincerely,

Thomas Mulcair  
Leader of the Official Opposition \\\ Chef de l'Opposition officielle

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## Justin P.J. Trudeau

Leader of the Liberal Party of Canada  
Chef du Parti libéral du Canada



January 17<sup>th</sup>, 2015

Dear Friends,

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you all to the Sheraton Parkway Toronto North Hotel and Suites for the Canadian Tamil Congress' 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Gala Dinner.

Since its establishment, the Canadian Tamil Congress has worked to strengthen Canada's multicultural fabric by encouraging Tamil-Canadians to be active participants in their community's social and political activities. Today's traditional "Thai Pongal" festival allows Tamil-Canadians to gather together with family and friends to give thanks and celebrate the arrival of the new harvest, while recognizing the significant contributions they have made, and continue to make, to Canada's landscape.

I would like to thank the Canadian Tamil Congress for hosting such an amazing and inclusive event, which promotes cross-cultural dialogue and friendship. Moreover, it is essential to have events such as today's Annual Gala Dinner; events which allow Tamil-Canadians to connect with their roots and share their history with all Canadians.

Please accept my warmest welcome, and I hope you all enjoy tonight's Annual Gala Dinner.

Sincerely,

Justin P.J. Trudeau  
Member of Parliament for Papineau

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JOHN TORY  
MAYOR

---

# *Proclamation*

## **Tamil Heritage Month**

**January 2015**

WHEREAS our city's Tamil community is committed to preserving its rich heritage and has contributed greatly to Toronto's diverse population.

Tamil Heritage Month provides the opportunity to showcase and share the community's vibrant culture and traditions and longstanding history with Toronto residents and visitors.

In Toronto, we encourage and welcome celebrations of our many cultural groups that work hard to preserve their heritage. These celebrations promote understanding and enrich our social and cultural development and the quality of life for many.

NOW THEREFORE, I, Mayor John Tory, on behalf of Toronto City Council, do hereby proclaim **January 2015** as "Tamil Heritage Month" in the City of Toronto.



Mayor John Tory  
City of Toronto





CITY OF  
TORONTO

### Message from the Mayor

It gives me pleasure to extend a warm welcome to everyone attending the Tamil "Thai Pongal" Festival and Annual Gala Dinner hosted by the Canadian Tamil Congress (CTC).

The most important festival of the year for the Tamil community, "Thai Pongal" is a harvest festival that gives thanks to nature for providing a rich harvest. It is a time of great optimism and new beginnings.

Established in 2000, the CTC is a non-profit organization that serves as the voice of Tamil Canadians. It is dedicated to advocating for their needs, by interacting with all levels of government on their behalf.

Toronto is one of the world's most multicultural cities and home to people from all over the world. Festivals such as these celebrate the rich cultures and traditions that make our city so unique.

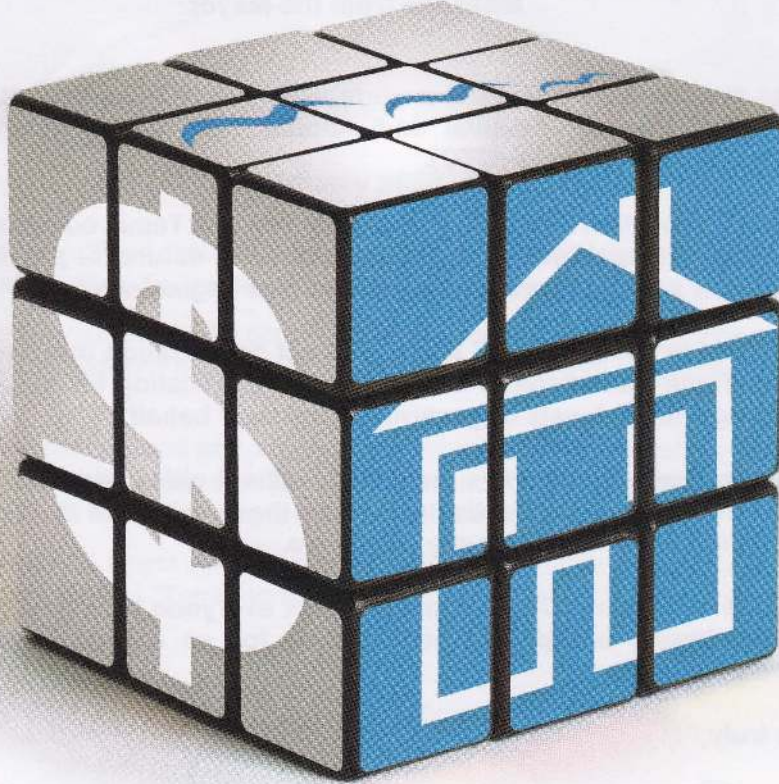
On behalf of Toronto City Council, I thank everyone who made this event possible. Please accept my best wishes for an enjoyable festival and continued success.

Yours truly,

Mayor John Tory  
City of Toronto

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR  
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Office of the Mayor

January 14, 2015



Dear Friends,

On behalf of the City of Mississauga and Members of Council, I would like to offer my best wishes to the volunteers and leadership of the Canadian Tamil Congress for organizing the Thai Pongal Festival & Annual Gala Dinner.

Thai Pongal is a harvest festival celebrated by Tamils in Mississauga and in communities throughout the world. This marks an important occasion in the Tamil calendar year. It is an opportunity to give thanks to nature for providing bountiful harvests, while at the same time celebrating the promise and hope of new beginnings.

This year's Thai Pongal celebrations coincide with the first Tamil Heritage Month, which was proclaimed following the successful passage of the *Tamil Heritage Month Act* by the Ontario Provincial Parliament in 2014.

Tamil Heritage Month is an opportunity to remember and reflect on the important economic, charitable and public service contributions that Tamil Canadians have made to communities like Mississauga. Our City is a more inclusive and dynamic place because of these efforts.

For all Mississaugans and Canadians, Tamil Heritage Month is also an opportunity to celebrate and educate future generations about the rich history and culture of the broader Tamil community.

Let me once again wish everyone a very happy, prosperous, and memorable Thai Pongal.

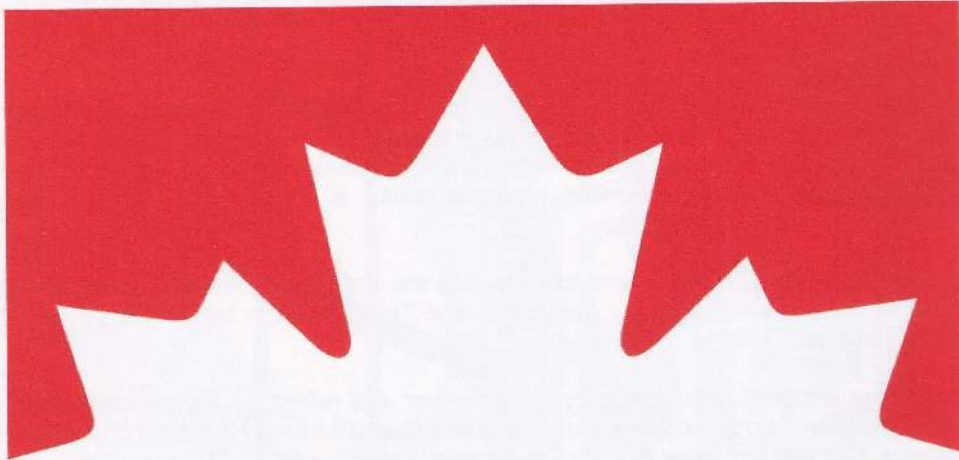
Iniya Pongal Nalvazhthukkal!

Sincerely,

Bonnie Crombie, MBA, ICD.D  
Mayor, City of Mississauga

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January 17, 2015

## MESSAGE FROM MAYOR SCARPITTI

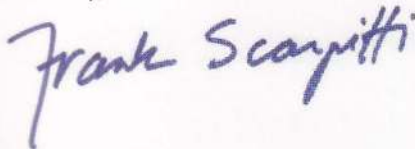
On behalf of Members of Council and the City of Markham, I am pleased to extend a warm and sincere welcome to all those attending the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Canadian Tamil Congress (CTC) Gala Dinner.

In Markham, we welcome people from all over the world to make their home in our city. We are proud to be recognized as Canada's most diverse city and take every occasion to celebrate the many cultures and traditions from across our community.

We are pleased this evening will feature Tamil Canadian arts, culture and achievements through the traditional "Thai Pongal" (Tamil Harvest Festival) theme. Thai Pongal is a time to give thanks - and marks the start of a new harvest and is celebrated by Tamils around the world.

As Mayor, I thank you for your efforts to promote multicultural appreciation and inclusion, and extend best wishes for an enjoyable evening.

Sincerely,



Frank Scarpitti  
Mayor





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**Mayor Dave Barrow**  
Town of Richmond Hill

## MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

On behalf of the members of Council for the Town of Richmond Hill, it is my pleasure to welcome you to the Tamil "Thai Pongal" Festival and Annual Gala Dinner hosted by the Canadian Tamil Congress.

Richmond Hill is blessed with a rich diversity of ethnic cultures, faiths and celebrations. It is our intention to embrace all cultures and share in your traditions and celebrations.

Thank you to the Canadian Tamil Congress for your artistry and contribution to the cultural fabric of our community and to all involved in making this event possible. We are honoured to be here celebrating with you this evening.

Thank you to all those involved in coordinating tonight's Gala and for continuing to support and enhance the lives of others in our community. I wish you all every continued success.

Yours very truly,

Dave Barrow  
Mayor



Office of the Mayor | 225 East Beaver Creek Road, Richmond Hill ON, L4B 3P4  
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## A MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

On behalf of the residents and Council of the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville, I would like to extend my warmest wishes to everyone attending the Canadian Tamil Congress Annual Gala Dinner and Thai Pongal Festival.

The Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville prides itself on being an ethno-culturally diverse community within the wider Greater Toronto Area.

Tamil Canadians represent a strong and vibrant group within our multicultural mosaic.

This gala dinner showcases Tamil Canadian arts and culture as well as achievements and contributions that make our communities great places to live, work and play for all citizens.

I would also like to acknowledge the dedication and tireless effort of the many organizers and volunteers for making this annual gala possible.

Please accept my congratulations on your continued success and best wishes for an enjoyable evening.

Justin Altmann



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# CTC IN REWIND 2014



## Tamil Canadian Community Celebrates Thai Pongal

January 18th, 2014  
- Hilton Suites, Markham

CTC welcomed a packed house of 1,000 community members and political leaders for its 7th Annual Thai Pongal Dinner. The event brought together leaders and political representatives from the federal, provincial and municipal levels to celebrate Tamil Canadian culture and achievements within the Canadian mosaic. C.V.K. Sivagnanam, Chariman of the Northern Provincial Council in Sri Lanka delivered his keynote address highlighting the continuing plight of the Tamils in northern Sri Lanka. Professor Craig Scott, MP and founding member of Sri Lanka Campaign for Peace and Justice was the recipient of the Leaders for Change Award and Jaffna-based Tamil newspaper Uthayan was the recipient of the Service Excellence Award. CTC also presented a cheque for the walkathon proceeds of \$65,000 to the Holland Bloorview Kids Rehabilitation Hospital Foundation.

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## CTC Wins \$53,000 Libel Judgment Against Rohan Gunaratne

January 21, 2014- Toronto, Canada

CTC won \$53,000 libel judgment against prominent self-proclaimed international security expert, Rohan Gunaratne who falsely charged in a newspaper article that CTC was a front for a terrorist group. On January 21, 2014, Ontario Superior Court Justice Stephen E. Firestone ruled in CTC's favour, awarding \$37,000 in damages and \$16,000 in costs against Gunaratna.



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## CTC Advocacy Team at the UN Human Rights Council

March, June & September 2014  
– United Nations, Geneva

CTC's international team members Gary Anandasangaree, Vani Selvarajah, Sutharsan Vasanthan, Kartiga Thavaraj and Dharsha Jegetheeswaran participated at the UN Human Rights Council during its 25th session in Geneva. CTC also participated at 26th and 27th sessions. Statements delivered to the Council repeatedly urged the United Nations and its member states to call for independent, international investigation into allegations of human rights violations in Sri Lanka. The advocacy team lobbied various governments and groups at the UN to advocate for the passage of the follow up Resolution on Accountability in Sri Lanka that passed in September 2014. A representative of CTC also joined a team of elected Tamil representatives from Sri Lanka and travelled to South Africa and Botswana to meet with their Foreign Ministries as part of their advocacy efforts.

33

## CTC Raises Concerns of Sri Lankan Ban With Canadian Officials

April 9th, 2014 – Ottawa, Ontario

In early April, the Sri Lankan Government banned 16 organizations, including CTC, and various individuals in a list which detailed personal details of individuals living abroad as terrorist entities. Shortly after the Sri Lankan Government published the list, CTC met with senior leaders of all three political parties and Canada's Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development in Ottawa to discuss the implications of the senseless ban. CTC was assured that the Canadian Government remained concerned about the situation and would express its concerns accordingly. The Canadian Government openly condemned the listing which had no substantive evidence.



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# Milestones - Youth Leadership Program Completes Another Successful Terms

May 31st & December 14st, 2014

Centre for Leadership and Innovation, hosted end of term celebratory events of their Youth Leadership Program on May 31 and December 14, 2014. The fun filled events were chaired and run by our youth and included speeches, presentations and debates. Over 130 youth are enrolled in this program.

# May Memorial in Ottawa - Vanished Voices

May 15, 2014- Ottawa, Ontario

Five years after the tragic end to Sri Lanka's war, several Members of Parliament and Senators from all political parties attended the memorial event, entitled "Vanished Voices" on Parliament Hill. Organized by CTC, the memorial was held to mark the immense bloodshed that occurred during the last stages of the war and featured prayer services by Hindu and Christian priests. Ruling Conservative Party MP from Scarborough Centre, Roxanne James, Paul Dewar, MP for Ottawa-Centre and foreign affairs critic for NDP, Dr. Kirsty Dunac, MP for Etobicoke North, veteran Liberal Senator David Smith, NDP MP for Hamilton East-Stoney Creek and Human Rights critic Wayne Marston, Liberal MP for Scarborough-Guildwood John McKay, Conservative Party Senator Done Meredith and NDP MP for Scarborough Rouge River Rathika Sitsabaiesan were among the speakers. Patrick Brown, MP for Barrie sponsored the event and he concluded the memorial by thanking all those who attended.



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## CTC Hosts Seminar on the USA

June 17th, 2014 – Scarborough, Ontario

United States Consulate officials presented an information seminar on living, studying and working in the United States. Hosted by CTC for the Tamil Canadian community, the event was the first of its kind and proved to be very valuable for all those who were present. Four officials from the Political-Economic, Non-Immigrant Visa Section and Public Affairs departments of the United States Consulate General were present at the event. The officials spoke to a room full of attendees about three major topics of interest to Tamil Canadians: Educational Opportunities in the United States, Investing in the United States, and the different Visas involved when travelling to the United States.



## FeTNA Convention

July 4th – 5th, 2014 – St. Louis, Missouri, USA

As part of its commitment to the Federation of Tamil Sangams of North America (FeTNA), CTC participated in the FeTNA Convention in St. Louis, Missouri. CTC promoted the event in Canada by organizing bus service to St. Louis from Toronto. CTC has been a member of FeTNA for many years and hosted the 2013 FeTNA convention in Toronto for the very first time in its history.



## CTC Launches 2014 Walkathon

July 29th, 2014 – Scarborough, Ontario

To a packed room of supporters, CTC proudly announced the recipient of its 6th Annual Tamil Canadian Walk - the Heart and Stroke Foundation! Over the last 60 years, the Foundation invested more than \$1.39 billion in heart and stroke research through the generous donations of millions of Canadians. In that time, the death rate from heart disease and stroke has declined by more than 75%!



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## CTC's 7th Annual Blood Donation Drive

July 2014

The Canadian Tamil Congress, for the seventh year in a row, partnered with Canadian Blood Services to host a blood donation drive with several clinics open throughout the month. Tamil Canadians were urged to be donors for a very worthy cause under group name Tamil Canadians and group ID code CANA009345. Through the bloodshed of our loved ones during Sri Lanka's civil war, CTC recognizes the dire need of such services and encourages Tamil Canadians to give back to our Canadian community.



## Mayoral Debate Organized by CTC

July 15th, 2014 – Scarborough, Ontario

Canadian Tamil Congress hosted a debate on Tuesday, July 15th, 2014 between five Toronto Mayoral Candidates – Olivia Chow, Rob Ford, David Soknacki, Karen Stintz and John Tory. In an effort to promote democracy and transparency, this highly successful debate, organized by CTC attracted approximately 800 voters who wanted to make a well-informed decision. The debate was moderated by National Post Columnist, Chris Selley. Characterized as one of CTC's most successful events, the debate was broadcast live on major national media outlets and approximately 42 media outlets covered this milestone event.



## Youth Leadership Program's Ydocs Gala Dinner

July 25th, 2014 – Markham, Ontario

The Centre for Leadership and Innovation hosted its second annual YDocs Gala Event. The dinner was attended by approximately 400 supporters, friends and family members who helped build youth empowerment and leadership. Documentaries produced for the Youth Documentary Competition were screened along





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with an awards presentation and a dinner & dance. 10 short films documentaries were showcased during the event included 2 films which were chosen for screening at the Toronto South Asian Film Festival.

## CTC Remembers Black July '83

July 26th, 2014 – Scarborough Civic Centre

31 years later, we still remember. As Tamils around the world remembered the anti-Tamil pogrom that took place in 1983, CTC organized an information session on Black July '83 with the objective of educating our youth. The information session for youth consisted of a power point presentation, screening of a 30 minute documentary and an exhibition about Black July. Youth also got the chance to meet, speak and engage with victims of Black July '83.

## CTC Walks in Support of Heart and Stroke Foundation

September 14th, 2014 – Thomson Memorial Park

Thousands of Tamil Canadians and friends joined the 2014 Tamil Canadian walk-a-thon in support of Heart and Stroke Foundation. With the support of walkers and other well wishers, the annual 5 km walk was able to raise more than \$32,000. The Heart and Stroke Foundation is one of Canada's largest and most effective health charities. Due to genetic and other high risk factors, South Asians are three times more likely to experience heart disease or stroke and at a much earlier age than other Canadians. CTC was proud to have supported such a worthy cause and to this date, CTC has raised close to \$300,000 in for 6 different charities.



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## Evidence Gathering

August 2014 – October 2014

CTC has been at the forefront of UNHRC advocacy efforts since May 2009. On August 5th, 2014, when the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) announced it will accept submissions pursuant to the mandate given to it at the 25th session of the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva to undertake a comprehensive investigation into alleged serious violations and abuses of human rights in Sri Lanka during the period of February 2002 to November 2011, CTC went into action. CTC made urgent appeal for anyone with information to come forward to assist the UN investigation team achieve justice for our brothers and sisters in Sri Lanka, by actively promoting this mechanism by extensive advertising, flyer distribution and media interviews and directing witnesses through appropriate channels.

## CFLI Launches “Centre Stage”

November 4, 2014 – Toronto, Ontario

Following the immense success of CFLI’s Youth Leadership Program, a program dedicated to adults was launched. Centre Stage, a forum for adults to hone their public speaking skills was launched with over 15 adults part of the pilot program.

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#### OUR MISSION

CTPA's mission is to address the needs of the growing Tamil EP population and to support our members in adapting to the ever-changing professional markets. CTPA strives to nurture the growth of Tamil Emerging Professionals (EPs) through the following:

- Established forums through which professionals can connect, network and exchange knowledge that will enhance their personal career development
- Promote professional development as a dynamic and continuous process
- Facilitate and provide opportunities for professionals to act as mentors and be mentored for the purpose of supporting their career growth

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## CTC holds 10th Year Tsunami Memorial December 26th, 2014 – Scarborough, Ontario

The Boxing Day Tsunami in 2004 took the lives of more than 230,000 people and left two million homeless across thirteen countries. To commemorate the 10th year of this tragic event, CTC hosted a memorial event at the JC's Banquet hall in Scarborough. Member of Parliament for Barrie Mr. Patric Brown, Mr. Gary Anandasangaree, Dr. Rajes Logan of the Canadian Tamil Medical Association and Mr. Raj Thavaratnasingham, president of CTC were among the speakers. Canadian mainstream media outlets as well as Tamil community media representatives were present to cover the memorial event.



## Conclusion

CTC periodically meets and provides updates with concerned government departments, various political party and media officials both within and outside Ottawa. In the recent past, CTC officials have met with various foreign embassy officials, chiefs of various school boards, officials of various police forces and other agencies that help Tamils both in Canada and Sri Lanka. CTC also took part in various dialogues and activities with individuals and organizations both within and outside Canada related to issues affecting Tamils. CTC remains committed to remaining engaged and furthering these valued relationships. We encourage you to join our team!



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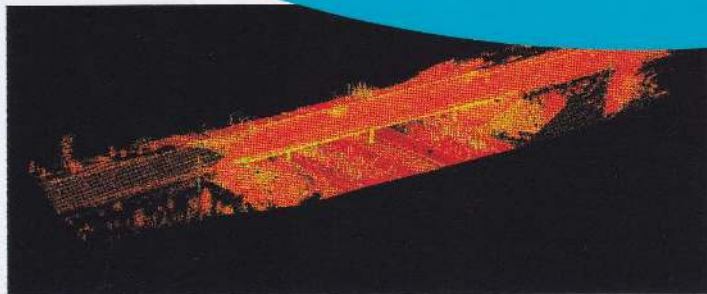
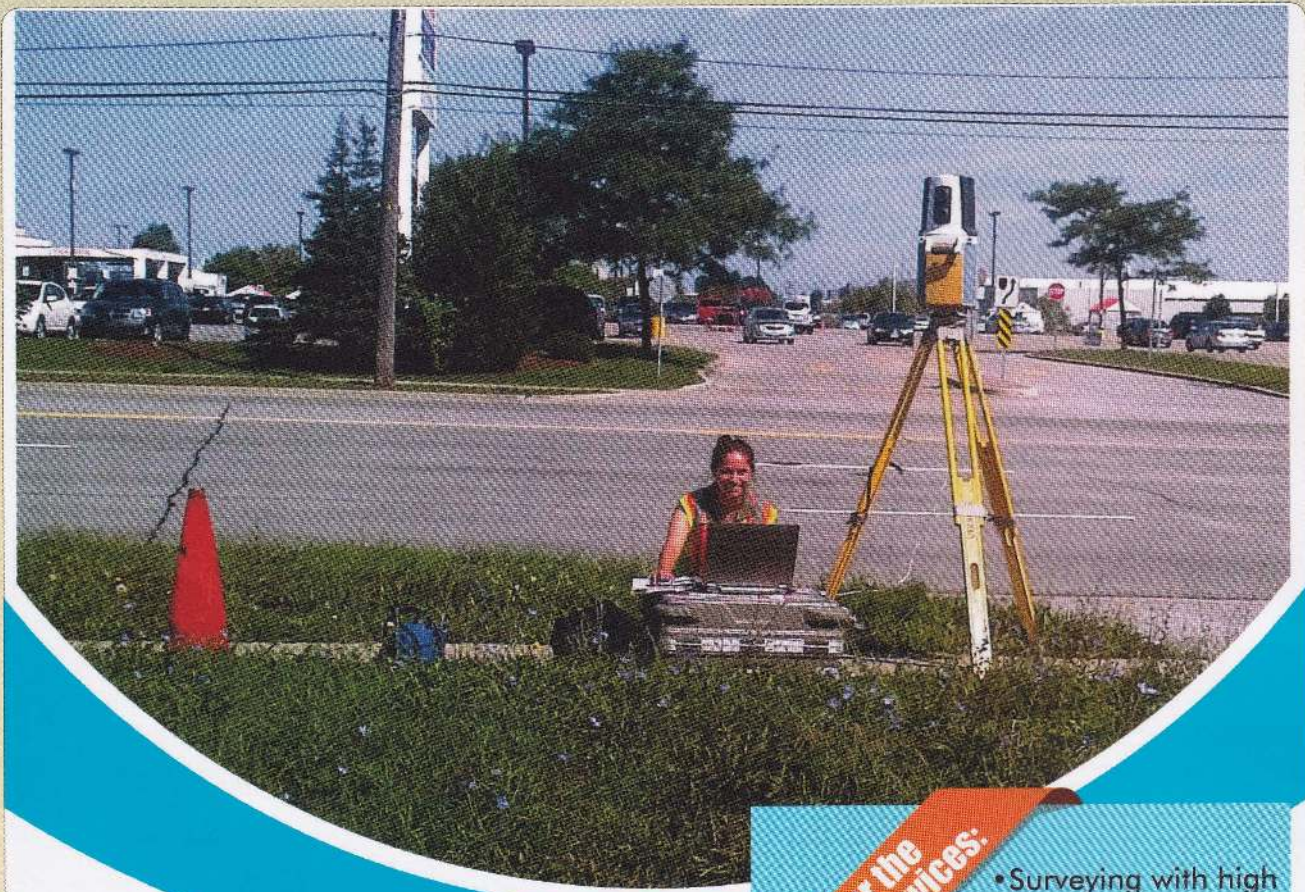
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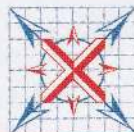
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# Service Excellence Award

*As part of our ongoing commitment to volunteerism and promoting community involvement, the Canadian Tamil Congress will honour the contribution of an individual or organization that has supported the Tamil people. The recipient of this award will be an organization that has demonstrated compassion, dedication and support to community-building efforts. This award will recognize the organization's long-term support, commitment and significant contribution to the Tamil community at large.*

2015 Award Recipient:

## **Dr. Shan Chandrasekar**

Shan Chandrasekar is the Chairman, President and CEO of ATN - Asian Television Network International Limited, a long established television broadcast company serving multicultural communities across Canada. Dr. Chandrasekar started his broadcast career in Canada after graduating from McGill University in Montreal with a Master's degree.

ATN is listed on The Canadian Exchange TSX under the symbol SAT. It operates 53 Premium Specialty Television Channels across Canada. It also operates ATN-Asian Radio the first and only South Asian radio service all across Canada and the USA on Sirius. ATN has strategic alliances with Leading International Broadcasters and is a pioneer distributor of world class cricket. ATN was recently selected as a TSX Venture 50 company, and is a Business Excellence Award winner from the Newmarket Chamber of Commerce.

Dr. Chandrasekar was inducted into the "Canadian Broadcast Hall of Fame" The highest honor in private broadcasting in Canada. He was on the Board of Directors and Vice-Chairman of the Specialty and Pay Television Section of The Canadian Association of Broadcasters (CAB). He is on The Board of Directors of The Royal Conservatory of Music and The President's Advisory Council at York University.

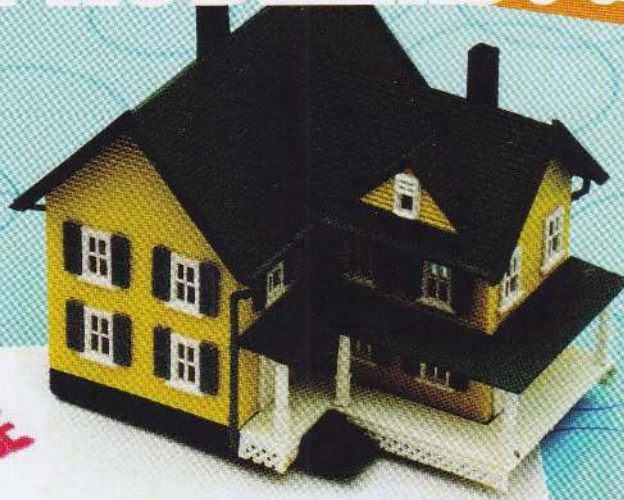
He was on the Board of Directors of The South Lake Regional Health Centre, the largest hospital in the region. He was on the Campaign Cabinet of the Scarborough Hospital Foundation. He was a member of The TELUS Toronto Community Board. He was on the Board of Directors of the Hummingbird Center, The Board of "CWC" and the Board of The Canadian Club.

Shan was Conferred an Honorary Doctorate (Doctor of Laws Degree) by York University in Toronto. Shan is an Ernst & Young Entrepreneur of the Year award finalist in Ontario.

Shan is married to Jaya who is a highly respected television personality in the South Asian Community, co-founder of ATN and Executive Vice President, who was inducted into the Canadian Broadcast Hall of Fame.



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# Leaders for Change

*The Leaders for Change Award honours the unique contribution of an individual who through his or her exceptional vision, perseverance and commitment has redefined or strengthened the need for change in our society. The recipient of this award will be someone who has demonstrated an effort to strive for change in a way that positively impacted the lives of others. This award recognizes a determined individual whose efforts are characterized by a dedication to leadership, a vision for change and a desire to enhance the lives of others.*

2015 Award Recipient:

## **Bernie M. Farber**

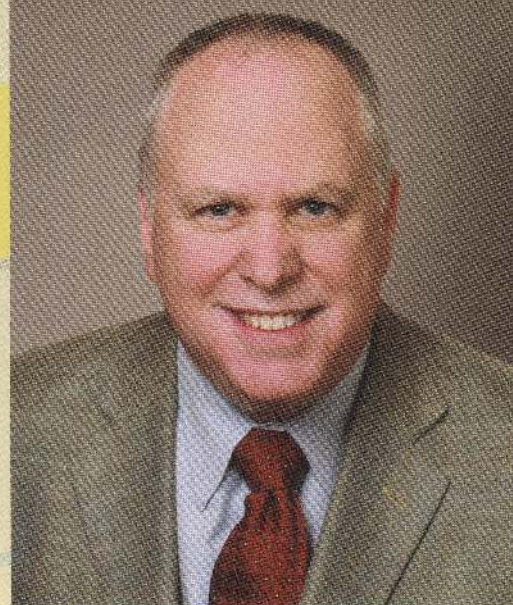
Bernie M. Farber is one of Canada's leading experts on minority and human rights, race relations, the Holocaust and antisemitism.

For more than a decade, Mr. Farber worked with the Ottawa Jewish Community Centre as its Program Director and then for the Youth Services Bureau and the Children's Aid Society in Ottawa, specializing in assisting at-risk youth and battered women. After moving to Toronto, he worked with the Canadian Jewish Congress eventually assuming the role as its CEO from 2005-2011.

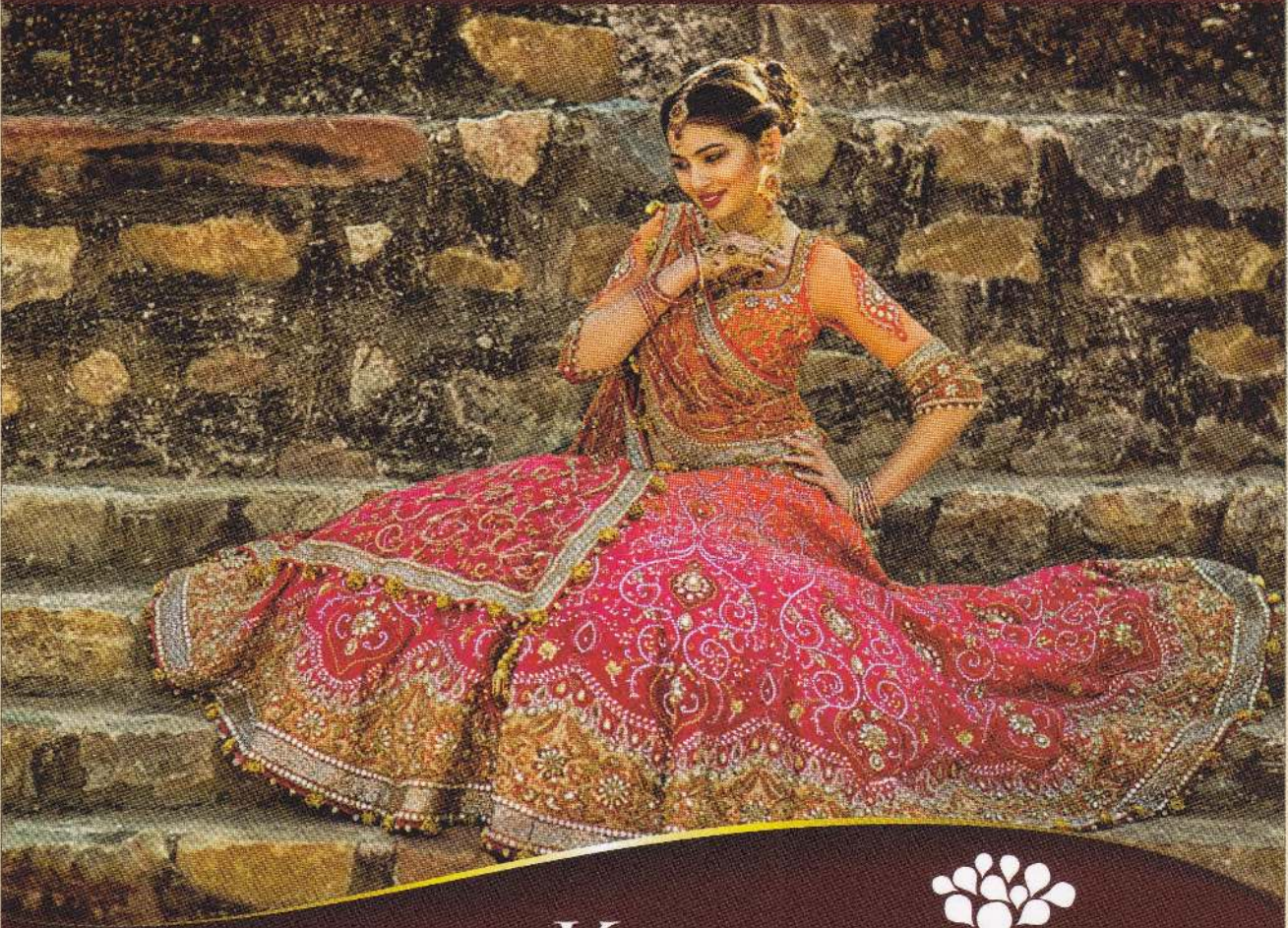
Mr. Farber serves and has served on several local and provincial boards, including the North York Committee for Community Race and Ethnic Relations, the York Region Community Safety Committee and the Ontario Association of Chiefs of Police. He was appointed by the Attorney-General of Ontario to serve on the Hate Crimes Community Working Group. He also serves as Chair of the Jewish Humanitarian group Ve'ahavta and he also Chairs the Rights and Ethics Committee for the Toronto Association for Community Living and serves as a trustee for Paloma Foundation, providing assistance for homeless youth.

Mr. Farber was recently awarded the Meir Hospital's Medal of Honour. He is also a recipient of Canada's Centennial Medal and Diamond Jubilee Medal, an Order of Commendation from the Venerable Order of St. John as well as the Ontario Certificate of Merit by the Premier of Ontario for his work in race relations. Mr. Farber has also been presented with the Zaionz Award for Excellence in Jewish Communal Service. Mr. Farber is a frequent writer for many national and international newspapers where he has authored thoughtful pieces on human and civil rights matters and is a regular columnist with the Canadian Jewish News. He is a sought after speaker and has addressed audiences in Canada, the United States, Europe and Israel.

Today Mr. Farber administers Dr. Michael Dan's "Paloma Foundation" as its CEO. The Foundation provides training and support for Toronto's homeless youth shelters. In addition Mr. Farber is working with Dr. Dan who has endowed the University of Toronto's Dalla Lana School of Public Health with a \$10 million gift to develop an Indigenous Health and Wellness Institute.



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# Living Hero Award



*As part of our commitment to recognizing the work of heroic individuals for their selfless work in bettering the lives of others, the Canadian Tamil Congress has introduced the Living Hero Award. The award will be given annually to a person of Tamil origin who has demonstrated exemplary leadership, courage, empathy and services in challenging circumstances. The Living Hero Award will recognize the contribution of a dedicated individual whose selfless work has helped change the lives of others.*

2015 Award Recipient:

## **Rev. Dr. S.J. Emmanuel**

Prof. Dr. S. J. Emmanuel was raised in Jaffna and graduated from the University of Ceylon, Colombo in 1958. After a short period as teacher and journalist, he continued his studies in Rome, graduating in Philosophy and Theology at the Pontifical Urban University and was ordained in December 1966.

In Sri Lanka, he was pastor and diocesan director for lay apostolate. During his second sojourn in Rome (1973-1976), he did research about lay ministries and obtained a Doctorate in Theology. From 1976 till 1986, he was Professor and Dean of theology at the National Seminary in Kandy, Sri Lanka. For eight years he was a member of the first Theological Advisory Committee of the Federation of Asian Bishops Conferences (FABC) and delivered the key-note address to the plenary sessions of the FABC in Tokyo in 1986. He was ten years Rector of St. Francis Xavier's Major Seminary in Jaffna and also Vicar General of the Jaffna Diocese till 1997. He was Founder-Director of the Centre for Better Society in Jaffna, and editor of two bi-monthly theological journals in Tamil.

From 1986 onwards, he has been a direct victim and witness of the ethnic conflict and war in Jaffna. In October 1995 he along with his staff and students of the Seminary joined the 500,000 in their historic exodus out of Jaffna. After a year in the jungles of Kilinochchi he moved into Europe in 1997 in self-exile. In 1996 and 1997 he was a visiting Scholar at Heythrop College of the University of London. In September 1997 he moved into Germany. During these seventeen years in self-exile, besides his lectures in various universities in Europe, he has borne credible witness at many international conferences to the horror events happening behind closed-doors in the North and East of Sri Lanka. During the last fifteen years he has attended the annual sessions of the Human Rights Commission of the UN held in Geneva and has lobbied for his people to the international community. In February 2010 he was elected President of the Global Tamil Forum – a network of Diaspora Tamil organizations around the world.

Besides his theological publications in the earlier years as a member of the Theological Advisory Committee of the Federation of Asian Bishops Conferences (FABC), he has written three books related to the Tamil Struggle for freedom.

1. Church, Politics and War in Sri Lanka – in English and Tamil
2. Let My People Go –in English (2 editions), Tamil, French and German
3. Agonies and Aspirations of the Tamil Struggle – 2 editions in English

He has given numerous interviews to media and written articles to several journals in English, Tamil and German. From 1997 to 2007 he was Pastor in a Catholic parish St. Maria Magdalena, Horneburg, in the diocese of Münster, Germany. From 2007 to 2013 he served as Vicarius Cooperator in St. Nikolaus Parish, Darfeld in the Diocese of Münster, Germany. From January 2014 he lives in Germany as emeritus-priester.

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# TAMIL HERITAGE

Heritage is that which has been handed down to us from the past through our forebears, that family legacy which we have 'inherited' from our ancestors. This family heritage which we inherit will include traditions, values, culture, language, history, lineage, bloodline, stories and personal traits.

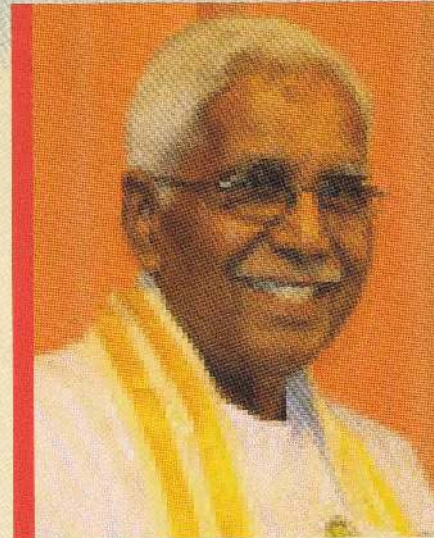
People throughout antiquity have demonstrated a strong affiliation with their ancestry, a desire to learn and preserve the knowledge of their origins and their family lineage. The ancient Tamil texts are a prime example where we find the genealogies of the Tamil kings featuring in the poems. One of the poems in an ancient Tamil classical anthology says,

Descendent of the mighty ones, who put beneath their feet  
The whole extended earth, girt by the roaring sea"  
(Puranānūru 205)

Poet, Kapilar, speaks of Pulikaṭimāl, a Vēḷir prince, as the scion of a family that has ruled for 49 generations. In Hindu Tamil weddings a strong tradition of mentioning the names of three generations of the bride and bridegroom is followed even now.

The important and prime legacy that we have inherited from our ancestors is the Tamil language, one of the eight classical languages of the world. Most of those eight classical languages had their excellent antiquity but only a few had the continuity. Among the eight classical languages, namely, Greek, Latin, Sanskrit, Persian, Hebrew, Arabic, Chinese and Tamil, only the last four languages have persisted. But Tamil has a rich literary heritage and it still continues to have healthy modern literature. The language used in the old Tamil literary texts about two thousand five hundred years ago is still found in some spoken varieties of Tamil language.

Tirukkural is the greatest legacy that the Tamils have inherited. The Tamils are proud that their ancestors have given this finest composition embodying the spiritual vision, the ethical wisdom and the ideals of kingship and polity of India of his time. It does not deal with or develop any specific system of thought or philosophy, as such, but contains the best of all. There is a broad unity and cohesion pervading his thought, which embraces almost the totality of human life and experience. The undying fame of this immortal work has secured translations of it in several languages of the world. The author of this treatise speaks of a God who is common to all. He says specifically in his opening chapter that God has to be praised and worshipped because this will lead to happiness, freedom from mental cares, and salvation in the end. From the Tamil classical poems and the works of some ancient Greek and Roman writers we learn that the ancient Tamils were a sea-faring people, who built ships and showed great enterprise in trade and commerce. Since



**Dr. Arunasalam Sanmugas**  
Emeritus Professor  
(University of Jaffna,  
Sri Lanka).

*Born in Trincomalee, Sri Lanka.  
Had secondary education in Bat-  
ticaloa and Ph.D from University  
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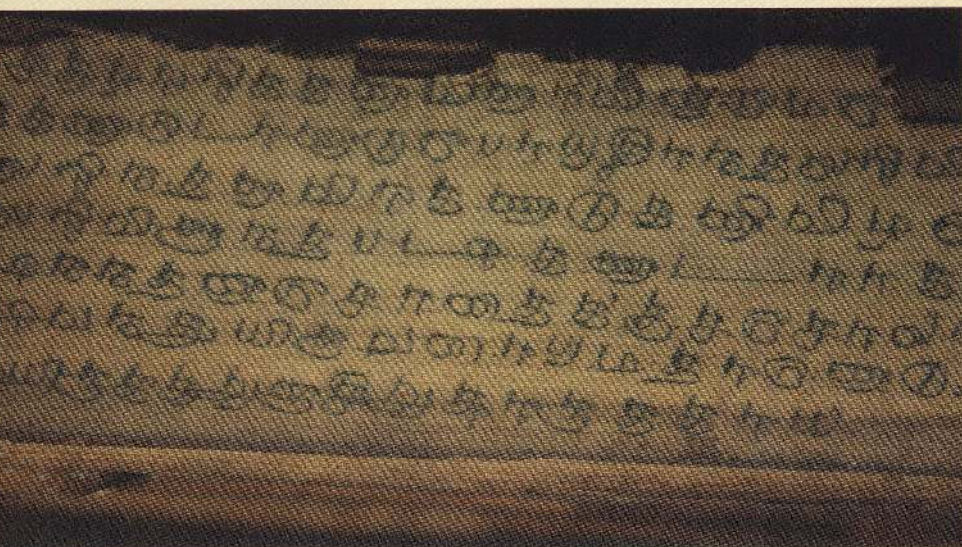


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the Tamil land was surrounded by three seas, namely, Bay of Bengal on the east, Arabian Sea on the west and the Indian Ocean on the south, the ancient Tamils had the opportunity to have trade connection with countries like Egypt and Babylonia in the west and China in the east. In an ancient Tamil poem it is mentioned that in the busy port of Kāvērippattinam (the Khaberis of Ptolemy) the Greek ships came with gold and returning with pepper. The Greeks also brought for sale some kind of spices, coral, flint, glass, tin, lead and wines of quality. In return pepper, betel, ivory, silk, transparent stones of all kinds, diamonds, rubies, sapphire, and food articles such as rice, millet and coconuts were taken to Greece. At the beginning of the Christian era, the foreign trade led to political and cultural results. The Tamil kings encouraged settlement of foreigners in their capitals and ports. There was such a settlement in Kaveripattinam in which foreigners speaking several languages lived. There were Roman colonies in Madurai and Musiri. The trade and commerce of the Tamils reached its peak again in the Chola empire during the 10th and 11th centuries.

The classical Tamil poems speak of fertile rice and sugar-cane fields (Purananuru , 15 & 16). In one poem(19 ), the king is advised to harness the flowing water and to build dams. The famous poetess Avvai-



yar sings of her patron's glorious ancestors who first planted sugar-cane in South India. This story sustained by a strong tradition that persisted all through the ages.





Temple art and architecture are noteworthy in the history of the Tamils. Of these, the musical pillars found in a number of big temples in Tamilnadu are a unique triumph of the sculptor's art. These pillars are found in Sri Nellaiyappar temple in Thirunelvely , Sri Minakshi Sundareswarar temple in Madurai. Suchindram temple, etc.

It is really wonderful to hear musical swaras when those small pillars are tapped. This is a unique craftsmanship of the sculptors of Tamilnadu in investing stone with the capacity to emit musical sounds.

The Tamil ancestors have handed over a famous celebration called Thai Pongal. The Pongal had been typically a thanks giving celebration which takes place in January. The sun, the soil and the supporting livestock were thanked for their services to the man-kind. Today it is being celebrated as a cultural ceremony. Even the Tamil Christians in Sri Lanka and Tamilnadu celebrate this, not only as a thanks-giving ceremony but also as a Tamil New Year celebration.

Have you ever heard a lover comparing his beloved girl to cities and towns as if to say "You are wonderful and very much like Toronto or Montreal or New York or London?" We do not find this in any modern verses. But this exactly what the Tamil lover of the classical period said comparing her to rich and beautiful towns and cities with which he was acquainted. They were fond of comparing even feelings related to love, to cities. For example, in a poem composed more than 2000 years ago, the girl says:

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When my lover is near  
I am filled with joy, I exult  
like a city in festival  
But when he is gone  
I grieve alone like a  
lonely house left by its people.

The happiness of the girl is compared to a city in festival. Rev. Fr. Thaninayagam says that this imagery seems to have been derived from the earlier Dravidian love of cities and city culture.

The desire to regard all men brothers is normal in this jet age. But centuries ago when there were no international associations, men felt that there should be recognition of the fraternity of men. The Stoics of ancient Greece expressed the brotherhood of all men in the same manner as the Tamils did. For instance the Tamil verse,

“Every country is my country  
Every man is my kinsman”

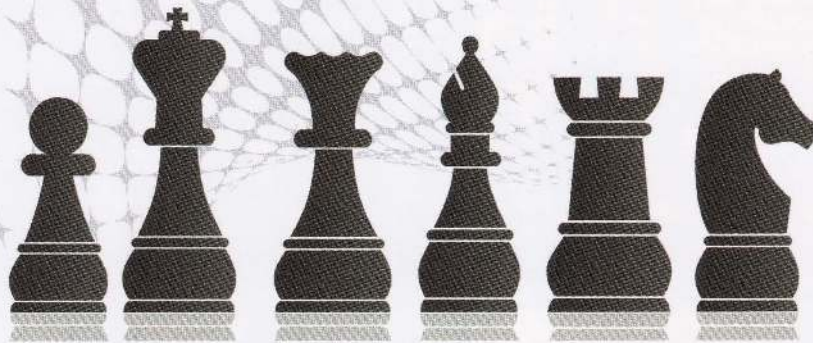
And other similar lines envisaged a fraternal relationship with the rest of the world. While Plato and Aristotle were primarily engaged with the city states and considered the rest of mankind as ‘barbarians’, and the Brahmin Dharmasastras limited salvation to those who were born between the Himalyas and the Vindhyas, the Tamil classics were much more liberal, and did not deny salvation or education to any class. It is like the Canadian Government providing everything to everyone. The Tamils who have migrated to this country have also carried with them the ancient saying,

“Every country is my country  
Every man is my kinsman”

and that is how they were able to integrate into the Canadian society and to contribute significantly to its cultural enrichment and economic prosperity. We have to thank all those who were responsible to proclaim January as the Month of Tamil Heritage. It has given us an opportunity to share some thoughts about Tamil history and culture.



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# The Path Forward Must Include Accountability

The election of Maithripala Sirisena, or the “Common Opposition Candidate” as he was framed, is a loose coalition of unconventional allies with the sole purpose of overturning the Rajapakse dynasty and his increasingly authoritarian rule and iron-clad grip on the people of the island. Despite the Common Opposition Candidate’s manifesto being devoid of any significant and direct commitments relating to Tamils, the general consensus as expressed by the Tamil National Alliance, was that Rajapakse had to go and the island needs to be on a different trajectory. The same view was expressed by the major Muslim parties. This alliance was further strengthened by hard lined Sinhala Nationalist parties who have traditionally shied away from engaging in any statewide solidarity with Tamils and Muslims. This seemingly unorthodox alliance won the day as Sirisena was sworn in as the President of Sri Lanka on January 9th, 2015.

Now that the self-proclaimed known “devil” (Rajapakse) is defeated, there are contrasting views on how the unknown “angel” will perform. Sirisena has an aggressive 100 day work plan that tries to reverse some major projects and programs of the Rajapakse Presidency. This includes the abolition of the executive Presidency and the restoration of a parliamentary democracy. There are calls for a cabinet that represents the various differing interests and parties that make up the “Common Opposition Coalition.” President Sirisena has already made modest gestures towards media freedom and against impunity. To negotiate with parties of significant differences is no easy feat. It requires compromises on all sides, and ultimately, the good will of the parties to put aside their differences in order to attain peace. This too is a tall order.

Hence, we are left with some hope, and some limited possibilities for short term progress and long term peace. It is in this backdrop that we prepare to once again embrace the international community towards seeking accountability in Sri Lanka. Our position on accountability is clear and remains consistent: peace cannot be achieved without holding those responsible for international crimes accountable. Justice must prevail for peace to emerge.

The international community has taken bold steps in the last three years by gradually moving towards an independent, international investigation. This was finally achieved last March at the United Nations Human Rights Council, which established an investigation under the auspices of the Office of the United Nations High Rights Commissioner. The OISL concluded its investigation without the cooperation of the Government of Sri Lanka, and without access to evidence located in the island.

The report of the OISL Investigation is scheduled to be presented at the 28th Session of the UNHRC in March 2015. Given the evidence the investigative team is likely to have seen, it is fair to assume that significant findings of fact



**Gary Anandasangaree**

*Gary Anandasangaree was Legal Counsel to the Canadian Tamil Congress and represented Lawyers' Rights Watch Canada. He is now the Federal Liberal Party Candidate for the riding of Scarborough-Rouge Park.*



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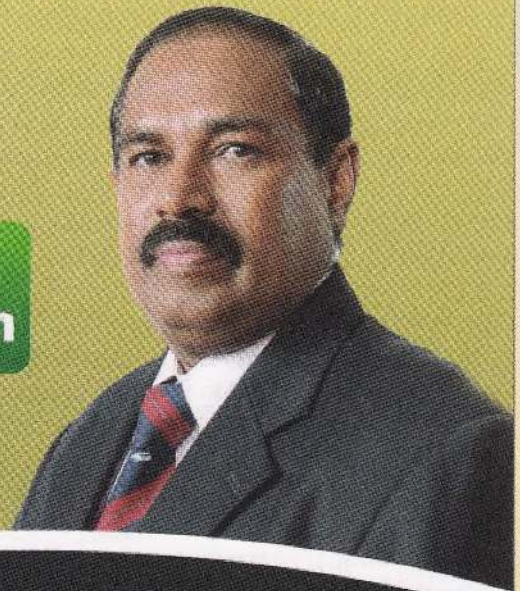
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will be established on war crimes, crimes against humanity and possibly genocide. This is a significant step forward – an essential tool and precursor to any form of prosecution of those within the chain of command within the Sri Lankan Military and the LTTE that is likely to take place in the future.

The OHCHR is also mandated to investigate ongoing violations of human rights on the island, including the use of the Prevention of Terrorism Act, treatment of detainees, widespread impunity, violations of religious freedoms, and impartiality of the judiciary. The recommendations of the investigative team with respect to ongoing violations will serve as the first real test for the Sirisena Administration – and ultimately the test to see if there was merely a regime change in Sri Lanka from Rajapakse to Sirisena or a more cogent structural movement, albeit minor, to warrant a greater degree of deference to the Sri Lankan state to address its own failures. While the first 100 days of the Sirisena Presidency will be one filled with symbolism, it should incorporate many of the important shortcomings of the previous administration.

For Tamils, it should include some of the following:

- the release of the list of alleged cadres held by the government, access to Legal Counsel, and clear charges and timeline for prosecution of offenses if any;
- demilitarization and/or a timeline and target to transition civilian roles from the military;
- a freeze on establishment of new Military bases;
- immediate freeze on land transfers and new settlements, save and except those who were displaced from their homes, including Muslims;
- unfettered media access to the entire island;
- appointment of a team to negotiate a devolution package with the Tamil National Alliance; and
- delisting diaspora groups and individuals listed as terrorist entities, including the Canadian Tamil Congress.

While the report from the OISL will likely highlight these issues, it must immediately be addressed by the Government of Sri Lanka. If Sri Lanka is able to address these issues within the first 100 days, then the country is likely to get additional time and space from the international community in addressing issues of accountability based on the OISL findings.

Therefore, our march towards Geneva this year is one that is somewhat pre-determined by the outcome of the OISL investigation, wherein, longer term objectives of prosecution could be advanced by its findings. Over the coming months, we will see if Sirisena truly intends to run his Presidency differently from that of his predecessors and whether he has the political will to meaningfully address and implement the recommendations from the OISL report in the short term. This will be the true test of his Presidency and will determine the path forward.

In the long term, we will continue to pursue accountability on behalf of the victims of the brutal war in Sri Lanka by working towards travel bans, referral to the International Criminal Court, targeted sanctions and other means within our disposal to ensure that justice is not evaded. Hence, our march in March will continue with the same vigor, and as Human Rights Advocate Niran Anketell tweeted right after the Sirisena's election "Today, I raise my glass to him. Tomorrow, we take him on."



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# A Spot on this Earth

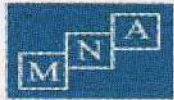
There's a spot on this earth  
That has it life of its own  
Little do many people know about it  
We're here to touch on its surroundings more  
From negative to positive is what we strive for  
We seek to change the realities  
Of devastating childhood lives  
From centuries long ago  
We've not spoken out opinions  
Nor given the microphone to the wise ones  
We've not looked deeply into people's souls  
Nor have looked around and observed  
Others have lied to raise innocent hopes  
Now as leaders we have to change yesterday's disaster  
To today's dream  
For them to live an unforgettable dream  
We have disregarded a world  
That needs our help  
For it to live on and on  
So let's keep this spot on this earth  
Filled with love hope and joy



**Raveena Raveendran**

*Raveena Raveendran currently attends Emily Carr Secondary School as a twelfth grader. She is currently enrolled in The Youth Leadership Program, and an active member of Ontario Youth Parliament. In her free time she enjoys reading.*





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# Transformational Growth of CFLI

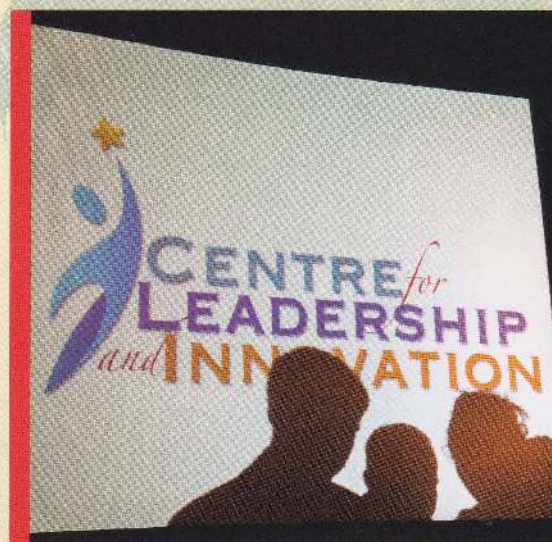
## Developing Leaders of Tomorrow

Since its founding less than three years ago, the growth of Centre for Leadership and Innovation (CFLI) has been transformational. In April 2012 CFLI launched its first Youth Leadership Program (YLP) initiative, a public speaking forum for youth aged 10-18, with just 20 members. The response from parents and the youth participants has been tremendous. Currently, there are over 130 youth enrolled in this program in 8 different classes. These classes are facilitated by 11 very talented, passionate and dedicated volunteers – successful professionals from diverse fields including accounting, actuarial, finance, human resource, information technology, legal, and marketing.

Leaders aren't born, they are nurtured and developed. This is the driving force behind CFLI, a non-profit organization based in Toronto. Its vision is to build and promote leadership and innovation amongst Tamil Canadian and other multicultural communities. The goal of YLP is to help youth become strong leaders of tomorrow, with primary focus on public speaking, teamwork and leadership skills, something the school curriculum don't focus enough on. CFLI provides an inspiring and supportive learning environment that fosters these skills amongst its youth members.

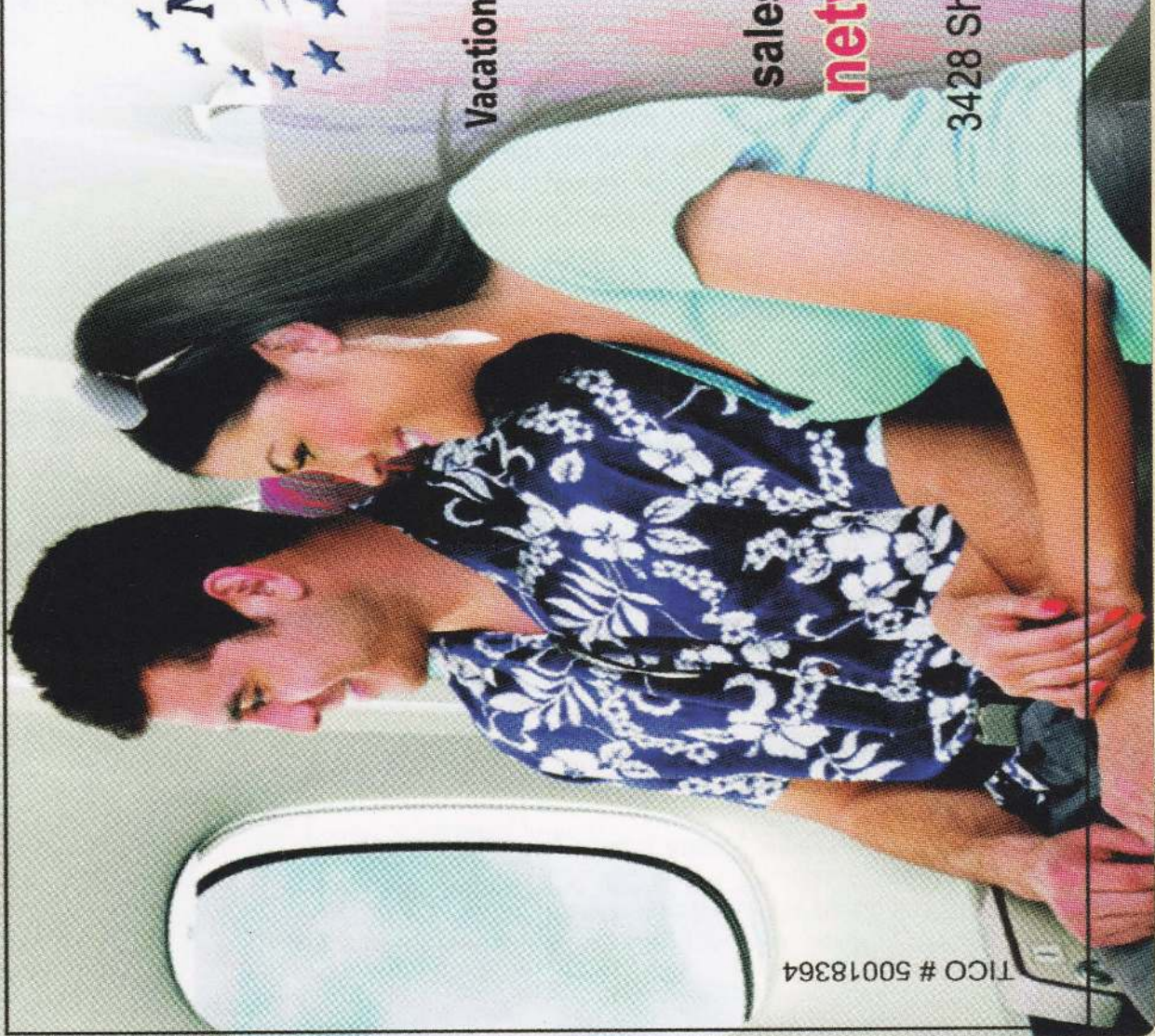
### Significant Achievements to date:

- › Jul 2012 - Held first YLP talent showcase event in front of 100 parents and guests
- › Jan 2013 - Members shared their leadership aspirations with 750 people at the CTC Gala
- › Jul 2013 - Youth Documentary Challenge (YDocs) Gala Event, attended by 225 people.
- › Jan 2014 - Members performed a Mandela Tribute at the CTC Gala with 950 people
- › Apr 2014 - Members showcased the growth of the Tamil Community in Canada at the CTCC Awards Gala in front of 800 people
- › May 2014 - Held YLP Milestones end of term event with 250 parents and guests
- › Jul 2014 - Second annual YDocs Gala Event attended by 400 people. Showcased 10 short films, 2 of which were chosen for screening at the Toronto South Asian Film Festival
- › Oct 2014 - Successful launched of "Centre Stage", a forum for adults to hone their public speaking skills
- › Dec 2014 - Held most recent YLP Milestones end of term event with 350 parents and guests, in collaboration with York Regional School Board, at Midfield Collegiate



### CFLI's Founders,

*Kumar Ratnam  
Sivan Ilango  
Umesh Vallipuram*



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## Performances at Community Events

YLP members were given numerous opportunities to showcase their public speaking skills at community events. Most recently the youth members performed at the South Asian Humanitarian Association dinner, IMHO dinner, CTMA –Lights of healing Gala, Anpuneri annual dinner, Karaveddy Ontrium holiday gathering, Roundtable with Politicians, and 10th Anniversary Tsunami Memorial. Providing the youth members the opportunity to perform in these public events certainly gives them valuable experience in developing their public speaking and leadership skills, and further helps build their confidence. The performances of the youth members have been one of the highlights at these events and have certainly been inspiring.

## Youth Documentary Challenge

YDocs is an exciting and innovative initiative that was started in the summer of 2013. It was part of CFLI's efforts for youth to identify social causes that they are passionate about and produce 5 to 7 minute documentaries. They work in groups of 6 to 8 members to produce the documentaries. The emphasis here is to develop individual leadership and team building skills by engaging members in project based activities. Building on last year's successful event, the enrollment more than doubled in this year's program with over 80 members participating in it, and 10 documentaries were produced. This year's gala event was a huge success with the audience raving about the talent and creativity displayed by members as young as 10-years old. In fact, two of the documentaries were chosen out of over 400 submissions, and were screened at this year's Toronto South Asian Film Festival.

## Summer Internship

As part of CFLI's continued expansion of scope for YLP, two YLP members had one-month internships at Connex Telecommunications during the summer of 2014. To build on this success, one of the goals in 2015 is to identify and provide more summer internship opportunities for the youth members. This will give them much valuable work experience and will better prepare them when they enter the workforce.

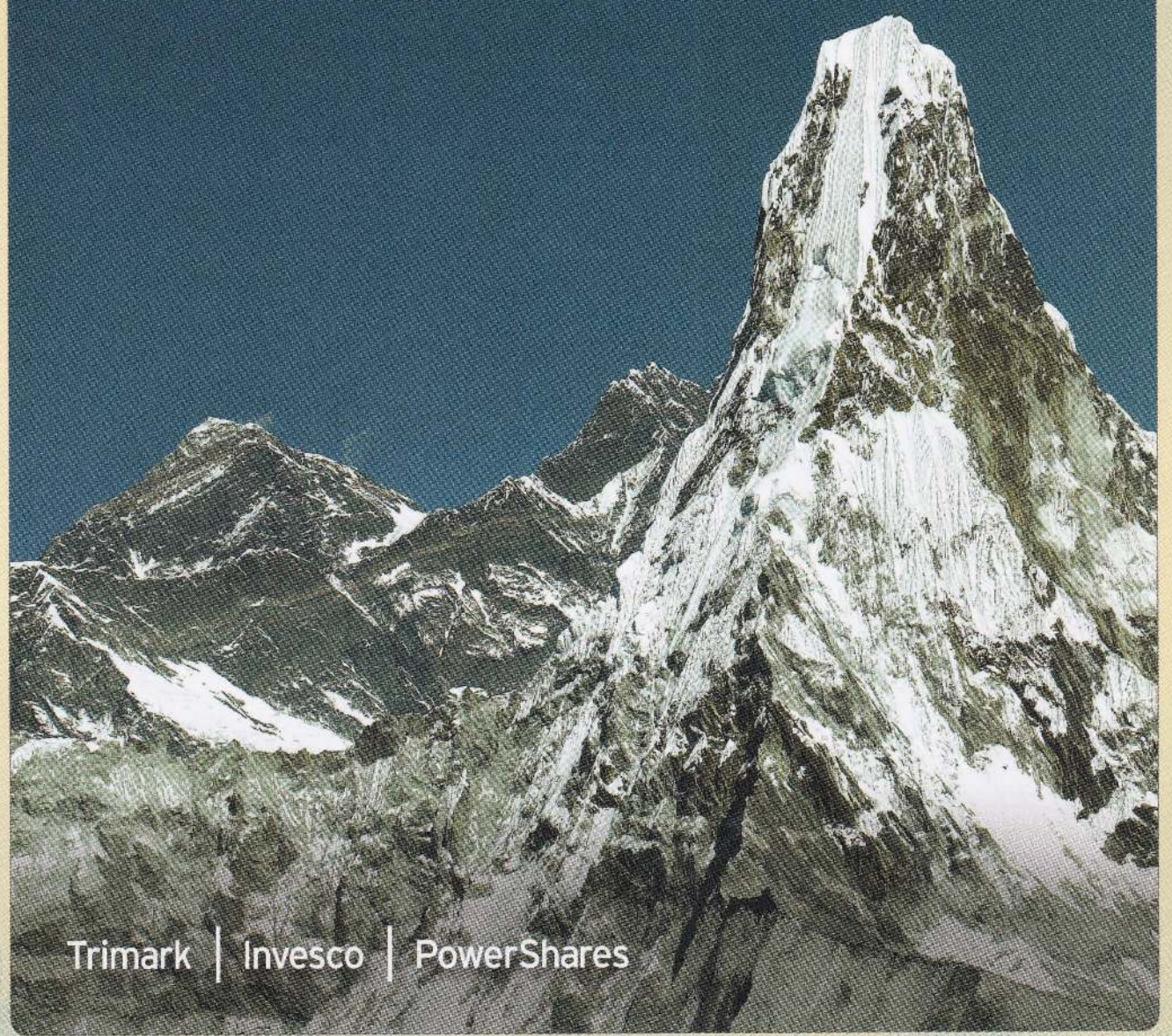
## Path Forward

2014 has been a phenomenal year for CFLI. Enrolments to YLP and Youth Documentary Competition increased significantly. The Milestones and YDocs events were great success with number of participants almost doubled compared to the prior year. Centre Stage, a forum for adults to hone their public speaking skills, and YLP summer job internships were successful new initiatives launched during 2014. With a strong foundation for growth laid in 2014, the future for CFLI looks very promising.





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# Global Warming: Why is Our Weather so Bipolar?

Why is Our Weather so Bipolar? Is it summer or winter? How did I go to the beach one day, and then get stuck in a snowstorm the next? These are all questions you've started to ask, but have you found the answers? In order to better understand our daily weather patterns and find the root cause of its fluctuations, we must first understand the expression "global warming." And in order to understand global warming we must have a general understanding of the science behind it. When you look up into the sky what do you see? A few birds, a couple of clouds, but can anyone see the numerous chemical reactions that take place in our atmosphere? Does anyone take into account the numerous health effects that can be a result? This is why many of us tend to turn a blind eye towards this increasingly imperative issue, an issue we should address with utmost urgency.

Our atmosphere consists of numerous gases called greenhouse gases. The crucial function of greenhouse gases is absorbing radiation which provides earth with warmer and more hospitable temperatures. Two such examples are methane gas (CH<sub>4</sub>) and carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>). If we didn't have these gases, life would never be the way it exists today. On the other hand, when CO<sub>2</sub> and CH<sub>4</sub> levels in the atmosphere fluctuate or are much higher than necessary, Earth's temperatures also begin to vary. Levels of these greenhouse gases have increased drastically over the past few decades, as a consequence of human activity. As a result of excess air and water pollution as well as excess gas emissions, the level of green house gases has surpassed previous years. This in turn has caused the drastic weather changes we experience today. Changes that will continue to take place, whether we believe it or not.

Many find global warming to be a skeptical topic. How in the world is it getting warmer here? The National Weather Service even describes the cold harsh weather to be "life threatening." Although global warming sounds unlikely to occur, it is in fact very active in our atmosphere. To prove this we must first come to terms with the term climate. Climate is defined as "the weather patterns of an area measured over several decades." Although our weather seems to be all over the place, our climate is steadily increasing in temperature. Our weather, on the other hand is cold now due to the polar vortex. The polar vortex is "a swirling mass of air that is usually found around the poles." It occurs on a daily basis but is causing extremely cold temperatures, in the lower half of Canada due to an increase in temperature in the Northern hemisphere. Due to this increase in temperature, the ice that once used to make up most of the habitable land, is melting, causing water levels to rise and cold winds to travel down south. Consequently, global warming is a direct cause of the polar vortex concerns we are currently facing. Global warming doesn't happen overnight. It takes effect over time, but the effects are tragic, some of which we are already starting to experience.

## Kasthuri Gesland

*Kasthuri Gesland is a student enrolled in the Life Sciences program at the University of Toronto. She is an avid volunteer and hopes to make the best of her opportunities.*

## Gayathiri Gesland

*Gayathiri Gesland is a nursing student at Ryerson University, who enjoys meeting new people and learning various languages.*

## Shaliha Naufal

*Shaliha Naufal is a student enrolled in the BSc Health Studies program at the University of Waterloo. She aspires to work in the public health field.*

# Key Steps Toward Achieving Your Financial Goals

Understanding what is important to you and your family in order to help you identify and reach your goals is critical. Although there are many ways to work toward your goals, the key is answering these five important questions.



## STEP 1 WHERE AM I TODAY?

Before you can set realistic goals, you must determine your current needs. When you share information, including a list of monthly expenses, last year's tax return, retirement plan statements and brokerage, bank or other financial statements, it will help provide an overview of your current situation.

## STEP 2 WHERE WOULD I LIKE TO BE?

After determining where you are today, the next step is to set specific goals that can be related to:

- Saving for retirement
- Living a comfortable retirement
- Funding a child's education
- Helping support other family members
- Funding a vacation or second home
- Having appropriate insurance to protect your financial goals

## STEP 3 CAN I GET THERE?

Based on your current situation, future income requirements and comfort level with risk, you can work with your Edward Jones advisor to create and implement strategies that can help you achieve your goals.

## STEP 4 HOW DO I GET THERE?

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## STEP 5 HOW CAN I STAY ON TRACK?

Meeting annually can help ensure that you stay on track. If any of your goals or circumstances have changed, we can make appropriate updates that address your evolving needs.

**Schedule an appointment today with your Edward Jones advisor to discuss your answers to these five key questions. Doing so can help you work toward and achieve your financial goals.**

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The harsh effects of greenhouse gas emissions are evident in various aspects of our lives. This includes the environmental and health aspects of our day to day lives. The increase in temperatures puts even the healthiest of people at risk for contracting disease, developing lung conditions or even dying from extreme weather conditions like heat waves or snowstorms. An example of the effects of global warming can be seen in environmental tragedies such as the Chicago heat wave of 2003 and the Buffalo snowstorm of 2014. Both incidences are a result of global warming and unfortunately both incidences have had significant death tolls. As our planet gets warmer and warmer due to the emission of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere, we increase the likelihood of more natural disasters. Although heat waves do no good for us, mosquitoes thrive on warmer weather. Mosquitoes are not only annoying but they are also a reason why contracting diseases such as malaria will become much "simpler". Lung problems will become a more prevalent chronic illness of the future, due to the increase of air pollutants. With all these risks at hand it is important to take into consideration the need to fight global warming as a leading environmental issue and with some guidance every individual can make a difference.

The only way to fight global warming is by making a few lifestyle changes. Everyday Canadians release a lot of fossil fuels including CO<sub>2</sub> into the atmosphere through daily activities such as the use of laundry machines, fueling our cars and heating our homes on those cold winter days. These activities and others



are necessary in life but there are little ways in how we can do both protect the environment and live our normal day to day lives. The first lifestyle change that can be made is to switch to a hybrid vehicle; yes it is expensive at first but in return you actually save a lot of money. A hybrid vehicle can use up to half the amount of fuel compared to its non-hybrid counterpart; that is a lot of gas money to be saved. If a hybrid is not your preference other options include using public transport or carpooling with a friend. The second change is to always turn off lights when they are not being used, of course that is easier said than done but hopefully the erratic weather outside will remind you of what those light bulbs are doing to our planet. Finally the

last change to be made is to switch to solar energy. Solar power is an infinite energy source that does not pollute the environment and although expensive at first it can be very beneficial in the long run. All these changes provide us with great benefits, so do a favour for the environment because in truth you are doing a favour for yourself.

We've all been affected by the bipolar changes in our weather. Global warming is an issue that should no longer be put on the back burner. We continue to pollute our atmosphere everyday with greenhouse gas emissions and each day it takes a toll on our future. Although it may be hard to see, we are the root cause of our own problems. Therefore, the onus is on each one of us to stop causing further harm to the environment, which will prevent further harm on ourselves. Acknowledge the issue, understand its causes and fight its effects because only we could provide each other hope for a better future.



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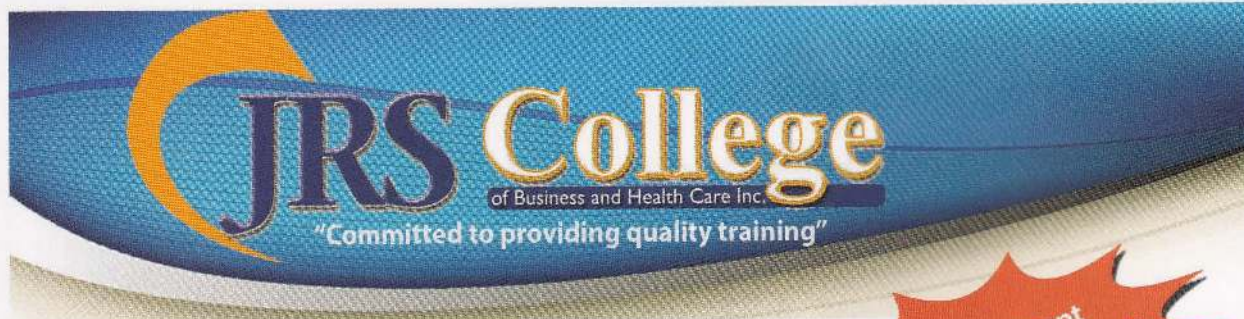
அருண்மொழித் தேவன் சிறுவனாக இருக்கும் பொழுதே தாய், தந்தையர் இறந்து விட்டனர். பாட்டி செம்பியன் மாதேவியும் தமக்கை குந்தவையும் இவனைச் சீரோடும் சிறப்போடும் வளர்த்தனர். செம்பியன் மாதேவி இவனுக்குச் சிவனியப் பற்றை ஊட்டி வளர்த்தார்.

சோழ மன்னரது முடிசூட்டு விழா சிதம்பரம் கோவிலில் நடைபெறும். ஆடல் அரசன் முன்னுள்ள ஐந்தெழுத்துப் படிக்கல்லில் முடியை வைப்பர். அமைச்சர்கள் எடுத்துக் கொடுக்க வேதியர் முடியையைச் சூட்டுவர். இவ்வாறே அருண்மொழித்தேவனது முடிசூட்டு விழாவும் கி.பி.985ஆம் ஆண்டில் நடைபெற்றது. முடி சூட்டுக்குப் பின் அருண்மொழித்தேவன், இராசஇராசன் என்ற பட்டப் பெயரால் அழைக்கப்பட்டான். இவன் தஞ்சையில் தனது ஆட்சியைத் தொடங்கினான்.

இராசஇராசனுக்கு ஆதித்த கரிகாலன் என்னும் தமையன் இருந்தான். இராசஇராசன் சிறுவனாக இருந்த பொழுது ஆதித்தனைக் காட்டு கோவிலைச் சேர்ந்த சிலர் சூழ்ச்சியால் கொன்றனர். இராசஇராசன் ஆட்சிக்கு வந்ததும் இவர்களைக் கண்டுபிடித்து உசாவி ஒறுத்தான். அவர்களது உடமைகளை அரசு உடமை ஆக்கினான்.

இராசஇராசன் முதலில் பாண்டிய நாட்டின் மீது படையெடுத்தான். அதைத் தனது கட்டுப்பாட்டுக்குள் கொண்டு வந்தான். கி.பி.988ஆம் ஆண்டில் காந்தளூர்ப் போரை மேற்கொண்டான். காந்தளூர் என்பது சேர நாட்டில் உள்ள ஓர் இடமாகும். இங்கு சேரரது படைப் பயிற்சிப் பள்ளியும் ஆயுதக் கிடங்கும் இருந்தன. எனவே, காந்தளூரைத் தாக்கி அதைத்தன் கட்டுப் பாட்டில் கொண்டு வந்தான். அதன் பின்பு கொல்லத்தில் இருந்த சேரரை வென்று சேரநாடு முழுவதையும் தன் கட்டுப்பாட்டுக்குள் கொண்டு வந்தான்.

இராசஇராசன் இந்தியத் துணைக் கண்டத்தில் மிகச் சிறந்த கடற்படையை வைத்திருந்தான். இந்தக் கடற்படையில் துணையோடு ஈழத்தைக் கைப்பற்றினான். இலங்கையில் உள்ள பொலன்நறுவை என்னும் இடத்தைத் தலைநகர் ஆக்கினான். இங்கு சிவன் கோவில் ஒன்றை அமைத்தான். மாதோட்டம் என்னும் இடத்திலும் சிவன்கோவில் ஒன்றை அமைத்தான். அதன்பின் முந்நீர் பழந்தீவு என அழைக்கப்பட்ட மாலைதீவைக் கைப்பற்றினான்.



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இராசஇராசன் சிவனிடத்து அளவில்லா அன்பு கொண்டவன். தனக்கு முன் வாழ்ந்த சிவனிய அருளாளர் பாடிய திருமுறைகளைக் கண்டறிய ஆவல் கொண்டான். திருமுறைகள் சிதம்பரத்தில் ஓர் அறையில் மறைத்து வைக்கப்பட்டிருந்தன. இதை நம்பியாண்டார் நம்பி மூலம் அறிந்தான். தில்லைத் தீட்சிதரது சூழ்ச்சியை வென்று அழியும் நிலையில் இருந்த திருமுறைகளை வெளிக் கொண்டு வந்தான். உமாபதியார் எழுதிய திருமுறைகண்ட புராணம் இச்செய்திகளை விரித்து உரைக்கிறது. இவன் இதனைச் செய்யாது இருந்தால் திருமுறைகள் எமக்குக் கிடைத்திரா என்பதில் ஐயமில்லை.

இவன் 999 ஆம் ஆண்டில் தஞ்சைப் பெருங்கோவில் கட்டும் பணியைத் தொடங்கினான். கி.பி.1011 ஆம் ஆண்டில் பணிகள் நிறைவு பெற்றன. இது தமிழரது கட்டக் கலைச் சிறப்புக்குச் சான்றாக விளங்குகின்றது. ருநேளுருஊழ அமைப்பால் உலக மரபுச் சின்னங்களில் ஒன்றாக ஏற்றுக் கொள்ளப்பட்டுள்ளது. இக்கோவில் அமைப்புகள் சிறப்புகள் பற்றித் தஞ்சாவூர் பாடத்தில் நீங்கள் கற்றுள்ளீர்கள். எனவே அவற்றை இங்கு மீண்டும் குறிப்பிடவில்லை.

தஞ்சைப் பகுதி வயலும் வயல் சார்ந்த இடமும் ஆகும். அதாவது மருத நிலம் ஆகும். இங்கு மலைகள் இல்லை. இந்த நிலையில் இந்தப் பெரிய கோவிலைக் கட்டுவதற்கான கல்லை எங்கிருந்து, எப்படிக் கொண்டு வந்தனர்? அந்தப் பெரிய கற்களை கோபுர உச்சிக்கு எவ்வாறு தூக்கினர்? கோபுர நிழல் கீழே விழாதவாறு எவ்வாறு கட்டினர்? என்பது போன்ற வினாக்கள் விடை காண முடியாத புதிராக உள்ளன.

இந்தக் கோவில் சுவரில் 107 கல்வெட்டுகள் காணப்படுகின்றன. இவற்றின் வாயிலாக இராசஇராசனும் குந்தவையும் இக்கோவிலுக்கு வழங்கிய கொடைகள் பற்றி அறிய முடிகின்றது. இராசஇராசன் 26,14,492 உருபா பெறுமதியான அணிகலன்களை இக்கோவிலுக்கு வழங்கி உள்ளான். இந்தக் கோவிலில் திருமுறைகளை ஓத 48 ஓதுவாரைப் பணிக்கு அமர்த்தினான். பூசை மற்றும் விழாக்களின் பொழுது நடனமாட 400 நாட்டிய மங்கையரைப் பணிக்கு அமர்த்தினான். சிறுபணிகளைச் செய்ய 178 பணியாளரையும் கோவில் திருமெய்க்காப்பாளர் 143 பேரையும் பணிக்கு அமர்த்தினான். வழிபாட்டுக்கும் விழாக்களுக்கும் நிவந்தம் அளித்தான். தஞ்சைக் கோவில் கட்டிய அனைத்துக்கும் பணியாளரையும் மேன்மைப்படுத்தி அவர் பெயர்களைக் குறிப்பிட்டுள்ளான்.

இராசஇராசன் நாட்டில் உள்ள நிலம் முழுவதையும் அளப்பித்துக் கணக்கிட்டான். நிலங்களை வரி நிலங்கள், இறையிலி நிலங்கள் என வகுத்தான். இறைவரிகள் நெல்லாகவும் பொன்னாகவும் அறவிட்டான். நாட்டை வளநாடுகள், மண்டலங்கள் எனப் பிரித்து நிருவாகத்தைச் சீர்த்திருத்தினான்.

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தஞ்சைப் பெரிய கோவில்களில் வண்ண ஓவியங்கள் பல தீட்டப் பெற்றுள்ளன. கருவூர்த்தேவர் இராசராசன் உருவங்கள், சிவபெருமான் சுந்தரரைத் தடுத்து ஆட்கொண்டது, சுந்தரரும் சேரமான் பெருமானும் கயிலாயம் சென்று சிவபெருமானை வணங்கும் காட்சி, முதலியன ஓவியங்களாகத் தீட்டப் பெற்று உள்ளன. இவன் சிவனியப் பற்றாளன் ஆயினும் சமயப்பொறை மிக்கவன். நாக பட்டினம் இராசஇராசப் பெரும்பள்ளிக்கு ஆணைமங்கலம் என்னும் ஊரை வழங்கினான். திருகோணமலையில் உள்ள இராச இராசப் பெரும்பள்ளிக்கு அறக்கொடைகள் அளித்தான்.

தமிழ் நாடு முழுவதையும் ஒரே ஆட்சியின் கீழ் கொண்டு வந்தவன் இராசராசன் ஆவான். தமிழகத்தில் பல இடங்களில் பழங்காசுகள் கண்டு எடுக்கப்பட்டுள்ளன. அவை யாவும் இராசஇராசனால் வெளியிடப்பட்டவை யாகவே உள்ளன. காசுகளில் மீன், வில், புலி என்பனவும் சிறீ இராசஇராசசோழன் என்ற பொறிப்பும் உள்ளன.

இராசஇராசன் உலகப் பெருமன்னர் வரிசையில் வைத்து எண்ணத்தக்கவன் ஆவான். போர் ஆற்றல், படை ஆற்றல், மக்கள் நலம் பேணல் முதலியவற்றில் உயர்ந்தவன். மன்னன் ஆட்சியாயினும் இன்றைய மக்கள் ஆட்சிக்குக் குறையாத ஆட்சி நடத்தியவன். இன்றைய உள்ளூராட்சி முறைக்கு முன்னோடி ஆவான்.



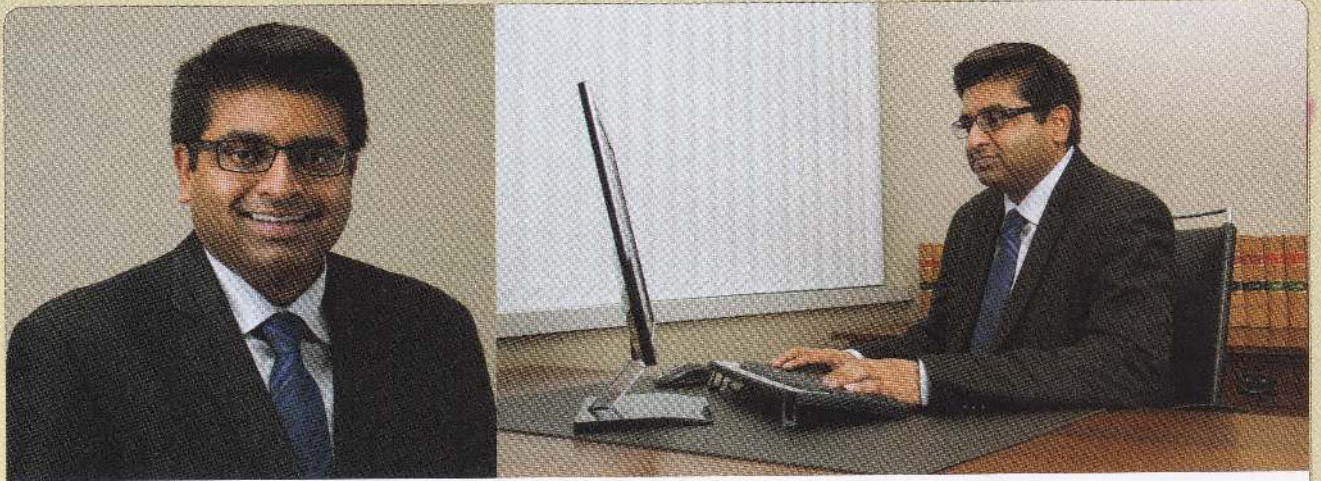
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Canada is filled with stories of individuals and families who fled their homeland and arrived in Canada with nothing but the shirts on their backs. After initially struggling to adjust to a new climate and community, many of those who first came to Canada are now successful and thriving members of society.

While some were fortunate to have the support of friends, relatives and community organizations to give them a start before they could find their own way, others have had to initially rely on social assistance before they had a chance to find a stable job, adequate housing and community supports. Without the support of provincial social assistance programs at the beginning of their journey many of these individuals and their families would have faced immense obstacles to their development and social integration into Canadian society.

However, if the Conservative government has its way, provisions hidden away in its omnibus budget bill, Bill C-43, would impose extreme hardships on Canada's most vulnerable members of society; those without permanent immigration status. The Conservative government has chosen to adopt the widely criticized Private Members Bill initially introduced by Corneliu Chisu, MP for Pickering-Scarborough East, as a government initiative. Bill C-43 would drastically alter the existing Canada Social Transfer arrangement between the federal government and the provinces by allowing the provinces – without financial penalty – to impose residency requirements on refugee claimants and other people without permanent immigration status in Canada before they could be eligible for basic income supports.

If the proposed bill becomes the law of the land, it could have devastating impacts on vulnerable individuals and families. The ability of a province to impose residency requirements on its social assistance recipients would have the most profound impact on the lives of many vulnerable refugee claimants and other already marginalized people without permanent immigration status. They could lose the only source of income they currently have. Many individuals without permanent status rely on social assistance for an interim period while they wait for a work permit to be approved or issued or are actively seeking employment but are having difficulty finding a job. Without social assistance they would be unable to support themselves and their families, pay rent, or buy groceries.

The single mother who escaped a war torn country and spent her life savings to flee to Canada as a refugee could once again end up on the streets with her children if she does not have the means to support herself and her family. The middle-aged man who suffers from post-traumatic stress from being tortured to near death for expressing his political beliefs awaiting his refugee hearing could be forced into a homeless shelter without the necessary social



**Harini Sivalingam**

*Harini Sivalingam is a lawyer, community activist and a PhD student in Socio-Legal Studies at York University*

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assistance benefits. The young visa student who just graduated and is awaiting his work permit may lose his housing if he doesn't have the means to pay his rent while his work permit is being processed. These members of our community, and many more could be in jeopardy if their eligibility for social assistance is denied due to residency requirements.

The proposed changes also have a serious impact on our country's democratic framework and would undermine the last remaining national standard of the Canada Social Transfer.

The Conservative government has a history of railroading ideologically-driven policies without sufficient consultation with stakeholders on important matters of public policy. Using an omnibus budget bill to impose such fundamental changes to the national standard of the Canada Social Transfer reduces government accountability and transparency of the democratic process.

This government has successfully eroded many hallmarks of Canadian humanitarianism though its cuts to health care for refugees and refugee claimants, recent restrictions of older low-income immigrants to certain kinds of Old Age Security benefits, and tightening the rules on the age of immigrant and refugee dependent children who are eligible to join their parents in Canada.

If a society is ultimately measured by how it treats its most vulnerable members, then Canadians should not stand idly by while some of our most vulnerable members of society are denied their most basic source of income security.



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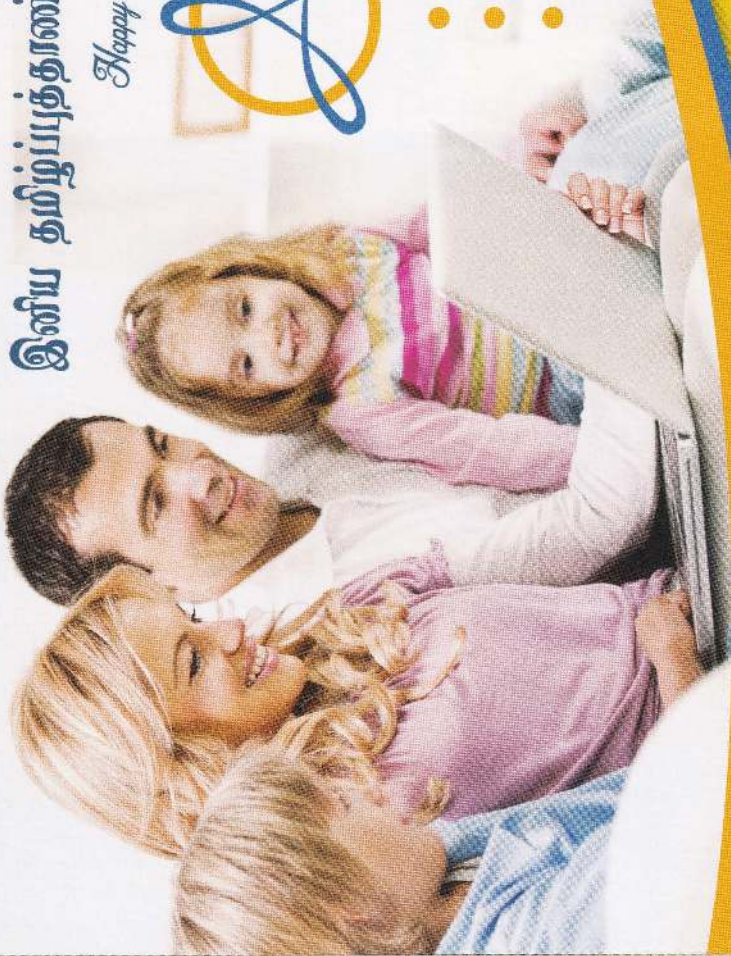
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# Canada's Role

Canadians value freedom, democracy and human rights. Canada has always prided itself on being a mosaic of cultures and on respecting and promoting diversity. Canada harnesses the diversity of people to build a stronger, more inclusive Canada, and promote peace all around the world. It is the best place in the world to live, work and raise a family and a shoulder to cry for many immigrants.

Canada is now the home for more than 400,000 immigrant Tamils from Sri Lanka—the largest number of Tamils outside of the Indian sub-continent.

In the recent years government of Canada has released many statements condemning the Sri Lankan government over serious human rights violation and abuse. Boycotting the 23rd Commonwealth Heads of Governments Meeting in 2013 in Sri Lanka was one of the major steps towards justice and democracy. The Prime Minister of Canada, Honourable Stephen Harper, boycotted this important meeting on the grounds of human rights and rule of law violations. As the Prime Minister has stated, in order for the Commonwealth to remain relevant, it must stand in defence of the basic principles of freedom, democracy and respect for human dignity, the very foundation upon which the Commonwealth was built. Sadly, despite the end of the Sri Lankan civil war four and a half years ago, these fundamental principles of human rights remain absent on the war torn island.

In the years 2012, 2013, and 2014, Canada worked hard and co-sponsored United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) resolutions against Sri Lanka, and got these resolutions passed to enable the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to take appropriate action and to appoint an international team to investigate war crimes and crimes against humanity. When the investigation started, Canada called upon Sri Lanka to engage constructively and to guarantee the investigation team access to the country and all relevant documentation. In the Foreign Minister's words, "We further urged the Government of Sri Lanka to ensure that any Sri Lankan who chooses to present testimony, evidence or statements before the investigation team be able to do so with all due protections and without fear of reprisals." Canada also called upon Sri Lanka to engage constructively and to guarantee the investigation team access to the country and all relevant documentation. Canada further urged the Government of Sri Lanka to ensure that any Sri Lankan who chooses to present testimony, evidence or statements before the investigation team be able to do so with all due protections and without fear of reprisals.

In addition, Canada was concerned by the Government of Sri Lanka's listing of 16 entities, including the Canadian Tamil Congress, on a proscription list. In April 30, 2014 a joint statement by Minister of State for Western Economic Diversification and Minister of Foreign Affairs stated that Sri Lanka's action



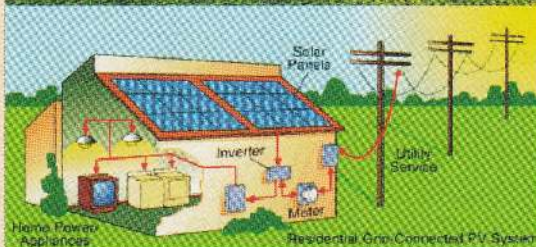
**Raveena Rajasingham**

*Raveena Rajasingham, National Cardiology Product and Clinical Specialist. Pursuing her PhD in hypertension measurement and management. Actively involved in the community and member of Pan Am/Parapan Am Games Host Committee in Ajax.*

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has no legal effect in Canada and it does not limit the freedom of listed groups and individuals to lawfully express their views in Canada.

It is also imperative to point out that the current government has stated it remains deeply disturbed about Sri Lanka's Prevention of Terrorism Act (PTA). This Act gives sweeping powers to security forces to search, arrest, and detain arbitrarily for long periods without charge. During the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) of Sri Lanka's human rights situation, Canada made recommendations that the government repeal Sections 9(1) and 15(A)(1) the PTA to ensure that detainees are held only in recognized places of detention, with regularized procedures and safeguards to protect detainees including access to legal representation and systematic notification to families of detainee whereabouts. Unfortunately Sri Lanka rejected Canada's recommendations along with many others, however the government has stated it will continue to push for improvements in this area.

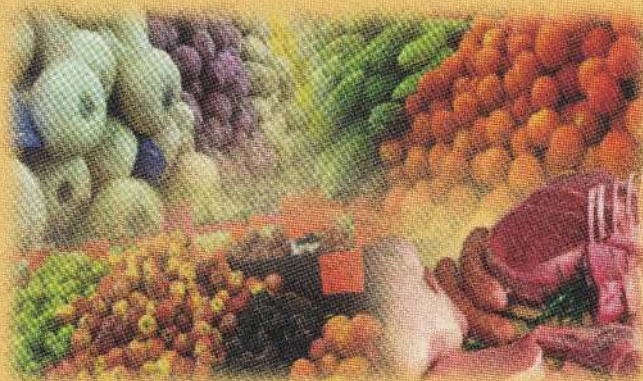


The Tamil community is very grateful to the current government for taking a strong stand on human rights violations and making recommendation and giving continuous pressure to Sri Lanka. We are also pleased with the Canadian government assuring the Tamil community of Canada that Canada will continue to engage with the international community to press Sri Lanka to commit to protect human rights and freedom of identity for all Sri Lankan citizens.

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**Arul Subramaniam**

Arul Subramaniam is a Tamil teacher, poet, writer and a publisher. He published several Tamil books including children's books. He is an active CTC volunteer.

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# Provincial Councils and Devolution of Powers under 13A

Sri Lanka (Ceylon) is a unitary state where all legislative, executive and judicial powers are centralised. While some powers have been decentralised for administrative convenience to local governments, these local bodies hardly satisfy the aspirations of the people and do not help in rapid economic and social development.

Many attempts have been made in the past to decentralise administrative and economic decision making to the periphery. The first attempt at decentralization was made through the Bandaranaike - Chelvanayakam Pact (B-C pact). The B-C pact was an agreement signed between Prime Minister of Sri Lanka S.W.R. D. Bandaranaike and S.J.V. Chelvanayakam, leader of Federal Party, on July 26, 1957. The B-C pact, which intended to resolve some of the major grievances facing Tamils, was the first of its kind in the post-independence history of the country. The pact recognized several key elements of the federal idea through a scheme of power-sharing. Unfortunately, under pressure from extreme Sinhala - Buddhist, Bandaranaike tore up the pact in May 1958.

Political analysts now concede that had the B- C pact been implemented, the subsequent political turmoil leading to the costly civil war that lasted for 30 years could have been avoided. Bandaranaike's later attempts to pass legislation similar to the agreement were met with strong opposition and ended in his assassination by a Buddhist monk in 1959.

Through non-violent means, Tamils demanded a degree of autonomy to satisfy the aspirations of the Tamil people from 1956 to 1983, including a growing insistence on decentralization of administrative processes to the provinces. The later attempts for further decentralization were through the following:

1. 1973/74 District Political Authority System;
2. 1979/80 District Development Councils/District Minister System; and
3. 1987/88 Provincial Councils System

The 1978 constitution (chapter I, article 2) declared for the first time "The Republic of Sri Lanka is a unitary state." It further did away with section 29(2) of the Soulbury constitution which prohibited discrimination based on ethnic and religious differences. Chapter II, section 6 also contained the controversial provisions giving foremost place to Buddhism which nullified state neutrality or non-discrimination. These and other discriminatory legislations exacerbated the already strained relationship between the Sinhalese and Tamils, leading to armed conflict.

It is in this back drop that the Indo-Sri Lanka Peace Accord was signed in Colombo on 29 July, 1987, between Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi and President J.R. Jayewardene. The 13th Amendment to the Constitution (1987) and the



**Velupillai Thangavelu**

*The author is a retired professional Accountant who embraced media full time. He writes regularly on political and social issues both in Tamil and English under the pen-name Nakkeeran. He is also the President of Tamil Creative Writers Association.*



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Provincial Councils Act No 42 of 1987 were enacted to give legal status to the Indo - Sri Lanka Peace Accord, devolving political and administrative decision-making authority to the Provincial Councils.

The 13th Amendment to the Constitution provides for (a) the establishment of Provincial Councils, (b) the appointment and powers of the Governor of Provinces.

The Provincial Councils Act No 42 of 1987 provides for the internal administration of the PCs. The first provincial elections were held in 1988 for a period of five years. However, the Northern and Eastern provincial councils was dissolved by the Government in 1989. After the Supreme Court decision on the demerger of the temporarily merged Northern and Eastern Provincial Councils, the Eastern Provincial Council elections were held in 2008. The election for the Northern Provincial Council was held for the first time in 25 years on September 21, 2013.

The powers devolved to the provinces by the 13th Amendment to the Constitution are

- a. Executive powers to Governor
- b. Legislative powers for the Provincial Council

The Executive power extending to matters in respect of which a provincial council has power to make statutes is vested in the Governor of the Province. He can exercise this power either directly or through the Ministers of the Board of Ministers or through officers subordinate to him, subject to the condition that the Governor shall act in accordance with the advice of the Board of Ministers except where he is required under the Constitution to exercise his functions at his discretion.

The vesting of executive power with the Governor does not pose a problem in Provincial Council controlled by the ruling party, but it does when it is controlled by an opposition party like the Tamil National Alliance (TNA). In fact the Chief Secretary of the Northern Provincial Council refused to take orders from the

‘உங்கள் தேவையே எமது சேவை’

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Chief Minister and filed a Fundamental Rights Violation petition against the Chief Minister for a ruling. The Supreme Court ruled in favour of the Chief Secretary compelling the Chief Minister to withdraw his directive.

Since 2010, the TNA has been pressing for the full implementation of the provisions of the 13th amendment (13A), including police and land powers. However, former president Mahinda Rajapaksa has steadfastly refused to devolve land and police powers to Provincial Council. His contention is that those powers will pave the way for separation. However, India has demanded full implementation of 13A plus meaningful devolution. In a joint statement by both the UN Secretary Ban Ki Moon and former president Rajapaksa on May 25, 2009, Mahinda Rajapaksa expressed his willingness resolve to proceed with the implementation of the 13th Amendment, as well as to begin a broader dialogue with all parties, including the Tamil parties in the new circumstances, to further enhance this process and to bring about lasting peace and development in Sri Lanka. Unfortunately, Mahinda Rajapaksa has failed singularly to translate words into deeds. According to the Chief Minister, the Northern Provincial Council has become dysfunctional and relationship between the Chief Minister and Governor was at an all-time low. The fact that the Governor is a retired military Major General has further compounded the situation.

Following the defeat of incumbent Mahinda Rajapaksa, Sirisena Maithripala of the National Democratic Front has been elected as president effective January 9, 2015. A welcome change would be the immediate replacement of C.A, Chandrasri by a civilian governor.

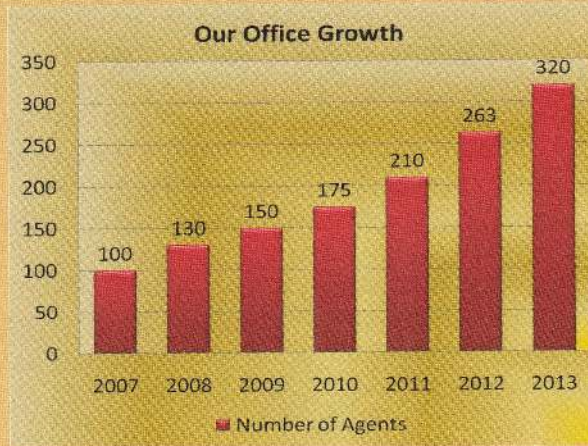
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# Technology

Technology has evolved rapidly over the generations. From just dreaming about cars to having Supercars. In the near future, technology may evolve too much--enough to take over the world.

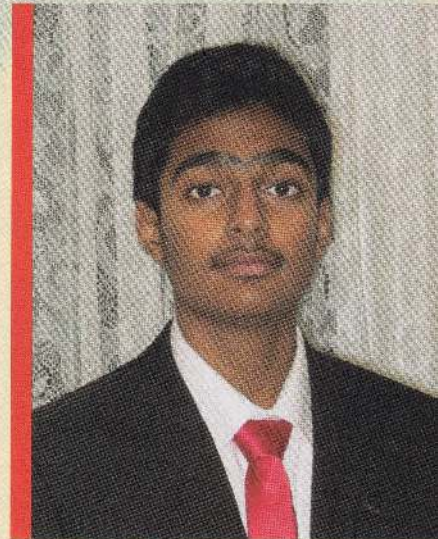
Robots may be the first thing you think about when you hear the phrase "take over the world," but that is not the case. Different types of artificial intelligence (AI) could be a risk to mankind as well. From programs like Siri to vacuums that move on their own--these are all a type of AI. Stephen Hawking, an English theoretical physicist, cosmologist, and author, says that AI may be the cause for human extinction in the near future. He says this because if we humans continue to develop AI, someday we will make them angry or they will think they are superior and develop their own AI that is no match for mankind.

Cars can also be a factor in the extinction of mankind. This can be due to the fact that they are also AI. In a fictional point of view, if they're developed too much, they would probably be able to drive on their own for great distances to seek revenge on humans. They may be even developed enough to tamper with humans' or animals' lives by plotting very dangerous schemes.

Another factor for human or animal extinction may just be us. If the rise of AI is upon us and if we do one little thing they do not like, we would be in grave danger.

Many movies also manipulate the extinction of living things caused by AI. In the film, Terminator, machines will take over the world in the near future, developed by the artificial intelligence Skynet. With its ultimate mission to completely defeat humanity, it develops cyborg assassins called Terminators that look human on the outside. A man named John Connor starts a resistance to defeat them and free humanity. With the fear of human defeat, the machines' only choice is to send a Terminator back in time to kill John's mother, Sarah Connor, before he is born, preventing John's resistance from ever being started. With humanity at risk, John sends soldier Kyle Reese back to protect his mother and make sure that he is alive.

In conclusion, technology wasn't as advanced back then, but now, it is. Technology is now advanced enough to take over the world very soon.



**Harrishan Rajakumar**

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## இன்றைய சமூகத் தேவைகளும் நாமும்

தனிமனிதன், குடும்பம், சமூகம் இதுவே நம் வாழ்வின் படிமுறைகளாக இருப்பதை பாரம்பரியமாக அறிந்து வாழ்ந்து வருகின்றோம். இந்த வகையில் பல சமூகங்களின் இணைப்புக்களே கிராமம், பட்டணம், தேசமென விரிவடைந்து செல்வத்தை காண்கின்றோம். இந்த மக்கள் ஏதோ ஒன்றினால் பிணைப்பு பெற்றிருப்பது இயல்பானதன்றி வேறில்லை. இதற்கு அடிப்படையாக அமைவது பேசு மொழியும் எழுத்துமே அவர்களை யாரென்று அடையாளப் படுத்துகின்றது. அதனாலேயே தான் நாம் தமிழராக அடையாளப் படுத்தப்படுகின்றோம். இதுவே அனைத்து மானிடர்கட்கும் பொருந்துவனவாகும். இதன் ஒழுங்கில் இன்று 6500 மொழிகள் வரை பேசப்படுகின்றன. பல மொழிகளுக்கு எழுத்துருக்கள் இல்லை. 2000 மொழிகளுக்கு மேல் பேசுபவர்களின் எண்ணிக்கை மிக சொற்பமாகும் என புள்ளிவிபரங்கள் கூறுகின்றது.

இவ்வாறு பல மொழிகளையும் பேசுகின்ற மக்கள் பல்லாயிரம் சமூக குழுமங்களாக இவ்வலகில் பரந்துபட்டு வழந்து கொண்டிருக்கின்றார்கள். இந்த வகையில் ஒவ்வொரு சமூகத்துக்கும் வெவ்வேறு பிரச்சனைகள் இருந்து கொண்டதான் இருக்கின்றது. ஏற்றத்தாழ்வுகள் இல்லாத சமூகமும், தனி மனிதனும் இல்லை எனலாம். ஏன் யாவற்றையும் துறந்த தவசிகள், முனிவர்கள் காடுகளிலும் மலைகளிலும் வழுகின்றார்களே? ஏன் என்ற கேள்வியும் எழலாம். அவர்களுக்கும் இப்பிறவிப் பயனை அடைந்து இறையடி சேரவேண்டும் என்ற விருப்புண்டு, அதை ஆசை என்றும் கொள்ளலாம். நாடாளுமன்றன் தொட்டு, நாட்டு குடிமகன் வரை பிரச்சனைகள் உண்டு.

மனித இனம் (Homo Sapiens) தோன்றிய வரலாறு இரண்டு இலட்சம் ஆண்டுகளுக்கு முந்தியதாக அறியக் கிடக்கின்றது. அதிலும் நாகரிகமடைந்த நம் தமிழர் வரலாறு இரண்டாயிரம் ஆண்டுகளுக்கும் மேலானது என்பர். கடற்கோள்களும் எரிமலைச் சீற்றங்களும், இயற்கை அழிவுகளும் நம் சரித்திர எச்சங்களை அழித்துவிட்டன என்பது பல ஆய்வாளர்கள் வாயிலாக அறிகின்றோம். நம் மூதாதையர்களின் வரலாறுகள் மிகவும் தொன்மையானதும், பெருமைக்கு உரியதும் ஆகும். இந்த பெருமை மட்டும் போதுமா? பழைமை பேசியே தமிழர் வாழ்வைக் கழிக்கமுடியுமா? அது பெருமைக்குரியதா? சிந்திக்க வேண்டியவர்கள் இன்று வாழ்பவர்களேயன்றி, நேற்று வரை வாழ்ந்து மறைந்த நம்மவர்கள் அல்ல. அவர்கள் நமக்கு நல்ல பல போதனைகளையும், நல் வழிகளையும், அற வழிகளையும், பட்டறிவினையும், நல்ல தமிழ் இலக்கியங்கள் மூலமாக நமக்காக விட்டு சென்றிருக்கின்றனர். அவற்றிலிருந்து கற்றதன் மூலம் நல்லவற்றை கொண்டு சிறந்த சமூக சீர்திருத்தங்களுக்கு வழிகோல வேண்டும். இன்று நாம் காணும், நல்வழிகளும் செயற்பாடுகளும் தான் நாளை நம் சந்ததியினருக்கு நாம் விட்டுச்செல்லும் சிறந்த வழிமுறைப் பொறிமுறைகளாகும்.

இன்று நாம் வாழுவது நாகரீகமடைந்த அறிவியல் உலகம். இன்றைய உலகில் உள்ள சில நாடுகள் மட்டுமே மனிதநேயம், அன்பு, கருணை, இரக்கம், மனித உரிமைகள் என பலவற்றிற்கு முக்கியத்துவம்



சிவா வேலுப்பிள்ளை

தமிழ் ஆர்வலரும் சமூகத் தொண்டருமான திரு. சிவா வேலுப்பிள்ளை, கனடியத் தமிழர் பேரவையின் ஒரு நிர்வாக இயக்குனருமாவார்.

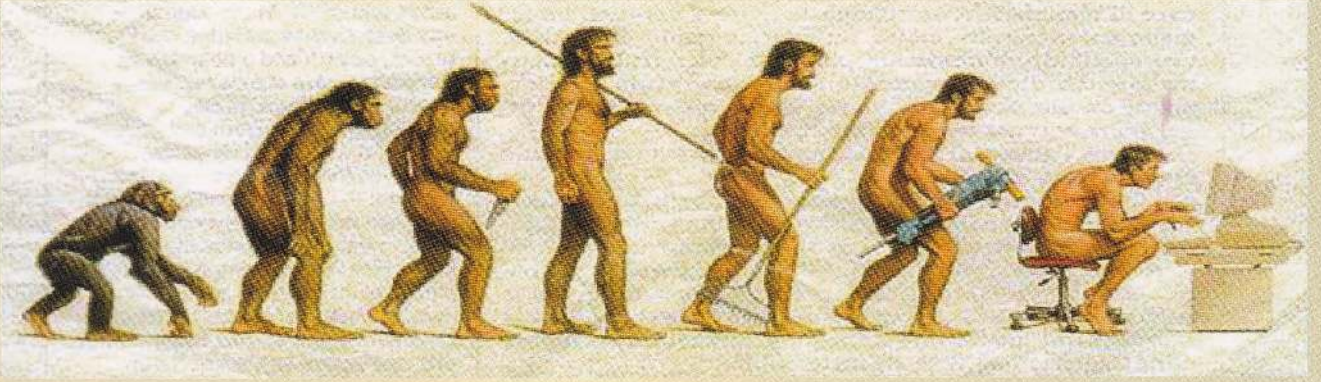
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கொடுத்துக்கொண்டிருக்கின்றன. இருந்தும் சில மக்கள் எவற்றையும் ஏற்காமல் வாழ்கின்றார்கள். இதையே நம் தமிழ் இலக்கியங்களும் காலத்திற்கு காலம் எடுத்தியம்பியுள்ளதனையும் நோக்கலாம்.

கற்க கசடறக் கற்பவை கற்றபின்  
நிற்க அதற்குத் தக. (குறள் - 391)

கற்க வேண்டியவற்றை ஐயம் திரிபற ஆழ்ந்து அலசிக்கற்க வேண்டும். அவ்வாறு கற்றவற்றை பின் நம் அன்றாட வாழ்வில் சரியாக நடைமுறைப் படுத்தப்படல் வேண்டும் கல்வியின் நோக்கத்துக்கு திருக்குறள் அளிக்கும் விளக்கம் இது. குற்றத்தை உணர்த்தி அதனின்றி நீங்கி நின்றொழுகும் ஆற்றலைத்தரும் கல்வி வாழ்க்கையை மேம்படுத்தும்.

பொதுமறையான திருக்குறள் கூறுவதனையே மானுடர் கற்று செயல் படுத்தினாலே மனித நேயம் மேம்படும். இவை இவ்வாறிருக்க, “உன்னைத் திருத்து உலகம் தானாகத் திருந்தும்” என்பது நம்பழமொழி. நாம் ஒவ்வொருவரும் நம்மை நாம் சீர்படுத்திக்கொண்டால் உலகில் ஒருவர் நல்லவராகி விடுவார் இல்லையா? அதுபோல் நம் குடும்பம், சமூகம் திருந்த உலகமும் அந்த வரிசையில் திருந்திவிடும். மனிதனாக பிறந்த ஒவ்வொருவருக்குள்ளும் ஆசா பாசங்கள் நிறைந்து இருக்கும், அது இயற்கையே. ஆசையே சுயநலத்தின் முதற் படியாகும். அது முற்றாக தவறுமாகது. ஆசை, விருப்பு, அதனால் ஏற்படும் முயற்சி இல்லையேல் உலகம் ஒழுங்காக இயங்காது, வளர்ச்சியும் ஏற்படாது. சுயநலத்திலிருந்துதான் பொது நலம் உருவாகும் என்பதுவே அடிப்படை. சமூக மேம்பாடும் அதன் வளர்ச்சியென்று வரும் பொழுது சுயநலத்தின் விகிதாசாரம் மாறுபடல் வேண்டும். தானும் வாழ்ந்து பிறரையும் வாழ வைக்க முயற்சிப்பதே நல்லறமாகும். ஒருமனிதனில் சுயநலத்தின் படிமுறைகள் குறைவடைய, அம்மனிதன் சமூக சேவகனாக மாறி விடுகின்றான்.

அறத்தான் வருவதே இன்பம்மற் றெல்லாம்  
புறத்த புகழும் இல. (குறள்- 39)

ஒற்றுமை:

இன்றைய நம் தமிழ் சமூக நிலையென்ன? அதன் தேவையென்ன? உலகின் உயர்ந்த மேம்பாடான நிலைக்கு நம் சமூகம் வளர அடுத்த கட்டமாக நாம் தனி மனிதனாகவும் குடும்பமாகவும் சமூகமாகவும் செய்ய வேண்டியதுதான் என்ன? அதை தீர்மானிக்க வேண்டும். நம் இனத்திற்காக நல்வழியில் சிந்தித்து செயலாற்ற வேண்டிய காலமிது. நாம் மனதார ஒவ்வொருவரும் உணர்ந்து, செயற்பட துணிதல் வேண்டும். அதற்கு நாம் ஒன்று பட்டு மனித நேயத்துடன் செயல்பட முனைதல் வேண்டும்.

எண்ணித் துணிக கரும் துணிந்தபின்  
எண்ணுவம் என்பது இழுக்கு. (குறள் - 467)

ஒற்றுமையே பலம். அடம்பன் கொடியும் திரண்டால் மிடுக்கு என்பதனை நாம் மறந்துவிட்டோமா?. நாம் படிக்கும் காலத்திலேயே ஒற்றுமை பற்றிய பால பாடமும் பல கதைகளும் உண்டு. எடுத்துக்காட்டு



தமிழர் திருநாளாம் தைப்பொங்கல் திருநாளை கொண்டாடும்

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என்றும் உங்களோடு

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வேடனும் புறாவும் கதை அதுவும் நினைவுண்டா? பாடம் முடிந்ததும் வலையும் பறந்தது, நாம் படித்ததும் பறந்துவிட்டது போலும்.

தமிழன் வரலாற்றில் தமிழனை தமிழன் ஆட்சி செய்ததை விட வேற்று இனத்தவரே நீண்டகாலம் ஆட்சி செய்துள்ளான் என்பதனை சரித்திரம் கூறுகிறது. தன்னரசுக் காலம் என்றிருந்த பொழுது மூவேந்தர்களும் ஆட்சி புரிந்து உள்ளார்கள். படையெடுப்புகளும் சதிகளும் சூழ்சிகளும், காட்டிக் கொடுப்புகளும், நிலையற்ற ஆட்சி மாற்றங்களை ஏற்படுத்தின, தமிழ் மக்கள் இதனால் பல இன்னல்களுக்கு உள்ளாகியமை வரலாறு அறியும்.

இவற்றிற்கெல்லாம் ஆணிவேராக அமைவது ஆசையும், சுயநலம், போட்டி, பொறாமை, ஒற்றுமையின்மையுமே ஆகும். இன்றைய நம் நிலையை நறுக்கென்று காட்டுகின்ற விதமாக ஒரு கவிதை கண்டேன். கடந்த காலங்களில் நம் கண்முன் கண்ட காட்சிகளை இப்பாடல் வரிகள் நமக்கு உணர்த்துவதாக உணர்கின்றேன். கவிஞருக்கு மிக்க நன்றி.

காட்டுக்குள்ளே நான்கு எருதுகள்  
கட்டுக்கோப்பாய் இருந்ததாம்.  
வேட்டையாட சிங்கம் வந்தால்  
விரட்டி விரட்டி துரத்துமாம்.

மேயும்போதும் ஓய்வின்போதும்  
ஒற்றுமையாய் இருக்குமாம்.  
திசைக்கொன்றாய் தலையைவைத்து  
தினமும் காவல் காக்குமாம்.

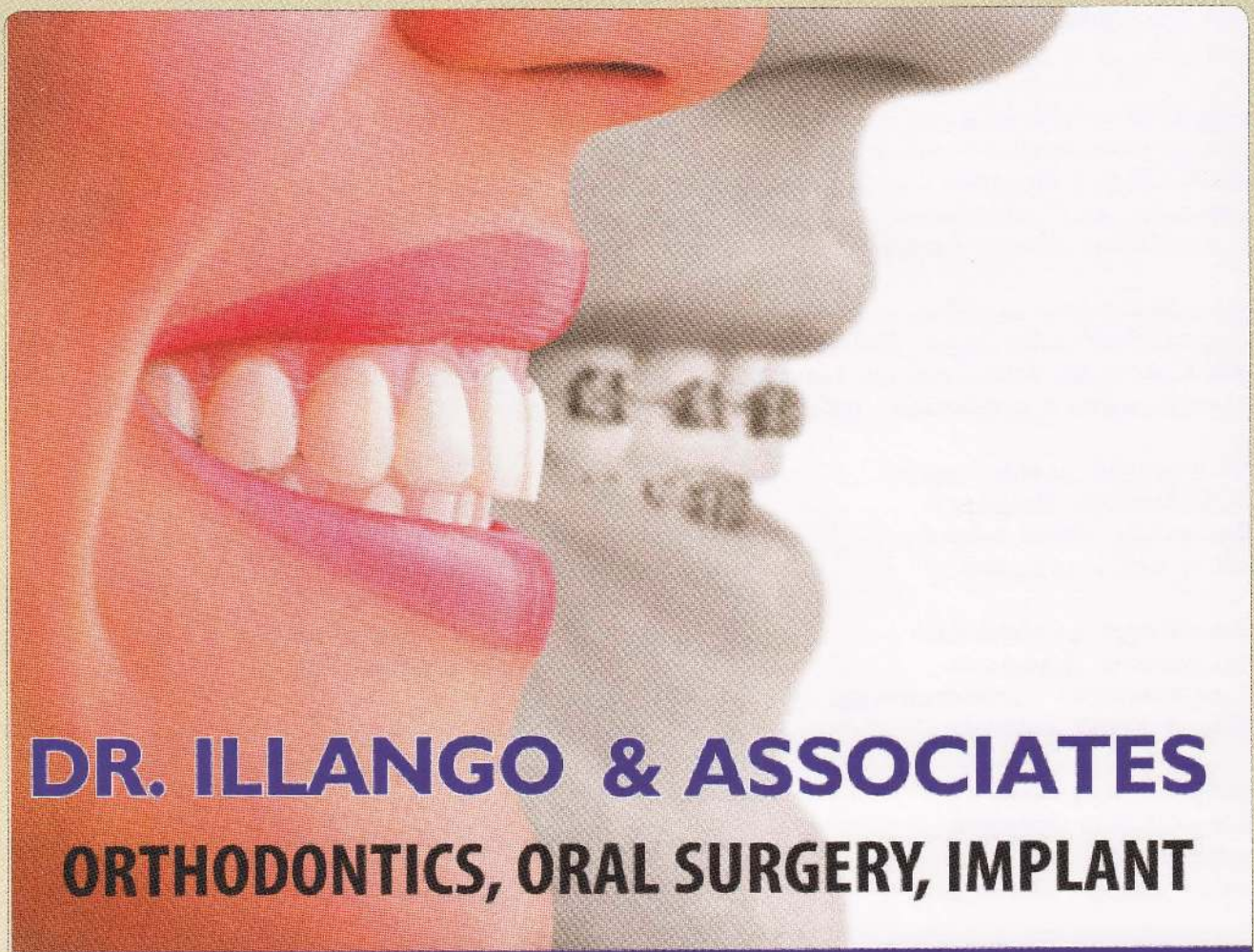
ஒன்றுபட்ட எருதுகளோ  
சண்டைபோட்டு பிரிந்ததாம்.  
சமயம் பார்த்து காத்திருந்த  
சிங்கம் அடித்துக் கொன்றதாம்.

ஒன்று சேர்ந்து வாழும்போது  
ஒங்கி நிற்கும் பலமன்றோ!  
ஒற்றுமையே வலிமை என்று  
உணர்த்தும் கதை இதுவன்றோ!  
(யாழ் கோட்டையை சுற்றி  
ஏற்படுத்தப்பட்டிருந்த அன்றைய  
காவலரண் முறையை இந்த வேளையிலே  
சிறிது சிந்தித்து பார்க்கிறேன் தொடர்புண்டா என்று.)

போர்:

நம் இலங்கைத்தீவில் இனப்பிரச்சனைகள் நீண்ட நெடுங்காலமாக இருந்து வந்துள்ளது. அதன் உச்சமாக கடந்த 1983ம் ஆண்டிற்கு பின்னர்தான் ஆயுதப் போராட்டம் நடை பெற்று 2009 ல்தான் ஓர் ஓய்வு நிலைக்கு வந்துள்ளது எனலாம். இந்த போராட்டத்தின் விழைவாக ஒரு இலட்சத்திற்கும் மேலாக உயிர்கள் பறிக்கப்பட்டு, பல கோடிகள் பெறுமதியான சொத்துக்களும் உடமைகளும் அழிக்கப்பட்டு, கல்வி, கலை, கலாசாரம், பண்பாட்டு ஒழுங்குமுறைகளும் இப்போரின் பெறுபேறாகி சீரழிக்கப்பட்டது. இப்பாரிய அழிவுகளை நிவர்த்தி செய்ய பணத்தினாலோ, பதவிகளினாலோ, கட்டிடங்களினாலோ, பாதை நிர்மானிப்புக்களாலோ, புகையிரத சேவைகளினாலோ சீர்செய்ய முடியாது. இதனை நம் சமூகத்தினது ஒட்டுமொத்த ஒற்றுமையினாலும் தளராத மனவறுதியோடும் நிலையான கட்டுப்பாட்டுடன் தான் மீண்டும் கட்டியெழுப்ப முடியும்.





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உலகப்போரின் அழிவுகளை கேள்விப்பட்டுள்ளோம், குறைந்தது 26 நாடுகள் பல விதமான அழிவுகளை சந்தித்துள்ளன. முதலாம் உலகப்போர் 1914-1918 ம் ஆண்டு வரையும், இரண்டாம் உலகப்போர் 1939 - 1945 ம் ஆண்டு வரையும் நடைபெற்றுள்ளது. இந்த அகோரப்போரின் வடுக்கள் இன்னும் சில நாடுகளில் பல தாக்கங்களை ஏற்படுத்திக்கொண்டே இருக்கின்றன. இப்போர்களின் காரணமாக உலகில் 60 மில்லியன் மக்கள் இறந்துள்ளார்கள் என புள்ளிவிபரம் கூறுகின்றது. இவர்களில் 40 மில்லியன் மக்கள் பொது மக்களும் குழந்தைகளுமாக இரண்டாம் உலகப் போரில் மடிந்தார்கள். 1945ம் ஆண்டு ஜப்பானின் கிரோசிமா, நாகசாக்கி நகரங்களில் அமெரிக்காவினால் முதன்முதலாக அணுகுண்டு வீசப்பட்டது. (இந்த தாக்குதல் ஆகஸ்ட் 6ம் திகதியும் 9ம் திகதியும் 1945 ம் ஆண்டு நடைபெற்றது.)

இந்த அணுகுண்டின் தாக்கம் இன்னும் நகரங்களில் மாற்று விளைவுகளை ஏற்படுத்திக் கொண்டிருப்பதை அறிந்து வேதனையடைகின்றோம். இந்தவிதமான மனித பேரவலமும் இழப்புகளும் இவ்வுலகிற்கு இனிமேல் வரவேண்டாமென உலகுவாழ் மக்கள் விழித்து கொண்டு ஒற்றுமைப்பட்டதன் பயனாகவே ஐக்கிய நாடுகள் சபை உருவாகியது. இதனை முன்னாள் அமரிக்க அதிபர் Franklin D. Roosevelt அவர்களின் முன்னெடுப்புடன் அமெரிக்க நேசநாடுகளின் கூட்டுறவின் பயனாக மூன்று மாதமாக நடைபெற்ற பலகருத்துப் பரிமாற்றங்களின் பின்னர் ஒன்றுபட்ட கருத்தோடு இப்பாரிய அமைப்பு உருவாகியது. இதில் உலக சமாதானம், பாதுகாப்பு, மனித சுதந்திரம் போன்ற அடிப்படை தேவைகளின் நிமித்தம் ஐ.நா.சபை ஓக்டோபர் 24,1945 ம் ஆண்டு உருவாகி செயற்பட தொடங்கியது. இப்படி ஐக்கியப்பட்ட (ஒன்றுபட்ட) தமிழ் சமூகங்களின் சபை எப்போது உருவாகும்??? தமிழ் சமூகத் தலைவர்கள் தங்களை முதன்மைப் படுத்தாது, தமிழ் சமூகத்தை முதன்மைப் படுத்தி செயற்பட முனைந்தால், ஈழத்தமிழரின் விடிவில் வெளிச்சத்தைக் காண்பது உறுதி. அந்நாளே எந்நாளோ? அந்தநாளே ஈழத்தமிழனுக்கு சுதந்திர நாளாகும்.

இன்றைய நிலையில் ஈழத்தமிழர்களை இரு பகுதியாக பார்க்கலாம். ஒன்று களத்தில் வாழ்பவர்கள், மற்றையவர்கள் புலத்தில் வாழ்பவர்கள். களத்தில் வாழும் இவர்களில் ஒருவகையினர் கடந்தகால போரினால் பாதிக்கப்பட்டு உயிர்களையும், உடமைகளையும் இன்னும் பலவற்றையும் இழந்து நிற்கதியாய் நிற்பவர்கள். இந்த நிலைமைக்கு காரணங்கள் பலதும் இருக்கலாம், அதனை ஆராய்வது பெரிய பலனை அவர்களுக்கு பெற்றுத்தரப் போவதில்லை. அவர்களது இன்றைய அத்தியாவசிய தேவை என்ன என்பதேயாகும். உணவு, உடை, உறைவிடம், அதனைத்தொடர்ந்து கல்வி, சுகாதாரம் வேலைவாய்ப்பு போன்ற இன்னபிறவுமாகும். அதனை நாம் முதலில் நிறைவேற்றி வைக்கவேண்டிய கடைப்பாடு புலம் வாழ் தமிழர்களிலேயே தங்கியுள்ளது. இதனை பல தொண்டர் ஸ்தாபனங்களும் நல்ல உள்ளம் படைத்த தனிநபர்களும் இன்றுவரையும் செய்து வருவது பாராட்டுக்குரியது. இவற்றைப் பின்பற்றி நல்லறம் செய்ய முன்வந்து நம்மவர் துயர் தீர்ப்பது பாராட்டற்குரியது.

புலத்தில் வாழ்பவர்கள் பொதுவாக மூன்று வெவ்வேறு விதமான செயற்பாடுகளை கொண்டவர்கள். ஒருவகையினர் நாம் வெளிநாடு வந்துவிட்டோம் இனி நமக்கொரு பயமுமில்லை எனவீடும் என் குடும்பமும் நன்றாக வாழ்ந்தால் போதும் என்பதைவிட வேறு எதைப்பற்றியுமே சிந்தியாதவர்களாக வாழ்கின்றார்கள். இன்னுமொரு சாரார் நம்மண், நம்மக்கள், நம்மினம் என்ற சிந்தனையோடு தங்கள் குடும்பங்களையும் கவனித்துக்கொண்டு தங்கள் சமூக நலத்தினையும் கருத்திற் கொண்டு கடமையாற்றிக் கொண்டிருக்கின்றார்கள். மற்றொரு சாரார் இரண்டுங்கெட்ட நிலையில் பலவிதமான குழப்பமான மனநிலையில், கண்டதே காட்சி கொண்டதே கோலம் என்று வாழ்பவர். இதற்கு பல காரணங்களை நம்மவர்கள் கூறுவதனை காதாரக் கேட்டிருக்கின்றேன். யாரை நம்பி யார் பின்னால் போவது? நம்மவரில் ஒருசிலர் தான் தான் தலைவனாக இருக்க வேண்டும் என்று வாழ்தலைக் காண்பதனால் வெறுப்பாகவும் வேதனையாகவும் இருக்கின்றது. யாரையும் நம்பமுடியவில்லை. இந்நிலை மாறுவதற்கு மக்கள் மனங்களை வென்ற தலைவர்கள் தலைமை ஏற்றல் வேண்டும். இதற்கே கூட்டுறவு அவசியமாகும்.

அடுத்து நமது ஊர்ச்சங்கங்களும் பழைய மாணவர் அமைப்புகளும் மற்றும் இங்கு இயங்கும் தமிழ்சார் அமைப்புகளும் தங்கள் பணிகளை சீரும் சிறப்புமாக செய்வதோடு மட்டும் நின்றுவிடக்கூடாது. தங்கள் அமைப்புசார் விடயங்களோடு பொதுவான தமிழர் விடயங்களிலும் ஒருமித்த கருத்தை எட்டி செயற்பட்டால் சமூக மேம்பாட்டிற்கு உறுதுணையாக அமையும். எடுத்துக்காட்டாக கனடிய அரசு தமிழ் சமூகத்தில் ஒருவருக்கு நியமன அமைச்சர் பதவி ஒன்றை கொடுக்க முன்வந்துள்ளது என்று எடுத்துக்கொள்வோம்.



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அரசு சகல தமிழ் அமைப்புக்களுக்கும் தெரிவிக்கின்றார்கள். இப்படியான சூழ்நிலையில் சங்கங்களும் அமைப்புக்களும் ஒன்றுகூடி பொது இடத்தில் கலந்துரையாடல் ஒன்றை செய்து தரமான தகுதியான ஓர் அறிஞரை நம்சமூகத்தில் இருந்து எல்லோரது பொதுவான ஆதரவுடன் தெரிவு செய்து அவரை அவைக்கு அனுப்புதல் வேண்டும். முக்கியமாக தேர்வு செய்யப்படுபவர் சமூகசேவை மனப்பான்மை உடையவராகவும் நமது மக்களுக்கு முழு நேர சேவைகள் செய்பவராகவும் இருத்தல் அவசியமாகும். இதனை சமூகம் கருத்தில் கொண்டு முழு ஆதரவோடு தெரிவுசெய்யும் போது நமது ஒற்றுமை அங்கே மிளிர் வேண்டும். நம்சமூகத்தின் தேவையும் நிவர்த்தி செய்யப்படுதல் வேண்டும்.

இதற்கும் அப்பால் களத்திலும் சரி புலத்திலும் சரி நம் இளைய சமுதாய இளைஞர்களை சகல துறைகளிலும் களம் இறக்கி அவர்களின் கைகளில், அரசியல், சட்டம், கல்வி, போருளாதாரம், வேலைவாய்ப்பு போன்ற பதவிகளின் பொறுப்பினைக் கொடுத்துவிடல்வேண்டும். அவர்களின் பின்னால் அனுபவசாலிகள் நின்று நெறிப்படுத்த வேண்டும். ஒவ்வொரு இளைஞனும் தனித்திறமைகள் உடையவர்களாக வளர்த்தெடுக்கப்படல் வேண்டும். அத்தோடு நம் மொழி கலை கலாசார பண்பாட்டு விழுமியங்கள் பாதுகாக்க ஊக்கப்படுத்த வேண்டும். எந்த நாட்டிலும், எந்த சமூகத்திலும் நாம் வாழ்ந்தாலும், சகலதுறைகளிலும் நம்மவர் பங்களிப்புக்கள் இல்லை என்ற நிலை இல்லாதிருத்தல் வேண்டும். அறிவுச்செல்வமும், பொருட்செல்வமும் நம்மிடம் வந்து குவிய வழி சமைக்க வேண்டும். இங்கும் புதிய தலைமுறைக்கான தலைமைப் பயிற்சிகள் CFLஐ ல் நடைபெறுகிறது. இது போன்ற தலைமைப் பயிற்சிக்கூடங்கள் இன்னும் பெருகுதல் அவசியமாகும்.

நம் தமிழ் இலக்கியங்களை நம்மவர்கள் அதிகம் படிக்க விரும்பாமைக்கு பல காரணங்கள் இருக்கலாம். அவற்றில் பெரும்பாலானவை பாடல்களாகவும் வெண்பாக்களாகவும் உரை நடையிலும் அமைந்திருப்பதனால் எல்லோராலும் உடன் இலகுவாக விளங்கிப் படிக்க முடியாமல் இருக்கலாம். இவ் விலக்கியங்களை இலகுவான நடையில் விளக்கத்துடன் புத்தகமாக வெளிவருமாயின் எல்லோராலும் படித்து பயன்பெற வாய்ப்புண்டாகும். தமிழறிஞர்கள் இதற்கு வழிவகை செய்தல் வேண்டும்.

உலகில் வளர்ச்சியடைந்த நாடுகளின் மாணவர்களின் கல்வித் திறன் குறித்த ஆய்வுகள் அவ்வப்போது நடைபெறும். இவ்வமைப்பிற்கு PISA (Programme for International Students Assessment) என்று பெயர். இந்த ஆய்வில் கல்வி முறையில் உலகில் முதல் இடத்திலிருப்பது பின்லாந்து ஆகும். உங்கள் நாடு கல்வியில் எப்போதும் முன்னணியில் இருக்கின்றதே அது எவ்வாறு என்று அந்நாட்டு கல்வி அமைச்சரிடம் ஓர் நேர்காணலில் கேட்டபோது இப்படி கூறி உள்ளார். நாங்கள் கல்வியில் முன்னணியில் இருந்தாலும் குழந்தைகளுக்கு கல்வியை இளமையில் இருந்தே திணிப்பதில்லை. ஏழு வயதிற்குப்பின் தான் பின்லாந்தில் ஒரு குழந்தை பள்ளிக்கூடம் செல்ல தொடங்குகிறது. இங்கு தாய் மொழிக்கல்வியைத்தான் இளமையில் கற்பிக்கின்றோம். தாய் மொழியை கற்பது மிகவும் அவசியம். தாய்மொழியில் எழுத பேச படிக்க சிந்திக்க கற்றுக்கொள்ளும் போதுதான் ஆங்கிலம் பிரன்ச் போன்ற பிற மொழிகளை சரியாக படிக்கமுடியும். இங்கு 44 மொழி பேசும் புலம் பெயர்ந்தவர்கள் வாழ்கின்றார்கள். பிற மொழி பேசும் அக்குழந்தைகளுக்கும் அவரவர் மொழியையே முதலில் கற்பித்து ஏழுவயதின் பின்னர்தான் பின்னிஸ் ஆங்கிலம் போன்ற மொழிகளை கற்பிக்கின்றோம். தாய் மொழியை ஒரு குழந்தை 3-7 வயதுக்குள் கற்றால்தான் பிறமொழிகளையும் இலகுவாக கற்க முடியும் என்றும் அத்தோடு ஆசிரியர்களின் பயிற்சிகாலம் ஆறு வருடங்கள் என்றும், அக்கால கட்டத்தில் சகல துறைகளிலும் பயிற்சி பெற்ற பின்னரே, அவர்கள் பட்டிப்பித்தலை தொடங்குகின்றார்கள் என்றும், அவர்களது பணி மற்றைய அரசு உத்தியோகங்களை விட எந்த விதத்திலும் குறைவானது அல்ல என்றும் பின்லாந்து கல்வி அமைச்சர் கூறியுள்ளார்.

நாமும் நம் குழந்தைகளுக்கு இளமையில் தாய்மொழியையும் அதன்பின்னர் உலக மொழிகளையும் கற்பி-  
க்க வேண்டும். அதனை தொடர்ந்து சகல துறைகளிலும் கல்வி கற்று வானுயர புகழ் பெறுதல் வேண்டும்.  
தமிழனின் அறிவாற்றலால் அகிலமும் நம்மை நாடவேண்டும். அதனை ஆசிரியர்களும்  
பெற்றோர்களும் கவனத்தில் கொண்டு செயலாற்றிட சகலதும் நம்மை வந்து சேரும்.

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# Tamil Canadians raise \$32,000 for the Heart and Stroke Foundation

On September 14th, 2014, the Canadian Tamil Congress organized its 6th annual walk-a-thon at Thomson Memorial Park in Scarborough. The 2014 beneficiary of the Tamil Canadian Walk was the Heart and Stroke Foundation. The event was a major success, raising more than \$32,000 to benefit research and health promotion around heart disease and stroke.

It is a fact that every seven minutes someone in Canada dies from heart disease and stroke. Furthermore, heart disease and stroke are significant issues for the Tamil Community. Research has shown that people of South Asian descent are at greater risk of developing heart disease and stroke – and at a much earlier age – compared to other community groups, due to genetic and other high-risk factors. Statistics indicate that South Asians are three times more likely to experience these diseases and at a much earlier age than other Canadians.

The Heart and Stroke Foundation is one of Canada's largest and most effective health charities. Over the last 60 years it has invested more than \$1.35 billion in heart and stroke research. In that time, the death rate from heart disease and stroke has declined by more than 75 per cent.

Hundreds of Tamil Canadians from all walks of life participated in the walk-a-thon. Participants also included elected officials, community organizations and leaders, business associates and supporters. A large number of youth from the Centre for Leadership and Innovation played a key role in showcasing not only the importance of giving back but the impact heart disease and stroke has on many in the Tamil community.

Giving back to the community is an integral part of the values of the Canadian Tamil Congress. Since 2009, CTC has raised over \$300,000 in funds in support of various local charities in Toronto.



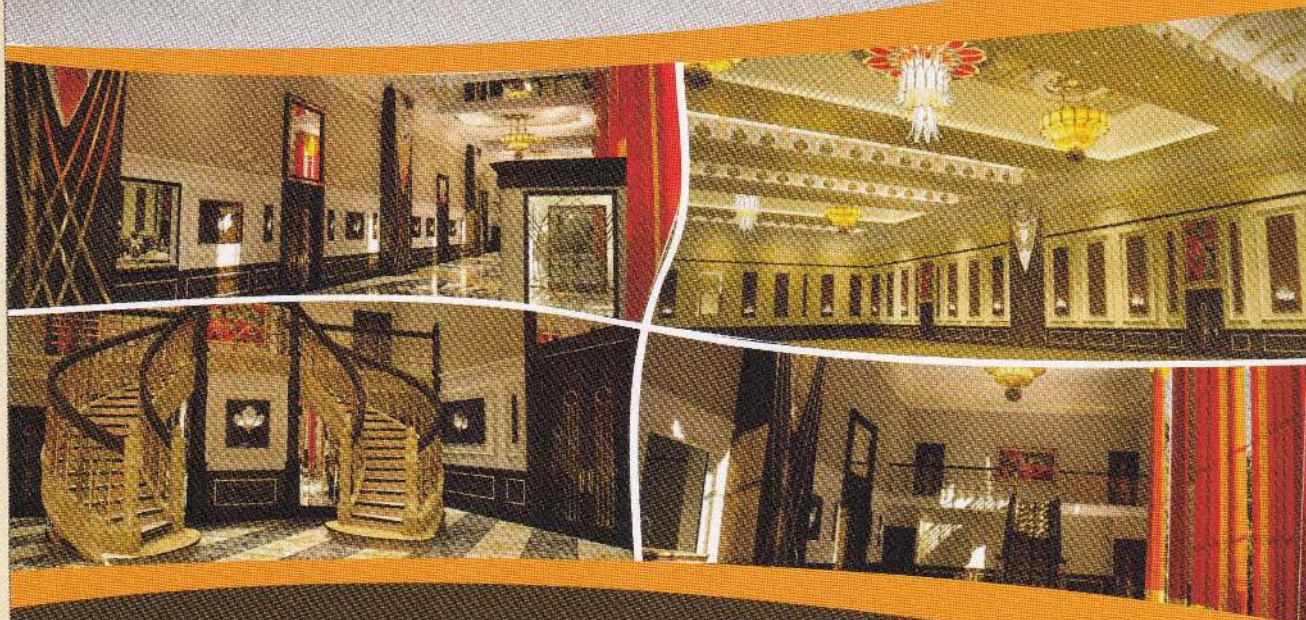
**Sumi Shan**

*Sumi Shan is a public relations/affairs manager at Microsoft. She was also the co-chair of the 2014 Tamil Canadian walk-a-thon.*





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# Human Rights

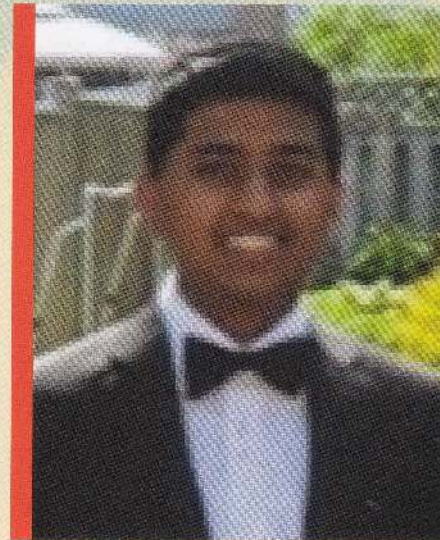
As human beings, we are all permitted to living in a world of civil liberties, rights and freedom. Whatever our nationality,our place of residence, sex, origin, color or language--we are all equally entitled to human rights.

In our lives today it is not stressed enough how important human rights are; it is a term we hear so often yet so many people still cannot define it. So what exactly are human rights? In 539 BC the first Persian king freed the slaves and declared that, "all people had the right to choose their own religion, and established racial equality." This was the very first segment to how it started. This idea of human rights, from Babylon, was spread to further countries such as India, Greece, Rome and many more. Throughout the coming years and through many different countries the rights were often modified and written down. Eventually, an important human rights act was passed by the parliament of Canada in 1977: in our lives today we know it as the "Canadian Human Rights Act."

The purpose of the Canadian human rights act is to extend the laws in Canada to give effect to the principle that all individuals should have an opportunity equal with other individuals, to make for themselves the lives that they are able and wish to have. It protects and makes sure that we have our needs accommodated and consistent with our duties and obligations as members of society. The act gives us all the support it can to make sure we aren't discriminated against based on race, national or ethnic origin, color, religion, age, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, family status, disability or even conviction for an offence.

These human rights ensure that all people are treated with dignity and equality. We all have the right to access basic needs such as food, water and shelter. These rights protect us from violence and abuse and instead they help us work towards the end of ignorance and hatred. No matter what country we live in, who our parents are, what religion we practice: human rights are essential. Unfortunately, there are still some serious situations in the world where people have their human rights taken away from them. It is arguable that we do not even have human rights when we think about what goes on in this world: war, poverty, hunger, money, dictatorship, power, innocent prisoners, dominance. These are just a few of the things that having a lack of human rights can lead to. Believe it or not, without the human rights act it could be you in poverty or starvation. The human rights act we have protects us from this happening, which is why it is very important for us to appreciate what rights we have.

Here in Canada, we are lucky to have human rights in our presence. We are lucky to be protected by the Canadian human rights act to make sure that we can be here today with our family, friends and loved ones in freedom and



**Timothy Thirukkumar**

*graduated from Sinclair Secondary School and an active youth member of the Tamil Cultural and Academic Society of Durham. He participated at a Youth Forum in South Korea as part of the Global Youth Leaders program. Tim completed a summer program in Constitution law at Harvard University and currently a law student at the Queen's University, England.*



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happiness. Some places in the world are not as fortunate as we are and do not even have their basic freedoms. It is a shocking number of countries who have their basic human rights taken away, such as North Korea, Burma, Iran, Syria, Zimbabwe, Sudan, and these are just a few of them. Many of us take for granted how important liberty and simple human rights actually are but that is why it's important for us to applaud this very occasion.

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“To deny people their human rights is to challenge their very humanity”- Nelson Mandela  
The most significant human right to many people is the right that we are entitled to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. It does not cost you anything to live life in this way, yet it still is the most important right we have: without life we'd be nothing. Without liberty it wouldn't be our own. Without happiness it would be worthless. There are so many different human rights in the act, but some are especially important, just like the one mention above. Another right I find very important is the “right to choose your own destiny”. No matter who you are, rich or poor, gay or straight, destiny is something we can all choose ourselves. Yes, there may be some obstructions along the way but at the end of the day it is the decisions you choose that make you who you are today.

When we think about how important rights are it can sometimes be bewildering as to why we need them. However, some human rights can really change some peoples' lives and make us all equal. One particular right would be that we are equal before the law. This means that the law applies to anyone no matter how important that person is. Rights like this is what builds equality in our community; without simple rights like this one, it can cause extreme disagreements and feelings of worthlessness to lower classes.

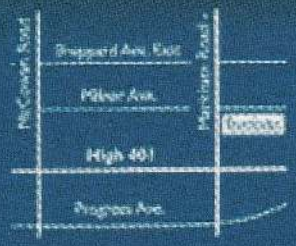
We Are All Born Free & Equal. We are all born free. We all have our own thoughts and ideas. We should all be treated in the same way. All human beings should be permitted to living in a world of civil liberties, rights and freedom. Whatever our nationality, our place of residence, sex, origin, color or language, we are all equally entitled to human rights as a global citizen.

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# Artist Profiles

## Instrumental music during reception

*Nathaswara Vithvan*

**Balakrishnan Sekar**

*Nathaswara Vithvan*

**Selvarajah Kaneshamoorthy**

*Thavil Vithuvan*

**Annamalai Manoharan**

*Thavil Vithuvan*

**Suntharamoorthy Theesan**

## Instrumental Music during Dinner

*The Naturals*

**Ian, Amirthanathan**

**Mark Amirthanathan**

**Michael Amirthanathan**

## Canadian National anthem

*Centre For Leadership and Innovation - CFLI  
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## Tamil Thai Valthu

**Vaaraki Wijayaraj**

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# Artist Profiles

## Traditional Dance performances

### *Kalaimanram Academy of Arts and Yoga Performers*

**Ishwaria Chandru**  
**Abhinayaa Chandru**  
**Showmia Chandru**  
**Abarna Selvaraja**  
**Nerushikaa Yasokumar**  
**Seyana Sivakumaran**

## Choreographer



### **Nirainjana Chandru**

Nirainjana Chandru provides traditional training in classical Indian dance and Yoga since 1985. Nirainjana's school has grown to become a major Canadian institution where students of diverse cultural back grounds are trained in the classical and contemporary traditions of Indian dance. Nira has created a whole generation of rigorously trained Indian dancers all around the world. As a choreographer, Nirainjana spans wide range; from stunning solo numbers to elaborate productions of dance dramas, and from pure traditional dance to experimental works involving fusion of dance styles.

Niranjan has has conducted over 75 senior and Junior Arangetrams and is the recipient of many prestigious awards such as Natya Kalaimani, Bharathakala Vithahar and Manitha Mathangi. Every year Nirainjana continues to present annual recitals, Arangetrams, graduations and examinations.

On behalf of the Ontario Liberal Caucus  
***Best wishes for Tamil  
Heritage Month and  
happy Thai Pongal***



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*John Cartwright - President*



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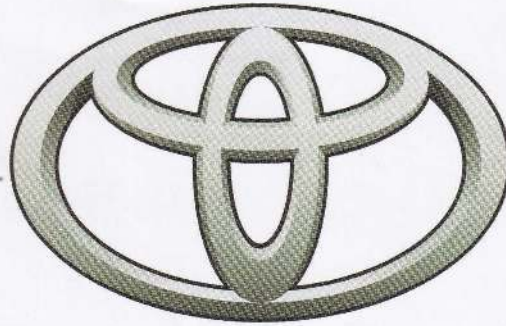
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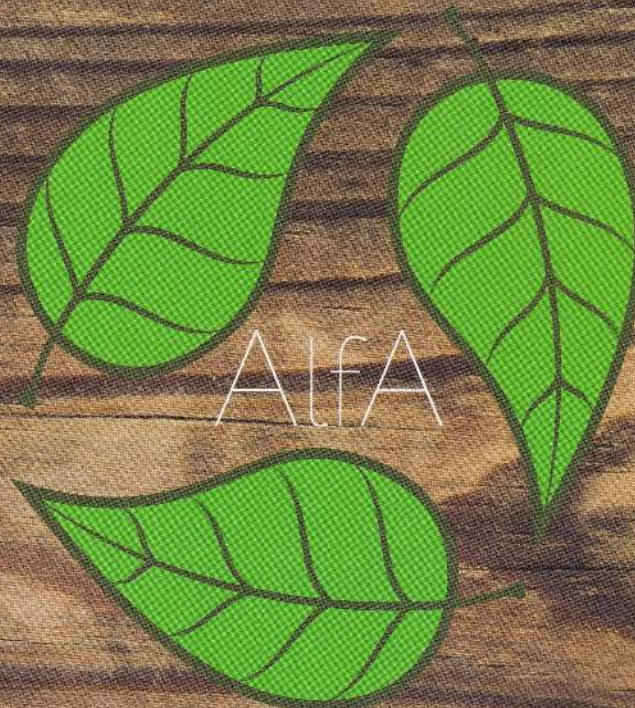
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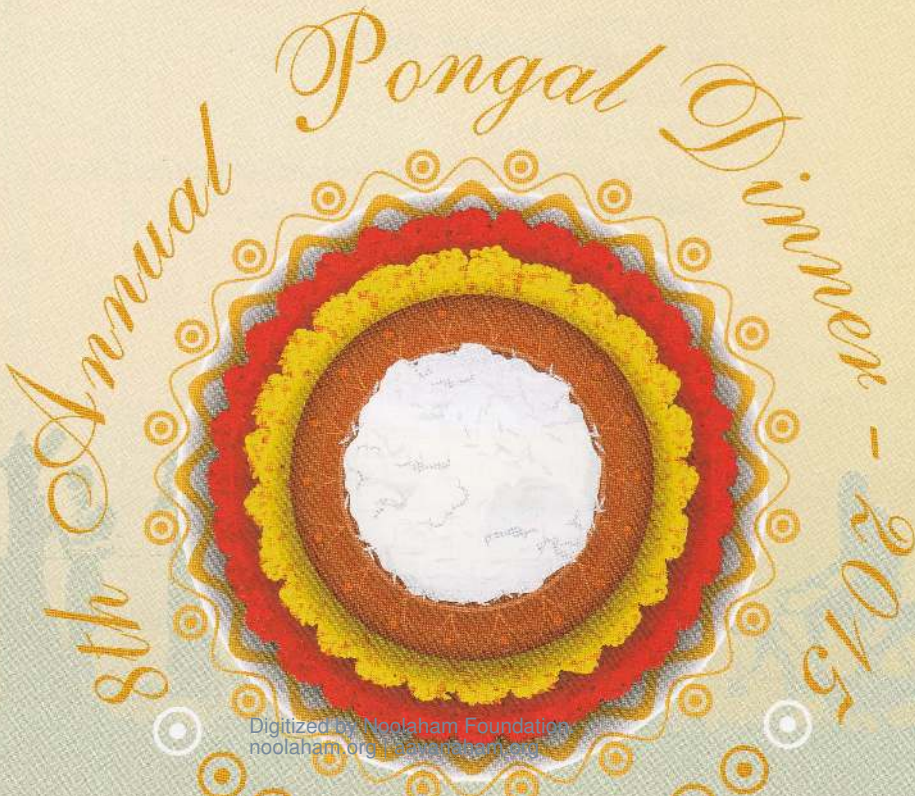
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