

SRI LANKAN CANADIAN HERITAGE FOUNDATION

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March 23, 2022

Trustee Garry Tanuan
Toronto Catholic District School Board
80 Sheppard Avenue East
Toronto, ON M2N 6E8

Dear Mr. Tanuan and Board of Trustees,

I am writing this letter in support of a motion to recognize Sri Lankan New Year Day at the Toronto Catholic District School Board. I respectfully request that the Board of Trustees vote favorably on the motion.

At The Sri Lankan Heritage Foundation, our mission is to recognize and share the hard work and achievements of Sri Lankan-Canadians.

Over 40 years, we have been organizing cultural activities with the graceful presence of many distinguished guests representing the Canadian government and non-governmental bodies. We have received many letters of congratulations from government representatives including Hon. Justin Trudeau, Hon. Stephan Harper and Hon. Kathleen Wynne.

Sri Lanka has a rich and distinct culture dating over 2,500 years. Sri Lanka's unique heritage is filled with arts, crafts, music and architecture that cannot be seen anywhere else in the world. Sri Lankan events in Canada provide an opportunity to share this rich culture and heritage with all Canadians, and provide the younger generations an opportunity to appreciate and revitalize the passion to protect it. We focus on culture, history, heritage, sports and language when showcasing Sri Lankan heritage.

Since April is a key month in terms of cultural value, we hope to pursue a recognition of April as Sri Lankan Heritage Month in Canada. Recognizing the New Year Day is a vital part of that recognition.

I respectfully urge the Toronto Catholic District School Board to approve this motion and strongly believe that this effort will benefit our students and our community at large. Thank you for your consideration of this issue.

Sincerely,

Anura Ferdinand

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President
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