



*Garry Tanuan  
Trustee Ward 8*

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**To:** Student Achievement and Well-Being, Catholic Education and Human Resources Committee, April 5, 2022

**From:** Garry Tanuan, Trustee Ward 8

**Subject: COM: SRI LANKAN NEW YEAR DAY APRIL 14, 2022**

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**MOVED BY: Garry Tanuan,** Toronto Catholic District School Board

**WHEREAS:** Toronto is home to a large and vibrant Sri Lankan community. According to the 2016 Census, **152,595** people reported themselves as being of Sri Lankan ethnicity; and

**WHEREAS:** New Year is the biggest of all celebratory festivals in the Sri Lankan community and falls in the month of April; and

**WHEREAS:** Since the first Sri Lankans arrived in Canada in the 1950's, Sri Lankan-Canadians have made significant contributions to many industries ranging from Civil Service, University Academia, Medical and Engineering Professions, Agriculture and Agri Business, Computer Sciences, Banking, Arts and Crafts, Service, Manufacturing, and many other Industries. Their contribution to Canada and to Toronto is immeasurable; and

**WHEREAS:** Sri Lankan culture has been embraced in Ontario since at least 1898 when a town in Ontario was named Ceylon; and

**WHEREAS:** Sri Lankan New Year acknowledgement will create a fitting opportunity to showcase the contributions made by Sri Lankan Canadians to the advancement of the TCDSB while it will also create a forum for ALL students of Sri Lankan heritage, regardless of ethnicity, to feel involved and acknowledged.

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT:** The TCDSB declare and recognize April 14, 2022, as Sri Lankan New Year Day and to annually recognize Sri Lankan New Year Day.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT:** Recognition in the form of a poster be displayed on the TCDSB website and where appropriate, flyers provided to schools for display. On this digital poster, approved by the Asian Canadian Heritage Committee, a link is provided to access information on traditions and customs related to the Sri Lankan New Year tradition. Also, this year, since April 14 falls on Holy (Maundy)Thursday, the following prayer for love and unity shall be offered as an expression of our Catholic faith:

Today we celebrate Holy Thursday which is also known as Maundy Thursday of Holy Week. It is the day of the Last Supper when Jesus washed the feet of his disciples and established the sacrament known as the Eucharist. The night of Maundy Thursday is the night on which Jesus was betrayed by Judas in the Garden of Gethsemane. The word Maundy is derived from the Latin word “command” and refers to Jesus’ commandment to the disciples to “Love one another as I have loved you.” Also, today, members of our community who are of Sri Lankan Heritage usher in their New Year. Also known as Sinhala-Tamil New Year Day, it bears the tradition of letting go of past resentments and welcoming new beginnings with hope and love. Let us pray that all the people of Sri Lankan heritage in our school, our communities and around the world are blessed with the peace and love that Jesus commanded of us on the first Holy Thursday.

**Garry Tanuan**  
**Trustee Ward 8**

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