PROCLAMATION

Tamil Genocide Day

WHEREAS: The Tamil people have endured significant hardship and tragedy throughout history, including severe persecution, human rights violations, ethnic cleansing, and genocide perpetrated against them during the Sri Lankan Civil War.

Over 40,000 Tamil civilians lost their lives during the last stages of the war in May 2009, and over 100,000 lives were lost in the three decades of struggle for Human Rights in Sri Lanka since 1949.

The Tamils who have made Canada their home, numbering about 500,000, have greatly enriched our country through their leadership in various fields and inspired younger generations to become successful and contributing citizens.

May 18th serves as a reminder of the Tamil ethnic cleansing and genocide, providing an opportunity for survivors in Canada and around the world to reflect on the enduring lessons of ethnic cleansing and genocide and rededicate to peace and the protection of Human Rights.

The Tamil Memorial Foundation, a coalition of Canadian organizations, is committed to commemorating and educating about the Tamils from the island of Sri Lanka, their history, culture, aspirations, and the sacrifices made by our ancestors in the long march for freedom, human rights, and self-determination.

The Ontario government has passed legislation to designate May 12 to May 18 each year as “Tamil Genocide Education Week,” initiatives recognizing this week include Tamil genocide education, candlelight commemorations, and a Tamil genocide education conference will be undertaken to advance awareness and understanding of the atrocities endured by the Tamil community.

THEREFORE: I, Mayor Patrick Brown, on behalf of Brampton City Council, do hereby proclaim May 18, 2024 as “Tamil Genocide Day” in the City of Brampton.

Mayor Patrick Brown, City of Brampton