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April 15, 2020

Dear Tamil Canadians,

First and foremost, we hope everyone is staying safe and keeping well during this challenging time. Moreover, we also trust that all Tamil Canadians are doing their part by practicing social distancing and to the maximum possible extent, staying home.

We are ever so thankful to all essential service workers for their personal heroism and unwavering commitment during this health crisis. In particular, thanks to our health care professionals who are working tirelessly to help those in need of medical care with regard to their own safety and well-being, they are the true heroes of this crisis.

We know that COVID-19 has and continues to change our everyday lives and these unceasing changes have placed many in a state of anxiety as the timeline for return to normalcy is still unclear. Regardless all of these uncertainties, we must continue to: remain positive and do our part to flatten the curve, support those who are vulnerable, and organize ourselves to face the challenges in the yet to be seen, new normal once we recover from this pandemic. Keeping these in mind, we have undertaken the following initiatives:

- ➤ Opened a COVID -19 hotline (647-933-6603) to support with general healthcare questions, answer questions relating to Government COVID -19 support programs and assistance to seniors. Please use and share the hotline as needed.
- ➤ Commenced the Tamil Canadian Food Relief Support for the most vulnerable families in the war affected Northern and Eastern Provinces of Sri Lanka. This initiative will support more than 2000 families in all 8 districts of the Norther and Eastern provinces of Sri Lanka. For the most recent update on the food relief efforts, please visit

http://www.canadiantamilcongress.ca/covid19-food-relief-north-east-srilanka.

If you wish to donate to this initiative, you may do so at

https://www.gofundme.com/f/food-relief-for-vulnerable-population-in-sri-lanka.

- > Started free online yoga and fitness classes through Zoom to help people stay active. If anyone is interested to join, please email covid19@canadiantamilcongress.ca
- ➤ Initiated Tamil Canadians blood donation drive. If you are able and willing, please go to the nearest blood donor clinic and donate blood. Please visit www.blood.ca/en/wellness for more details or call 1-888-236-6283. When donating, we request that you donate under the group name "Tamil Canadians".

Group Name: TAMIL CANADIANS

Partner ID: TAMI009345



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We would like to express our sincere gratitude and appreciation to all Canadian political leaders at all levels for their leadership, collaboration and support measures they have put in place during this unprecedented time.

Once again we thank you for your continued support to the Canadian Tamil Congress. We will all come out of this situation together, stronger than ever before and continue to strengthen the Tamil community in Canada and back in Sri Lanka. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact us by email, covid19@canadiantamilcongress.ca or by using the hotline 647-933-6603.

Yours truly,

Sivan Ilangko President,

Canadian Tamil Congress.

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