



**CANADIAN TAMIL COLLECTIVE**  
**கனேடியத் தமிழர் கூட்டு**

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August 13, 2024

To:

Tamils in Canada and Beyond

To:

The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau  
Prime Minister of Canada  
Email: pm@pm.gc.ca

The Honourable Pierre Poilievre  
Leader of the Opposition  
Email: pierre.poilievre@parl.gc.ca

The Honourable Jagmeet Singh  
Leader of the New Democratic Party  
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The Honourable Mélanie Joly  
Minister of Foreign Affairs  
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The Honourable Gary Anandasangaree  
Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations  
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Doug Ford  
Premier of Ontario  
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Patrick Brown  
Mayor of Brampton  
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Olivia Chow  
Mayor of Toronto  
Email: mayor\_chow@toronto.ca

Dear Tamils, Prime Minister Trudeau, Leader Poilievre, Leader Singh, Minister Joly, Minister Anandasangaree, Premier Ford, Mayor Brown, and Mayor Chow,

A May 3, 2024, letter from Thushara Rodrigo, the Consulate General of Sri Lanka in Toronto, to Brampton's Mayor Patrick Brown, obtained by the Canadian Tamil Collective (the Collective), reveals the truth about the Canadian Tamil Congress (CTC) and its relationship with the Sri Lankan government and the Consulate General in Toronto. The CTC has not responded to a request by the Collective to make public all communications between the organization and Sri Lanka. The May 3, 2024, letter offers significant insight into this relationship.



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This letter to Mayor Patrick Brown alleges that the Government of Sri Lanka has taken several steps towards reconciliation in Sri Lanka. The letter makes a number of false claims and assertions including but not limited to warning the Mayor that any assistance from him towards the building of the Tamil Genocide memorial could affect such reconciliation and peace. It also cautions that building the Tamil Genocide memorial could also derail initiatives taken by Tamil organizations, such as the CTC, in Sri Lanka.

Specifically, Rodrigo writes, "as you may be aware, the Canadian Tamil Congress... commenced their humanitarian activities in Sri Lanka with the participation of the Canadian High Commission in Colombo. Also, the CTC has had important engagements with Buddhist monks under the framework of the Himalayan Declaration to support the reconciliation efforts."

The letter makes clear that the CTC has misrepresented to the Tamil people and has actively covered up their role in the Sri Lankan government's strategies to undermine the Tamil people's fight for justice and freedom.

The CTC has denied involvement in the Himalayan Declaration, but the letter exposes the truth. There is no mention of any other organization undertaking this work, only the CTC. Most importantly, the letter shows that the CTC is being used to oppose the construction of the Genocide Monument in Brampton. The CTC's work with Sri Lanka is being weaponized to erase Tamil history and prevent the memorialization of those lost in the war. The CTC's actions facilitate Sri Lanka's foreign interference in Canada and undermine the rights and interests of Tamils in Canada.

The CTC's partnership with Sri Lanka strengthens the state's ability to gaslight Tamil genocide and create a false narrative of peace and reconciliation, ignoring the real history and ongoing struggles of Tamils.

The letter has exposed how the CTC's efforts have been manipulated by the Sri Lankan government to further its own agenda. It has become apparent that the Sri Lankan government has used CTC's initiatives as a facade to conduct a public relations campaign in Canada, aimed at undermining the construction of the Tamil Genocide Memorial. This insidious strategy not only diminishes the legitimate grievances of the Tamil community but also seeks to erase the historical injustices faced by Tamils. Such actions betray the trust of Tamil Canadians who look to the CTC for leadership and advocacy in the pursuit of justice and recognition. The Tamil community needs to ensure that the CTC's work cannot be co-opted by external forces that seek to silence the voices of the Tamil diaspora and impede their efforts to honor and memorialize the victims of genocide.

We thank and commend Mayor Patrick Brown, who is a pioneer among Canadian politicians in holding the Sri Lankan state to account and in the recognition of genocide. However, Sri Lankan interference with a municipal mayor in Canada is unacceptable and must be closely examined by the Prime Minister.

In light of these revelations, the Collective firstly calls on the Canadian government, the Ontario government, the City of Toronto, and the City of Brampton to release all notes and communications with the Sri Lankan government, the Sri Lankan Consulate in Toronto, and the CTC. The Collective will commence formal freedom of information requests and urges these governments to expedite these requests in the interest of Tamils.



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Secondly, we call on the federal government to respond to the specific issue of foreign interference by Thushara Rodrigo, the Consulate General of Sri Lanka in Toronto, regarding his involvement and demands for a municipal government in Canada.

Thirdly, we call on the federal government to release all information relating to any Canadian involvement and/or communications regarding the Himalayan Declaration, including that of the Canadian High Commissioner in Colombo.

Also, we call upon Canadian Tamils to join us in ensuring the CTC stands with our people's unified efforts to bring the perpetrators of the genocide, namely the Government of Sri Lanka, to justice. We must stand united against any organization or entity that undermines our struggle for peace, justice, and truth.

Finally and more importantly, the CTC must cease enabling Sri Lanka's foreign interference in Canada and stop engaging in activities leveraged against Tamils. It must immediately condemn the Government of Sri Lanka's interference in Canada and clarify its position regarding the Genocide memorial. Unfortunately, the CTC's silence on this matter can be interpreted as collusion with the Government of Sri Lanka. Our community will not stand silently and watch such betrayals. It is imperative that the CTC recognizes the harm they have caused to this community. CTC must unconditionally apologize for the trauma caused and rededicate itself to being a voice of Canadian Tamils.

Together, we can ensure that Tamil voices are heard, Tamil history is acknowledged, and justice is served.

Please find attached the May 3, 2024, letter from the Consulate General of Sri Lanka in Toronto to Brampton's Mayor, Patrick Brown.

For contacts: (+1) 647-560-7013 or [CanadianTamilCollective@gmail.com](mailto:CanadianTamilCollective@gmail.com)

Sincerely,  
Canadian Tamil Collective

CC: All Members of Parliament, Members of Provincial Parliament, City of Brampton Councillors, City of Toronto Councillors, and the Canadian High Commissioner in Sri Lanka (Colombo)