

October 5, 2015

Ajax, Ontario

For Immediate Release

**“Liberal Party Outlines Three Pillars of Canada’s Engagement on Sri Lanka”**

Gary Anandasangaree, Liberal Party of Canada Candidate in Scarborough-Rouge Park, with fellow Candidates, Mark Holland – Ajax, Navdeep Bains – Mississauga-Malton, John MacCallum – Markham-Thornhill, and Jennifer Connell, Pickering-Uxbridge, held a Tamil Community Town Hall meeting on October 3, 2015, in Ajax, Ontario. Gary Anandasangaree presented the three pillars of the Liberal Party’s proposed engaged on Sri Lanka:

- (a) Accountability in Sri Lanka
  - a. Welcome the report of the OISL and express cautious optimism over the resolution as passed by the UNHRC on October 1, 2015.
  - b. Canada should use its diplomatic influence at the UN in New York / Geneva to push for the full implementation of the HRC resolution.
  - c. Canada should offer our expertise to the Hybrid-Mechanism as mandated by the UNHRC (investigators, prosecutors, and judges.)
  - d. Continue to monitor and follow the progress in achieving accountability in Sri Lanka and engage the UNHRC in its 32nd and 34<sup>th</sup> Sessions to seek further intervention of the UN, as required.
  - e. Exercise universal jurisdiction to investigate and prosecute those perpetrators of war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide who may be in Canada.
  - f. We will implement a travel ban against those who might have been part of the chain of command within the Sri Lankan armed forces.
  - g. Continue to seek a Criminal, international, independent, investigation into serious international crimes, including war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide for a the period 1948 to date with respect to crimes committed in Sri Lanka.

(b) Long Term Political Solution

- a. Liberal Party of Canada believes that in order to have peace and stability in Sri Lanka, a long-term political solution, that addresses the legitimate grievances of Tamils and other minorities, is required.
- b. Canada should support the parties in attaining a political solution.
- c. We believe that the Tamil nation and other minorities must be protected.
- d. We believe Canada can offer our expertise in federalism.

(c) Supporting Victims

- a. Work with local and Canadian NGO's to ensure that a needs assessment is undertaken in war stricken areas.
- b. Ensure that Canadian aid to Sri Lanka prioritizes trauma counseling of victims, the empowerment of woman and the promotion of exchanges and partnerships with institutions affected by war (ie. University of Jaffna, Town of Killinochi etc.).

“Justin Trudeau has consistently maintained that accountability is essential to attaining peace on the Island of Sri Lanka. Our three pillars of engagement on Sri Lanka recognizes the need to undertake the hard work necessary in attaining accountability, a political solution, and supporting the victims affected by the war on the island” stated Gary Anandasangaree.

“This is an important step in ensuring that Canada’s engagement on Sri Lanka is open, transparent and consistent with our international obligations. Canada has a long standing record of defending and supporting human rights, and the three pillars outlined will ensure that our engagement on Sri Lanka will, assist in attaining long term peace on the island” stated Gary Anandasangaree.

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