



## **CANADIAN TAMIL CONGRESS ■ CONGRÈS TAMOUL CANADIEN**

31 Progress Avenue, Suite #202, Scarborough M1P 4S6 T: 416-240-0078 F:416-240-1601 e-mail:info@ctconline.ca

### **For Immediate Release**

**July 24, 2008**

### **Alberta Tamils Remember Silenced Voices**

The Edmonton branch of the Canadian Tamil Congress has planned several events to commemorate the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of State sponsored anti-Tamil violence that took place in Sri Lanka during July 23<sup>rd</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> 1983 when over 3000 were most violently killed by the Sinhalese rioters with the support of then government and law enforcing agencies. Since 1983, more than 1 million Tamils have left Sri Lanka and fled to countries around the world, including Canada. Many fled under dire circumstances and sought refugee status in their adopted lands. Many fear to return.

In gratitude for the kindness offered by Canada in providing a safe haven for Tamils, the community in return has chosen to give back to Canada in the form of blood. The Tamil Canadians have signed on as a Partner for Life with Canadian Blood Services and have challenged themselves to donate an astounding 5,000 units of blood to give others the gift Canada gave them 25 years ago, the gift of a lifetime.

On Saturday July 26<sup>th</sup> the Tamil community in Edmonton will join Tamils across the nation in a blood drive to increase Canada's blood supply. The Edmonton Blood Donation Drive will take place as follows:

Date: Saturday July 26<sup>th</sup>  
Time: 11:15 am - 4:00 pm  
Venue: Canadian Blood services  
8249 114th Street NW  
T6G 2R8  
431-0202

Tamils across Alberta will also commemorate this 25th anniversary in the form of a prayer in honour of all those who lost their lives and the victims still living with wounded memories.

Date: Sunday July 27th  
Time: 10:30 am  
Venue: Maha Ganapathy Society of Alberta  
128 Running Creek Rd.  
Edmonton Alberta  
T6J 7B1

In the month of August, the Edmonton Chapter of the Canadian Tamil Congress will also publish a book entitled "Silenced Voices" as a lasting reminder of the suffering that occurred 25 years ago and to provide an inspiration to continue voicing concerns of injustices around the world. All proceeds from this event will be donated to the Stollery Sick Children's Hospital. More information about this book release please contact CTC Edmonton.

The Edmonton Chapter of the Canadian Tamil Congress was formed in 2007 to advocate on behalf of the needs and interests of the Tamil Canadians in Edmonton, as well as the world wide Tamil Diaspora..

For more information contact: [info@canadiantamilcongress.ca](mailto:info@canadiantamilcongress.ca)

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(416) 240-0078    (613) 789-9371    (514) 898-8019    (778) 231-0074    (780) 660-1211    (204) 219-2018