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## **Conservatives Continue to Insult Indo-Canadian by remaining silent on Apology**

Ottawa, ON- The Conservative Government continues to insult the Indo-Canadian by refusing to apologize for the Komagata Maru incident in the House of Commons.

Seventeen days have now passed since the Conservatives delivered a haphazard apology for the Komagata Maru Incident at an Indo-Canadian celebration held in Surrey, B.C.

Many Canadians waited for an official apology for the Komagata Maru incident in the House of Commons after the successful passing of Dhalla's historic Private Member's motion on May 15th 2008 which asked the Government to apologize for the 1914 Komagata Maru tragedy. In fact, many Indo-Canadians were shocked to hear Prime Minister Stephen Harper make an apology while speaking to a crowd of Indo-Canadians at a cultural event on earlier this month.

"The actions taken by the Conservative government are shameful and disrespectful to the Indo-Canadian community and the families impacted by the Komagata Maru injustice. Why is the Indo-Canadian community any less deserving of an official and respectful apology delivered in the House of Commons?" asked Dr. Ruby Dhalla, Member of Parliament for Brampton Springdale.

Since the Prime Minister's Harper's speech, the Conservatives have continued to ignore the outcry from the community requesting an official apology in the House of Commons. In fact, immediately following the Prime Minister's speech in Surrey, Secretary of State, Jason Kenny announced that the apology was final and it would "not be repeated."

This latest move by the Conservatives is just one of many examples of their questionable support for the apology. When Dr. Dhalla's Private Members Motion requesting the Government to apologize was originally introduced on April 2 2008, the Conservative Government was opposed to the motion. However, it was only after extensive community outcry and pressure, the Conservative Government was forced to change its original position.

"At first the Conservative Government was opposed to supporting my motion requesting an apology, then after community pressure they were forced to change their position. Now, the Government has once again disrespected the Indo-Canadian community by making an apology at a cultural event for a tragedy and then continuing to ignore the will of the community by remaining silent on this issue" said Dr. Dhalla.

"The Komagata Maru injustice will forever serve as a reminder of the struggles and challenges that so many immigrants have encountered in their hope for a better future in Canada. The Prime Minister should have done the right thing by making an apology to the Indo-Canadian community in the House of Commons in a respectful and dignified manner. The Indo-Canadian community deserves far more respect than what the Conservative Government has demonstrated," said Dr. Dhalla.

Dr. Dhalla joins many Canadians in requesting the Prime Minister and the Conservative Government to make an official apology for the Komagata Maru injustice in the House of Commons.

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