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### **Dr. Dhalla Recognizes Black History Month in the House of Commons**

Ottawa- This year marks the 13th anniversary of Black History month in Canada. To honour the achievements and remember the injustices done to African-Canadians Liberal Opposition Critic for Multiculturalism, Dr. Ruby Dhalla joined members of her caucus in marking this momentous occasion.

"Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise today in recognition of the 13th anniversary of Black History Month. Let us take time to celebrate the achievements and contributions of African-Canadians and remember the journey of the past" said Dhalla in her address in the House of Commons.

"There was a time in the seventeenth century when a young African boy, Olivier Le Jeune, was brought over as a slave, a time in Canada when slavery existed, where there was white supremacy and black subordination. We fast forward to today and the Black community in my own riding of Brampton comprises the third largest visible minority community. We have seen first-hand the Black community achieve great success with their faith, perseverance and determination."

Dhalla also noted the importance of this year's Black History month celebration with the election of President Barack Obama.

"As the world celebrates the first African-American president, we here in Canada also have our own success stories with our Governor General, the Right Hon. Michaëlle Jean; the first black member of Parliament, the Lieutenant Governor of Ontario, Lincoln Alexander; and trailblazers such as the former member of Parliament and minister, the Hon. Jean Augustine, who introduced the motion to recognize Black History Month."

"We as a nation are enriched by the contributions of the Black community, their hard work and perseverance. I look forward to celebrating with all Canadians the success stories of past African Canadians and the even greater successes that are to come as the African-Canadian has played a vital role in building the social fabric of Canada and is to be commended," said Dr. Dhalla.

Contact:  
Candice Debi  
Office of Dr. Ruby Dhalla, MP  
Brampton-Springdale  
905-874-6868  
dhallr@parl.gc.ca