



For Immediate Release
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Dhalla Named Critic for Multiculturalism and Youth

Brampton - Liberal Opposition Leader Michael Ignatieff announced a new line up of critics for his shadow cabinet with Dr. Ruby Dhalla appointed as Critic for Multiculturalism and Youth.

Since being elected, Dr. Dhalla has been a strong champion and advocate of ensuring the voices of ethnic communities are heard. "Canada is a symbol of hope for nations throughout the world. As the daughter of immigrant parents I have a seen first hand the sacrifices and courage of new Canadians in an effort to have their voices heard. I look forward to ensuring issues such as foreign credential recognition, improved access to Government services and efficiency in our immigration system are brought to the forefront. The contributions of immigrants are a cornerstone of our nation's success," said Dr. Dhalla.

Dr. Dhalla made history in 2004 as one of the first South Asian Woman to be elected to federal parliament in the western world and was subsequently re-elected on January 23, 2006 and again on October 14th 2008 by the support of her constituents.

As one of Canada's youngest female Members of Parliament, Dr. Dhalla recognizes her responsibility in reaching out to young Canadians and promoting and encouraging youth participation in the political process. In parliament Dr. Dhalla has been a strong voice on behalf of youth to ensure they have the necessary resources they need to succeed. In April 2008, Dr. Dhalla launched the Brampton-Springdale Youth Advisory Council to empower youth to actively participate in designing and developing solutions for issues that confront them. This council provides students a platform to speak openly and directly with educators, elected officials and community members to address youth related violence in schools.

"I am honoured by the faith of Mr. Ignatieff in my abilities. In my new responsibilities I look forward to reaching out and championing issues important to Canadians of all backgrounds and communities. I firmly believe the hopes, dreams, beliefs, ideas and vision of youth are the future of our community, our country and our world. I look forward to ensuring the Government provides the

resources and tools that both young people and people of ethno cultural communities need to succeed and prosper" said Dr. Dhalla.

As the only Member of Parliament from the Region of Peel in Mr. Ignatieff's shadow cabinet Dr. Dhalla also looks forward to being a strong representative for the needs of Peel residents.

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