



For Immediate Release  
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### **Dhalla calls for an official apology in the House of Commons on the anniversary of the Komagata Maru Injustice**

Brampton, ON- Dr. Ruby Dhalla, Member of Parliament for Brampton Springdale, is asking all parliamentarians to support the private members motion M434, requesting that May 23rd be designated as a day of commemoration for the Komagata Maru injustice and an official apology be made in the House of Commons for the 1914 Komagata Maru injustice.

On May 23rd 1914, 376 passengers from India arrived in Vancouver aboard the Komagata Maru streamliner and were denied entry into Canada due to immigration laws that were exclusionary, racist, and discriminatory. After being detained for almost 2 months in conditions of famine and starvation the passengers and the Komagata Maru ship were forced to leave Canadian waters. Upon arrival back in India many of these passengers were subsequently killed and imprisoned. The Komagata Maru tragedy is one of the greatest injustices in our nation and marks one of the most shameful chapters in Canadian history.

Dhalla's previous private members motion, M469, which asked the Government to apologize for the 1914 Komagata Maru tragedy was passed with unanimous consent on May 15, 2008. However, many in the Indo-Canadian community were shocked that an apology was made by the Prime Minister while speaking to a crowd at a cultural event in Surrey B.C in 2008. At the urging of her constituents and many Canadians across Canada, Dhalla put forward another private members motion in September of 2009 requesting that the apology be made in the House of Commons.

"With a Diaspora that is almost 1 million strong in Canada, members of the Indo Canadian community are requesting that an apology be made in a respectful and dignified manner in the House of Commons. As the daughter of immigrant parents 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. In addition, a day of commemoration will also allow the opportunity to educate young people of the sacrifices and courage of the many people who have helped in the building of our nation's success story" said Dhalla.

"As a nation that champions human rights, democracy and freedom, this motion is an opportunity for all parliamentarians to put partisan politics aside and support the request for an official apology in the House of Commons and a declare May 23 as a day of commemoration" said Dhalla.

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