

## INVITATION TO OTTAWA THAMIZH HERITAGE MONTH SHOWCASE



Dear Member of Our Ottawa Thamizh Community,

Our Mayor Hon. Jim Watson and City of Ottawa has Proclaimed the Month of January as Thamizh Heritage Month. The undersigned Ottawa Thamizh Organizations would like invite Your Family & Friends to "OTTAWA THAMIZH HERITAGE MONTH SHOWCASE" at Walter Baker Centre, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Nepean from 1 to 6 PM on Saturday January 18, 2014. Please wear Traditional Thamizh Clothing to this event.

National Capital Region Tamil Association (NCRTA)  
Ottawa Muthathamizh Kala Mandranm (MKM)  
Ottawa Tamil Sangam (OTS)  
Ottawa Tamil Seniors Association (OTSA)  
Carleton University Tamil Association (CUTSA)  
University of Ottawa Tamil Students Union (UOTSU)

### ABOUT THAMIZH HERITAGE MONTH

The heritage of an ethnic group incorporates the values, language, literature and history that have been passed down from preceding generations. These traditions have been passed and kept alive and thriving throughout generation not to be diminished but to keep culture endless. Heritage is a unique aspect to an ethnic group, in which it unifies and keeps individuals of these ethnicities intact.

Thamizh Heritage has been rich and thriving throughout thousands of years. From religious architecture, sculpture, painting, music, dance, theater, language, philosophy, medical systems, rituals, cuisine, and textiles- it sure is one of a kind.

The Thamizh language is one important aspect which identifies us as a unique ethnic group. As archaeological evidence suggests, The Thamizh language, the mother of all Dravidian languages, has been in existence as long ago as 5000 years and serves up until today as a prime medium through which our heritage exists.

Thamizhs began migrating to Ontario as early as the 1940s. Since that time, Thamizh Canadians have overcome tremendous obstacles and have made significant contributions to the growth and prosperity

of Canada. As a Diaspora community, to ensure that our rich culture is continually preserved and protected, it is essential for Thamizhs to be educated about their Thamizh heritage, and of the richness of our history. Thamizh Heritage Month was initiated in January 2010 as a means of achieving this goal.

January was chosen to be Thamizh Heritage Month, because it is the month in which Thai Pongal and Thamizh New Year, two very important festivities close to the hearts of all Thamizhs are celebrated. Thamizh Heritage Month serves as a month for Thamizhs to celebrate their culture, traditions, history, literature and festivities, providing both Thamizh youth and the mainstream community an opportunity to learn about and preserve the rich heritage of Thamizhs.

Many organizations throughout Canada have endorsed Thamizh Heritage Month. Thamizh heritage can only be preserved by passing it on to our younger generations. Our heritage has spanned so many centuries because many Thamizhs took the responsibility to protect and share our heritage, culture, and language. In that manner, this responsibility lies within the hands of the Thamizh youth to renew the commitment to celebrate and practice Thamizh heritage, and safeguarding it for future generations.

Thamizh Heritage Month aims to celebrate the history of the Thamizh community and its contribution to the social, cultural, political and economic strength of Canada and the world. It is also an opportunity to remember, celebrate and educate future generations about the inspirational role that Thamizh Canadians have played and continue to play in communities across Canada. While recognizing the accomplishments and tracing our roots, Thamizh Heritage Month provides opportunities to actively celebrate Thamizh heritage and sustain (grow synonym) Thamizh culture in Canada. The declaration of January as Thamizh Heritage Month has been endorsed by over 40 prominent Thamizh organizations in the Canadian Thamizh Community.

**The objectives of the Thamizh Heritage Month are five-fold:**

1. To celebrate the richness of the Thamizh language and literature
2. To celebrate the traditions, arts and culture of Thamizhs around the world
3. To present to Canadians of all backgrounds about the language, traditions and history of the Thamizh people
4. To highlight the achievements of Thamizhs in various fields both in the past and the present
5. To advance the growth and prosperity of Thamizhs

**Happy and Prosperous Thai Pongal and Thamizh New Year 2014**



NCRTA



MKM



OTS



OTSA



UOTSU



CUTSA