



Greetings from the Honourable Tim Uppal, P.C., M.P.

Warmest greetings, on behalf of Prime Minister Stephen Harper and the Government of Canada, to all those attending the Thaalam 2014: The Ultimate Gaana Competition organized by the Arts & Culture Council of the Canadian Tamil Youth Alliance (CTYA).

Dance is an art form that transcends cultural boundaries and is a great medium for intercultural dialogue and understanding. We are privileged to live in a country where we can discover the beautiful traditions of our fellow Canadians and join them in their celebrations.

As Prime Minister Harper noted: "Canada today is an example of the world in our embrace of diversity, in the ability of Canadian federalism to preserve what distinguishes our communities while strengthening what unites us as a country."

Canada's Tamil community has long played an important part in the social, cultural and economic development of our nation, and the Thalaam Dance Competition provides an opportunity to share a glimpse of your rich history, customs and traditions - making our nation stronger and more prosperous.

I commend the organizers of this wonderful event for your dedication to Canadian Tamil youth and for your continued commitment to Canadian pluralism.

Best wishes to everyone attending the Thaalam 2014: The Ultimate Gaana Competition.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tim Uppal.".

The Honourable Tim Uppal, P.C., M.P.
Minister of State for Multiculturalism

