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"A people without the knowledge of their past history, origin and culture is like a tree without roots."

- Marcus Garvey

To My Friends Attending the Thaalam Dance Competition:

On behalf of the Parliamentary Caucus of the Liberal Party of Canada and our Leader Justin Trudeau, I am pleased to add my name to the list of those extending best wishes as you celebrate the Thaalam Dance Competition.

It has been said that Canada is a nation of newcomers that, unlike any other place, celebrates and honours various religious and cultural traditions, languages and histories within our national mosaic. Without question, this proclivity gives the country tremendous strength, flavour and resilience and, in a real way, this freedom is the underpinning of your event today. You are part of the Canadian Family and the Thaalam Dance Competition is significant. As you visit with friends and family, and enjoy unique performances, remember to praise and honour your roots by showcasing the rich and accomplished cultural heritage of your forbearers both here and around the world. Doing this provides a remarkable opportunity for all Canadians to witness and enjoy the beauty and complexity of a culture that now finds a home here in Canada.

Today as you come together to celebrate, please know there are those of us in the Liberal Party who stand with you. May you continue to enjoy success and happiness in the years ahead and may the traditions of your ancestors be a legacy for your children.

Your friend always,

Hon. Judy A. Sgro, Privy Council, M York West