



## Markham Tamil Organization

January 26, 2011

Mayor and Members of Council  
Town of Markham  
101 Town Centre Boulevard  
Markham, Ontario  
L3R 9W6

Dear Mayor and Member of Council:

**Re: Declaration of Tamil Heritage Days** *Tamil New Year* **January 13, 14, & 15**

I am writing to you on behalf of the Markham Tamils Organization to request the above noted dates be declared as Tamil Heritage Days by the Council of Town of Markham.

Thai Pongal, the Tamil harvest festival is celebrated during these three days by Tamils all over the world irrespective of their religious beliefs. Thai Pongal is a festival to offer thanks to the sun, and farm animals for a good season of farming and a profiting harvest. Others celebrate to thank the farmers for the production and supply of food throughout the year. It is also the time where communities gather to share and celebrate.

Thai Pongal also marks the first day of January as per the Tamil calendar. The Tamil calendar is calculated based on the birth of Thiruvalluvar, a celebrated poet and Philosopher by Tamils all over the world. This January marks year 2040 as per the Tamil calendar.

Overall, Thai Pongal is a festival that encourages social cohesiveness and helps unite people by bringing them together under one occasion that is past faiths and beliefs. As Markham is home to a large percentage of the estimated 250,000 Tamil Canadians in the Greater Toronto Area, we would like to request that January 13, 14, and 15 be declared as Tamil Heritage Days to help celebrate and preserve these auspicious days for generations to come.

Sincerely,

Yoga Arulsubramaniam  
Chair  
Markham Tamils Organization