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HOUSE OF COMMONS
CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES

Ottawa

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Hon. Peter Kent, P.C., M.P.

Member of Parliament for Thornhill
Député de Thornhill

Constituency

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January 15th, 2010

Members of the Tamil Community The Pongal Festival

Dear Friends,

I would like to extend my heartfelt congratulations and warm wishes to all of you on the occasion of the celebration of the Pongal Festival.

Pongal is a very important Hindu festival that specifically follows the solar calendar and is celebrated on the fourteenth of January every year. Pongal has astronomical significance as well, as it marks the beginning of *Uttarayana*, the Sun's movement northward for a six month period.

In Hindu temples from Mumbai to Toronto, drums, clarinets, bells and other instruments will be used to welcome this most important day. Pongal also signals the end of the traditional farming season, giving farmers a well deserved opportunity for rest.

I would like to state that members of Canada's Tamil community continue to make significant contributions to this nation's economy and social fabric and I am proud that many members of your community live in our Constituency of Thornhill.

I look forward to continuing our strong relationship and I wish you all happiness, health and success.

Romba Nandri,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peter Kent'.

Hon. Peter Kent, PC, MP
Minister of State of Foreign Affairs (Americas) and MP (Thornhill)

