



Buddhist Congress of Canada

(Registered Canadian Charity #BN: 88517-1546-RR0001)

The Office and Monastic Residence:

Hilda Jayewardenaramaya, 1481 Heron Rd,

Ottawa, ON, Canada. K1V 6A6.

<https://www.buddhisttempleottawa.org/> *Tel. 001-613-321-5677*

March 10, 2024

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Buddhist Congress of Canada (“BCC”) and members of the Sri Lankan-Canadian community continue to be thankful for the heart-warming support from neighbours, community members, first responders and other service providers, and Canadians near and far.

We are also appreciative of the outpouring of support provided for the victims through the Go Fund Me fundraising page, which has received a significant amount of donated funds so far.

Following the moving vigil held yesterday (9th March 2024), an organizing committee composed of BCC executive members, members of the Sri Lankan High Commission in Ottawa, and other volunteers met to begin plans to support the victims and the greater community as we try to move forward from last week’s tragic events. At this time, the BCC’s focus is on the spiritual support that our organization will provide the victims and victims’ families. To that end, the BCC has been asked by the victims’ families to undertake the funeral and religious rites arrangements on their behalf. A multi-faith service is being planned. Further details on funeral arrangements to follow.

BCC representatives also met with victims’ relatives in Sri Lanka to offer support. We also remain hopeful of the arrival of some relatives in Canada next week.

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND MEDIA INQUIRIES, PLEASE CONTACT:

Naradha Kodituwakku, Director, *Buddhist Congress of Canada* | [\[naradha99@hotmail.com/6138786224\]](mailto:naradha99@hotmail.com)

Bhané Suneetha

Resident Monk of HJBM and of BCC