



Note No. OAK-449

The Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development presents its compliments to the High Commission of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka and has the honour to respond to the note verbale (TPN-42-2021) received on 18 March 2021.

The department takes note of the concerns shared by the High Commission regarding Brampton's City Council's use of references to genocide. Under Canada's federal system, provincial and municipal governments are independent, and the federal government does not pronounce on their initiatives or positions nor do they represent federal policy. The department encourages the High Commission to share their views and concerns with other levels of government as needed.

In response to the request that the Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development clarify Canada's official foreign policy position with regard to allegations of genocide in Sri Lanka, the department can confirm that the Government of Canada has not made a finding that there was genocide in Sri Lanka. Following the end of the civil conflict in Sri Lanka, Canada joined the international community to call for truth-seeking and accountability for alleged violations of international human rights law and international humanitarian law committed by parties to the conflict. These calls were captured in United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) resolution 30/1 and successor resolutions including the most recent 46/1. These resolutions emphasize the responsibility of all states, including Sri Lanka, to comply with their relevant obligations to prosecute those responsible for gross violations of human rights and serious violations of international humanitarian law constituting crimes under international law, with a view to ending impunity.

Canada

(2/3)

More than a decade after the end of the conflict, Canada continues to advocate that an independent and credible justice process that has the trust and confidence of victims remains necessary for reconciliation and long-term prosperity.

The Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the High Commission of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka the assurances of its highest consideration.

OTTAWA, 7 April 2021

**Canada**

(3/3)