



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**The Liberal Party of Canada's Greater Toronto MPs will host a forum on
Canada's role in fostering a peaceful resolution to the civil war in Sri Lanka**

Uxbridge, Ontario – 21 December 2007

"In an era when we have too many reminders that strife anywhere is a threat to peace and security everywhere, Canada has both an opportunity and an obligation to foster peace in Sri Lanka."

Derek Lee MP, the Liberal member for Scarborough - Rouge River, will host the Liberal Party of Canada's GTA forum on the civil war in Sri Lanka, and on what steps Canada can take to foster peace in one of the world's longest and most brutal civil wars.

Bob Rae, the Liberal Shadow Minister of Foreign Affairs and an active proponent of peace in Sri Lanka, will give the keynote address. Akaash Maharaj, president of the New Liberalism Ginger Group, will moderate the discussion

The panellists will include: Alan Tonks MP, the GTA Caucus Chair; the Hon John McCallum MP, former Minister of Defence; the Hon John McKay MP, member for Scarborough - Guildwood; the Hon Jim Karygiannis MP, the member for Scarborough – Agincourt; and Jonathan Kay, *National Post* Comment Editor.

The forum will be held from 13h00 to 15h30, on Saturday 22 December, in the Scarborough Civic Centre Council Chamber.

“Canada is a rare country in the fraternity of nations, founded by waves of peoples who came to our shores impelled by the determination to build better lives for themselves and their families, in essence to grow beyond the circumstances of their regions of birth,” said Akaash Maharaj. “In an era when we have too many reminders that strife anywhere is a threat to peace and security everywhere, Canada has both an opportunity and an obligation to foster peace in Sri Lanka.”

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Contact

Hilla Master
Office of Derek Lee MP
(416) 298 4224, leed1@parl.gc.ca

