His Worship Mayor John Tory
Office of the Mayor
City Hall, 2nd Floor
100 Queen St. West
Toronto, ON
M5H 2N2

March 9, 2015

Dear Mayor Tory:

Re: Proclamation of Nowruz by City of Toronto

I would like to congratulate you again on your recent election as the Mayor of Toronto. In the past months since you took office, Toronto has shown incredible promise to finally live up to its full potential.

I am writing to you to request that the City of Toronto recognize the first day of Spring as *Nowruz*.

Nowruz, which translates to "New Day" or "New Year," is an ancient Persian festival celebrating the Spring Equinox, which marks the Persian New Year. I believe hundreds of thousands of Torontonians whose ethnicities originate from Iran, the Republic of Azerbaijan, the north Caucasus, Kurdish inhabited regions of eastern Turkey, northern Iraq and Syria, Afghanistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, and India follow thousands of years of tradition and celebrate *Nowruz* each year.

In 2008, the Ontario Legislature and in 2009, the Parliament of Canada recognized *Nowruz* through a Motion put forward by MPP Reza Moridi and the *Nowruz Day Act, BILL C-342* respectively, stating that, in each and every year, the vernal equinox shall be known as "*Nowruz.*"

As of 2009, *Nowruz* has been on the UNESCO List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity and in 2010, the UN's General Assembly recognized the *International Day of Nowruz* because of the holiday's inherent promotion of peace and solidarity.

Here in Canada, the City of Toronto has the greatest number of residents that celebrate *Nowruz* which is why I believe this recognition will not only be fitting but will also contribute to Toronto's most important value that is illustrated in our City's motto - *Diversity is Our Strength.*

I thank you very much for all you have done to unite Toronto's many diverse communities and look forward to more instances of our city's success.

Sincerely yours,

David Mousavi

CC: Honourable Reza Moridi, MPP