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September 08, 2020

His Excellency Mahinda Rajapaksa
Prime Minister of Sri Lanka
Prime Minister's Office
No.58, Sir Ernest De Silva Mawatha,
Colombo 7, Sri Lanka

Excellency:

We are delighted to extend our congratulations and best wishes to you on your appointment to the exalted office of Prime Minister of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka for the fourth time. The swearing in ceremony on Sunday, August 9th instant was momentous and historical. Our sincere wishes to you and your Cabinet of Ministers as you embark on an ambitious plan to strengthen and enhance the socio-economic framework of our beautiful island nation. With the generous mandate you received from the people of Sri Lanka, we are confident you will navigate the economic growth while diversifying our export potential to have a healthy balance of trade. In the same tone, we are equally confident that your government will stimulate the inflow of foreign direct investment (FDI) to the country. All in all, we see a bright future ahead for Sri Lanka.

The Toronto-based **Canada-Sri Lanka Business Council (CSLBC)** was formed in 1990, to promote bilateral trade, investment, technology transfer, tourism and industrial cooperation between Canada and Sri Lanka. To this end we have been at the center of proactive work to meet our end objectives. The council was formed 30 years ago by a core group of Canadian businessmen led by Sir Christopher Ondaatje working in concurrence with the former Sri Lanka High Commissioner in Canada, Mr. Walter Rupesinghe. It was an auspicious beginning for us as we welcomed a high-ranking team of businessmen in 1991 led by the Greater Colombo Economic Commission (GCEC), the precursor to the Board of Investment of Sri Lanka. Over the last 30 years, we have had many business delegations visiting to and from Sri Lanka and Canada with a sense of purpose to promote bilateral trade and investment to Sri Lanka. The success of these trade missions has led

to a strong commercial bond between the two countries further reinforced by the two diplomatic missions in both jurisdictions.

In 1991, our counterpart organization - the **Sri Lanka-Canada Business Council (SLCBC)** was formed in Colombo under the able leadership of its inaugural president Mr. Hemaka Amarasuriya – Chairman/CEO off Singer Sri Lanka. SLCBC functions under the auspices of the esteemed Ceylon Chamber of Commerce (CCC) which handles the administrative work of the council. Our council in Toronto works cohesively with our counterpart organization in promoting Sri Lanka in Canada and vice versa. It has been a productive alliance and we look forward to continuing our journey with greater momentum with the new Government of Sri Lanka (GOSL).

This congratulatory message is sent by both our councils – Canada and Sri Lanka (CSLBC/SLCBC). We are conscious of the fact that our membership should be open minded and centrally focused on working together to achieve success that will benefit all parties in both countries. The opportunities that await our members is multi-faceted but attainable only with the concerted cooperation of the diplomatic missions in both jurisdictions, line ministries, private sector business chambers and the businesspeople themselves.

Shown below is a quote from Henry Ford on ‘teamwork’. It is our belief that if we work together - we would accomplish tangible results in time to come.



Sincerely Yours,
CANADA-SRI LANKA BUSINESS COUNCIL

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Upali Obeyesekere".

Upali Obeyesekere
PRESIDENT, CSLBC

Sincerely Yours,
SRI LANKA-CANADA BUSINESS COUNCIL

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "D.R.P. Abeyasinghe".

D.R.P. Abeyasinghe
PRESIDENT, SLCBC

Cc: Board of Directors – CSLBC & SLCBC