



Office of the Mayor
CITY OF VANCOUVER
 BRITISH COLUMBIA

Proclamation

"KOMAGATA MARU DAY OF REMEMBRANCE"

WHEREAS 2021 marks the 107th Anniversary of the Komagata Maru incident, a dark chapter in Canadian history where a ship carrying 376 British subjects from India including 340 Sikhs, 24 Muslims and 12 Hindus arrived in Vancouver's Burrard Inlet on May 23, 1914, seeking entry into Canada with hopes of a brighter future;

AND WHEREAS Canada's restrictive and racist laws forced passengers to remain on board and live in unsafe and deteriorating conditions without access to medical aid often going days without food and water;

AND WHEREAS On June 29, 1914, Vancouver City Council expressly supported these racist and discriminatory laws by passing a resolution saying it was "unalterably opposed to the admittance of Hindus and other Asiatic races into this country..." and that "... these people would prove a serious menace to our civilization, both economically and socially ...", and sent a telegram to the Premier of British Columbia conveying this expression from Council;

AND WHEREAS On July 23, 1914, the Komagata Maru and its passengers were forced to leave Vancouver and sail back to India where they were labelled as political disruptors, and 19 passengers were shot and killed by British Indian troops, there were numerous injuries, and many passengers were jailed for years;

AND WHEREAS Many descendants of these passengers, who were largely from Punjab, immigrated to Canada settling in Vancouver and persisted in the fight against discriminatory laws including the right to work in the profession of their choosing, holding public office and gaining the right to vote in 1947;

AND WHEREAS On June 10, 2020, upon a request on behalf of the Komagata Maru Descendants Society, Vancouver City Council unanimously resolved to apologize for its role in the 1914 Komagata Maru incident and declare May 23 as Komagata Maru Remembrance Day in the City of Vancouver on an annual basis;

AND WHEREAS The City of Vancouver is committed to welcoming people of all backgrounds and ending racial discrimination in all its forms, and learning from its role in past tragedies to forge a common future for all Vancouverites;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Kennedy Stewart, Mayor of the City of Vancouver, on behalf of this Council **DO HEREBY FORMALLY AND SINCERELY APOLOGIZE** to the victims, their descendants and all the others impacted for Vancouver City Council's June 29, 1914, resolution and the cruel effects it had on individuals and families affected by the Komagata Maru incident, and to **PROCLAIM** Sunday, May 23rd, 2021, as

"KOMAGATA MARU DAY OF REMEMBRANCE"

in the City of Vancouver.

Kennedy Stewart
 MAYOR

