

74 Strewchuk Bay
Winnipeg, MB. R2P 2L1

February 4, 2014

Sri Lankan Association of Manitoba
P.O. Box 41023
Winnipeg, MB. R3T 5T1

Dear members,

It is an honour being asked to share a message, commemorating 30 years of community. I have attached a photograph of Castus Peiris (Founding President) and my father, Aloysius Perera (Founding Vice President) on the day that the first board of directors was determined. You will see in the background, the names of our founding board of directors. Now, thirty years later, I feel it is important that we recognize their contributions with appreciation.

On February 4, 1984, a meeting took place. It was during this meeting that the Sri Lankan Association of Manitoba (S.L.A.M.) was established. I wonder if the founding members of our association knew then, how significant a role they would have, in the endorsement of Sri Lankan culture, 30 years later. Their vision at the time was to preserve Sri Lankan traditions for future generations of Manitobans. Their hope was to maintain pride in our Sri Lankan ancestry. At that time, the Sri Lankan community of Manitoba consisted of approximately 30 households.

Our association has seen many accomplishments in the past 30 years. I am still astounded on how much our membership seems to grow annually. We have more volunteers, more attendees, more events, and more recognition throughout Manitoba. Our many successes could not be celebrated without the countless volunteers who commit their time and passion, year after year. It is for that reason that I would like to thank you ALL for your contributions, and substantiating the vision of our founders.

Congratulations to our community, for thirty years of promoting Sri Lankan culture in Manitoba. Congratulations to our founding board of directors, for succeeding in your vision.

Happy 30th Anniversary to Us All!

Daya Perera