



Declare May as Buddhism Heritage Month in Mississauga

Moved by: Councillor Damerla

Seconded by: Councillor Reid

WHEREAS Buddhism is one of the world's major spiritual traditions and philosophical systems, with over 2,500 years of history and more than 500 million practitioners worldwide, making it a significant force in shaping global thought, ethics, and culture;

AND WHEREAS the core teachings of Buddhism—compassion, mindfulness, non-violence, and the pursuit of inner peace—have influenced not only spiritual practices but also modern approaches to wellness, mental health, education, and conflict resolution;

AND WHEREAS Buddhist art, architecture, literature, and philosophy have enriched the cultural fabric of societies across Asia, Europe, and North America, leaving an indelible mark on human civilization;

AND WHEREAS Mississauga is home to a growing and vibrant Buddhist community representing diverse traditions including Theravāda, Mahāyāna, and Vajrayāna, who contribute to our city's spiritual diversity and civic life;

AND WHEREAS the month of Vaisakha, which corresponds to May in the Gregorian calendar, holds deep spiritual significance for Buddhists around the world, as it marks the occurrence of three of the most sacred events in the life of Gautama Buddha: his birth, his enlightenment under the Bodhi tree, and his passing into parinirvana;

AND WHEREAS these events are commemorated during the full moon of Vaisakha in a sacred observance known by various names across Buddhist traditions, including Vesak, Buddha Day, Buddha Purnima, and Saga Dawa;

AND WHEREAS the United Nations formally recognizes the full moon in May as the International Day of Vesak, highlighting the global and interfaith importance of this observance;

AND WHEREAS proclaiming May as Buddhism Heritage Month offers a platform to acknowledge the important contributions of Buddhist Canadians to Mississauga's social, cultural, and interfaith landscape, while also promoting greater understanding and dialogue among all communities;

AND WHEREAS recognizing this month affirms our city's commitment to inclusion, respect for diversity, and the celebration of all cultural and religious identities that shape our shared civic life;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Mississauga officially declare the month of May as Buddhism Heritage Month, and encourage residents to learn about and celebrate the profound heritage, cultural traditions, and contributions of the Buddhist community locally, nationally, and globally.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "D. Singh", is located below the resolution text.