

Refugee Rights Month Launch  
City Hall, Member's Lounge  
Deputy Mayor Thompson  
April 4, 2019

Good morning.

I am honoured to be here with you today  
to launch Refugee Rights Awareness  
Month in Toronto.

In Toronto, diversity truly is our strength.  
Our city has been built by generations of  
newcomers from around the world,  
many of whom sought refuge here. We  
celebrate this history and we are proud  
of this history.

We welcome those who are fleeing persecution with open arms and we value the contributions they make to Toronto.

I want to extend a warm welcome to those in the audience who have come to Toronto as refugees. We appreciate you and recognize we would not be where we are today without you.

I am also glad to see the community agencies who work with refugees represented here today. The work you do is vital to our city.

Your agencies exemplify the values of inclusion and acceptance that Toronto is known for. I thank you for your tireless work advocating for human rights and speaking out against discrimination.

Today is an important day for refugee rights in Canada as we celebrate the Supreme Court's 1985 Singh decision.

In this decision, the Supreme Court found that the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms protects the fundamental rights of refugees.

Today I am here to proclaim April as  
Refugee Rights Awareness Month on  
behalf of Mayor Tory.

I would like to invite Chenkplen Cox to  
accept this Proclamation on behalf of  
the City of Toronto.

(Read the Proclamation)