

International Mother Language Day

JOHN TORY
MAYOR

Proclamation

**International Mother Language Day
February 21, 2015**

WHEREAS February 21 has been designated as International Mother Language Day, a day set aside by the United Nations "to promote the preservation and protection of all languages used by peoples of the world." It is also the day to commemorate four students killed by police on February 21, 1952, in Dhaka, Bangladesh while demonstrating for official recognition of their language Bangla.

On this date, people in Toronto and around the world gather together to recognize the importance of language rights, as well as to promote linguistic and cultural diversity.

The City of Toronto is home to people who have come from over 200 countries and speak more than 170 languages. Preserving and sharing mother languages in a diverse city like Toronto contributes to building respectful and harmonious relationships among people and communities. The combined history, language, heritage and traditions of Toronto residents create a richer and stronger city.

NOW THEREFORE, I, Mayor John Tory, on behalf of Toronto City Council, do hereby proclaim **February 21, 2015**, as "**International Mother Language Day**" in the City of Toronto and encourage everyone to join in the language day celebration.

