

ONTARIO
SUPERIOR COURT OF JUSTICE

B E T W E E N:

**Amelia Penney-Crocker, Parker Boot-Quackenbush, Khadijat Folasayo Dairo,
Catherine He, Tharan D'Silva, Katie Yu, Diego Christiansen-Barker, Lachlan
Brown, Zoey Ann Purves, Jacob Colatosti, Milan Rozotto-Lagos, Oswaldo Paz
Flores, Lauren Handley and Justice for Children and Youth**

Applicants

and

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL IN RIGHT OF CANADA

Respondent

AFFIDAVIT OF THARAN CHANDRA D'SILVA

I, THARAN CHANDRA D'SILVA, of the City of Richmond Hill, in the Province of Ontario,
student MAKE OATH AND SAY AS FOLLOWS:

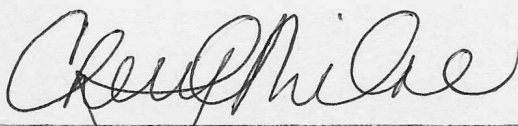
1. My name is Tharan Chandra D'Silva. I am twelve years old. I live in Richmond Hill,
Ontario and attend Bayview Hill Elementary School. I have been passionate about
politics and law ever since I learned about Canada's political structure approximately two
years ago. I strongly believe that young people should be able to vote not only because
young people are sufficiently intelligent, but also because the government makes

decisions that disproportionately affect young Canadians. Our views deserve to be recognized.

2. After learning about the Canadian political system and different party platforms, I have formed my own perspectives and opinions. My love for education, science, and the extracurriculars I participate in, including a social club for kids with autism, inspire my political views. I wish to vote for a party that appreciates and stands for what I care about. My political curiosity also motivates my interest in debate and law as a potential career.
3. I am passionate about many political issues including healthcare, poverty, and racism. I believe that we should address racial and socioeconomic inequality and strive to become a more equitable society. Climate change and education in particular are issues that I want to have a say in. I have personally experienced the real, detrimental impacts that governmental decisions can have on students and teachers alike. Increasing class sizes and firing teachers resulted in not only poorer quality education, but also anger and dissatisfaction in students. My classmates and I are among those most affected by these decisions, yet we do not get a voice in them.
4. Despite the significant impact that these issues have on young people, our interests are rarely represented in government. Seeing cuts to education firsthand inspires my desire to vote. My classmates and I want to see more jobs for teachers and consequently an increased quality of education. The most effective way to have these interests represented is through voting. I may be one person, but I hope that my single voice can inspire others to raise their concerns and make a positive impact on our society.

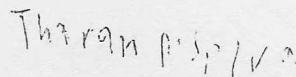
5. People often say that young people are not mature enough to have a political view, but such a statement is not based on evidence. There is no reason to distinguish the maturity level of an 18-year-old from that of a 16-year-old. Other arguments against lowering the voting age include the assumptions that youth are not politically involved, are easily manipulated, or will vote without thinking. However, those same arguments are applicable to adults: not all voting adults are engaged in politics, stay away from being manipulated, or vote with knowledge of their party's platform. Yet, they can still vote. Young people want a voice in the decisions that disproportionately impact us. We deserve to be heard.

AFFIRMED REMOTELY BY Tharan
Chandra D'Silva at the City of Richmond
Hill, in the Province of Ontario before me at
the City of Toronto, in the Province of
Ontario on the 28th of November, 2021, in
accordance with O. Reg. 431/20,
Administering Oath or Declaration
Remotely.



Commissioner for Taking Affidavits

Cheryl Milne



Tharan Chandra D'Silva