

Iranian Canadian Congress
900 – 45 Sheppard Ave East
Toronto, ON, M2N5W9

Dear Members of the Iranian Canadian Congress,

Building peace and promoting human rights must be a top priority for Canada's foreign policy. I believe that these goals are most effectively attained through engagement and diplomacy. That's why I will look for opportunities to change Canada's policy of disengagement with Iran.

I've had the honour of working with many Iranian-Canadians to build a Canada where no one is left behind. Just a few months ago, I attended the Simorgh Gala to celebrate some of the extraordinary contributions that the Iranian-Canadian community is making to improving the lives of all Canadians. I was inspired by the passion and the energy in the room, the young volunteers who made it all possible, and all the dancing and poetry that Iranians love so much. Thank you again for welcoming me so warmly into your community.

Two years ago, Mr. Trudeau made a commitment to reopen the Iranian embassy in Canada. Sadly, that promise has been one of the many progressive initiatives that the Liberals have abandoned. I've heard from numerous Iranian-Canadians who are deeply disappointed in Mr. Trudeau's broken promises.

In the meantime, I've been encouraged by the Iranian people's participation in the recent presidential elections. Despite all the limits imposed on Iranians' democratic rights, masses of reform-minded Iranians have taken the opportunity to reject extremist candidates and elect a more moderate president in two elections in a row. As a result of Mr. Rouhani's election, our allies were able to negotiate the *Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action* to resolve global concerns about Iran's nuclear program. This was a victory for diplomacy and showed the benefits of engagement. It also led to lifting sanctions that were inflicting hardship on the civilian population in Iran. Canada must also re-engage with Iran and alleviate sanctions that harm ordinary Iranians and limit Canada's ability to pursue opportunities for progress.

Finally, I have been deeply disturbed by the growing discrimination that Canadians of Iranian origin face, as a result of President Donald Trump's travel ban. President Trump's travel ban is a racist policy that should be unequivocally condemned by Canada. I'm ashamed that our government has not been outspoken in defending Canadian values in the face of the Trump administration.

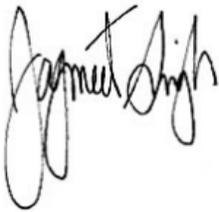
The travel ban also highlights the need for re-opening the Iranian embassy in Canada. Currently, Iranian-Canadians must travel to Washington to receive any consular service they require from

Iran. With an embassy in Canada, Iranian-Canadians would not need to expose themselves to potential mistreatment at US border crossings.

Furthermore, without a Canadian embassy in Iran, Canadian citizens visiting Iran have virtually no consular support from our government. As numerous cases have indicated, the lack of a Canadian embassy has significantly curtailed Canada's ability to stand up for our citizens' rights while they are visiting Iran.

Now, we cannot make progress on these policies without taking action. I need you to join the NDP and support my leadership. Together we can work towards a Canadian foreign policy that prioritizes diplomatic engagement with Iran to build peace and promote human rights.

With love and courage,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jagmeet Singh', written in a cursive style.

Jagmeet Singh
Candidate, Leader of Canada's NDP