



கனடிய தமிழ் இளையோர் முன்னேற்ற நிலையம்  
**CANADIAN TAMIL YOUTH DEVELOPMENT CENTRE**  
Breaking the barriers, building the Future

# *Awards of Excellence*

## *Application 2017*

All applications must be submitted no later than **Friday June 30, 2017**. If final report cards are not available by this date, it can be submitted two weeks from the deadline (by **Friday July 14, 2017**) as long as the application has been submitted by the original deadline. It is the responsibility of each applicant to ensure that all requested material is submitted in full and on time. Failure to do so will result in disqualification without notification. If you have any questions/concerns, please contact us at (416) 431-4100 or email [info@cantyd.org](mailto:info@cantyd.org)

### **Mail completed applications to:**

Canadian Tamil Youth Development Centre  
Awards of Excellence 2017 - Awards Application  
705 Progress Ave. Unit 40  
Scarborough, ON

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## *Table of Contents*

<b>Section</b>	<b>Page Number</b>
<i>Our Mission</i>	3
<i>Our Objectives</i>	3
<i>Applicant Requirement</i>	4
<i>Award Recipients</i>	4
<i>Scholarship Requirement</i>	4
<i>Award Categories</i>	5-7
<i>A. Personal Information</i>	8
<i>B. School Information</i>	9
<i>C. Activities and Achievements</i>	10
<i>D. Short Answers</i>	11-13
<i>E. Essay Questions</i>	14
<i>F. Scholarships</i>	15
<i>G. Declaration</i>	16
<i>H. Feedback Form</i>	17-18



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### OUR MISSION

“Empowering and developing Tamil youth through advocacy, partnership, education, assistance, and research.” CanTYD, established in 1998, is a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting excellence in Tamil youth. Our services cater to over 200,000 members of the Tamil community in the Greater Toronto Area.

### OUR OBJECTIVES

- To empower and recognize the voice, achievements, and vision of young people
- To provide role models for Tamil youth
- To encourage Tamil youth to aspire towards higher education in order to motivate further vocational and career options
- To assist immigrant youth with integration into Canadian society
- To curb Tamil youth violence by addressing the root causes

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### APPLICANT REQUIREMENTS

To apply for the awards, applicants must:

- Be of Tamil descent
- Be enrolled as a full time high school student in the Greater Toronto Area or surrounding areas
- Winners **MUST** be able to attend Awards of Excellence, Sunday October 29<sup>th</sup>, 2017.

### AWARD RECIPIENTS

- All award winners will be recognized on stage at the Awards of Excellence Gala
- Each applicant is eligible to win only one (1) award
- Grade 9 winners will receive a \$50 prize
- Grade 10 winners will receive a \$100 prize
- Grade 11 winners will receive a \$150 prize

### SCHOLARSHIP REQUIREMENTS

Scholarships of up to \$1000 are available only to Grade 12 award winners.

To be eligible, all grade 12 applicants must:

- Be in their final year of high school, receive their Ontario Secondary School diploma (OSSD) at the end of term, and have completed all of its requirements by the application due date (June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2017).
- Grade 12 students applying for the *Academic Achievement Award* **must** be attending a post-secondary institution (college or university) in September 2017.
- Students attending post- secondary institutions must submit a copy of their acceptance letter from the institution along with the application.
- CanTYD aims to be inclusive of all pathways to excellence that are available for our youth today. We recognize and encourage the growth of the Youth in the Tamil Community and the dynamic opportunities that are available to them. Students are not required to attend a post-secondary institution to receive a scholarship from CanTYD, however, will need to provide an explanation as to what they will do with the scholarship money when submitting the application.



## AWARD CATEGORIES

### ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

- Recognizes students who have performed exceptionally in their academic career
- At least one of the required references must be from a teacher
- Applicants must have a minimum average of 85%
- In this category up to four awards may be distributed, one per grade.

### ATHLETIC ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

- Recognizes students who have achieved high standards in athleticism and/or excellence in sportsmanship in school or outside of school
- Applicants should exhibit both leadership and sportsmanship in their athletic activities
- In this category up to four awards may be distributed
  - **Junior Category:** one male and one female may be awarded from Grades 9 and 10
  - **Senior Category:** one male and one female may be awarded from Grades 11 and 12

### MOST IMPROVED STUDENT AWARD

- Recognizes students who have demonstrated a significant improvement within their academics, leadership abilities, confidence and/or personal development.
- At least one of the required references must be from a teacher
- One award may be distributed for this category

### OUTSTANDING COMMUNITY CONTRIBUTION AWARD

- Recognizes students who have made significant contributions towards improving both community and school life
- In this category up to four awards may be distributed, one per grade.

### PERFORMING/VISUAL ARTS AWARD

- Recognizes students who have demonstrated outstanding creative ability in the performing and visual arts
- In this category up to four awards may be distributed, one per grade.
- Please refer to **Table 1** below for application requirements



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**Table 1.** Requirements for Performing/Visual Arts Award Category

<b>Award category</b>	<b>Requirements</b>
<b>Visual Arts</b>	A portfolio consisting of 3 – 5 pieces (drawings / sketches, paintings, sculptures, etc.): each piece must be titled and include a description (maximum of 10 sentences)
<b>Dance, Instrumental, and Vocal music</b>	Submit videos of two performances from two different events (performances recorded specifically for this purpose will also be accepted); the dance performance should depict both technical and artistic expression aspects of dance
<b>Drama</b>	Submit videos of two performances (each limited to 15 min): ONE performance of choice and ONE monologue (demonstrating creativity); a description (maximum of 10 sentences) is also required for each performance

#### **MULTIMEDIA/CREATIVE WRITING AWARD**

- Recognizes students who have demonstrated originality and creativity within the field of multimedia and expressive writing
- One award may be distributed for this category

#### **MULTIMEDIA**

- Recognizes students who have demonstrated originality within the field of multimedia, such as graphics, photography, website creations, videography, documentaries etc.
- Applicant must create a work piece focusing on Mental Health Awareness
- One award may be distributed for this category
- Please refer to **Table 2** for application requirements

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**Table 2.** Requirements for Multimedia Award Category

<b>Award category</b>	<b>Requirements</b>
<b>Photography</b>	Submit a portfolio consisting of 5-7 pieces. Each piece must include a title and description (Maximum of 5 sentences).
<b>Website Creation and Graphic Designer</b>	Submit 1-2 pieces. Each piece must include a title and description (Maximum of 10 sentences).
<b>Documentary and Videography</b>	Submit 1-2 videos. Each piece must include a title and description (Maximum of 10 sentences).

#### CREATIVE WRITING

- Creative Writing includes slam poetry, poetry, blogs, short stories, screen-writing, journalism, novels, songwriting etc.
- Applicants of poetry, short story, journalism and songwriting: 2-3 pieces. Each piece must include a title and description (5 sentences maximum).
- Applicants of blogs, screen writing and novels: 1-2 pieces. Each piece must include a title and description (10 sentences maximum)
- In addition, you must provide a work piece with a focus on Mental Health Awareness.

#### YOUNG ENTREPRENEUR AWARD

- Recognizes students in self-start up ventures and/or small businesses by the student
- Must have proof of business and/or business portfolio (schemes, plans, mandates, etc.)
- A pitch for why this business should be funded (can send proposal or PowerPoint presentation) is required
- Two awards may be distributed with a bursary for the business, one male and one female
- This category also comes with a possible internship opportunity. Internship opportunities will be determined based on availability.

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## A

### PERSONAL INFORMATION

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Last First

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Number Street Apt #

City Province Postal code

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please check your grade level for the 2016-2017 school year:**

9  10  11  12

**Select a MAXIMUM of TWO secondary school awards:**

<input type="checkbox"/> Academic Achievement Award	<input type="checkbox"/> Outstanding Community Contribution Award
<input type="checkbox"/> Athletic Achievement Award	<input type="checkbox"/> Performing/Visual Arts Award
<input type="checkbox"/> Most Improved Student Award	<input type="checkbox"/> Multimedia Award/Creating Writing Award
<input type="checkbox"/> Young Entrepreneurship Award	

### PARENT/GUARDIAN INFORMATION

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Last First

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Number Street Apt #

City Province Postal code

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_



## B

### SCHOOL INFORMATION

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of School Principal: \_\_\_\_\_  
First Last

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Number Street Apt #  
City Province Postal code

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

### TRANSCRIPTS/REPORT CARDS

- For semester schools, attach a copy of the final report card from the first semester and the final report card from the second semester. For non-semester schools, attach copies of the final report cards from June.
- For the Most Improved Student Award, applicants must submit the copy of their final report card from the previous academic year as well as the report cards addressed in the above section.
- If report cards are not available as of the application deadline (June 30th, 2017), it can be submitted up to two weeks after the application has been submitted (July 14, 2017). However, it is the applicant's responsibility to ensure that report cards are submitted as soon as possible and that all other application requirements are fulfilled by the deadline.

### REFERENCE LETTERS

- All applicants must submit a minimum of two (2) and maximum of three (3) letters of reference in support of their application for their chosen award.
- The letters of reference should be current, should not exceed the above-mentioned limit and addressed to the Awards of Excellence Committee. References should not include relatives or friends. References can be from teachers, employers, guidance counselors, and volunteer or community organizations. Please ensure that letters are on appropriate letterhead and include the signature of the referee.



## C

### ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Please provide a list of the most current and significant activities and achievements within the last three years. Participation or contribution to community organizations is an asset.

#### Extracurricular Activities

Organization/Company, Role/Position and Duration (start/end date) Hours/Week  
Supervisor (name, position and phone number)

#### Volunteer & Community Service

Organization/Company, Role/Position and Duration (start/end) Hours/Week  
Supervisor (name, position and phone number)

#### Employment

Organization/Company, Role/Position and Duration (start/end) Hours/Week  
Supervisor (name, position and phone number)

#### Awards, Certificates & Honourable Mentions

Award Name, Description and Date Received

Please submit copies of relevant documentation (i.e. certificates etc.)

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### SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS

Please answer only questions that pertain to the award(s) that you are applying for. Please answer the short answer questions from **Section C** on a separate sheet and insert the completed paper into the appropriate section of the application form. Do not exceed the limit of 300 words for each short answer question. At the top of every page, clearly state your name, the section and number of the question, and the award category of the question. If you are applying for two awards, you must include the answers to the required questions for both awards.

Example:

Name: Meera Subramaniam

Section C Question 3

Most Improved Student Award

*Grade 9 students must answer **one (1)** short answer question*

*Grade 10 students must answer **two (2)** short answer questions*

*Grade 11 students must answer **three (3)** short answer questions*

*Grade 12 students must answer **two (2)** short answer for the award(s) they are applying for AND the essay question in **Part D**.*

#### **Academic Achievement Award:**

1. Please describe some of the challenges you encountered this year and how you overcame them to maintain a high academic performance. What were some of your academic goals for the year and have you achieved them?
2. What is one thing you think schools need to accommodate for to improve student academics? This may be curriculum, materials or resources. Explain your choice with reasoning.
3. Where do you see yourself in the next five (5) years? Explain why.

#### **Athletic Achievement Award:**

1. What are some difficulties you faced when balancing your academic and athletic career in high school? How did you overcome these difficulties OR how did these difficulties hinder your athletic career, and what did you do to move forward?
2. Do you see any bias in sports when it comes to male and female athletes? What are these biases and what can be done to change or overcome them?
3. How has pursuing athletics affected or changed your life in any way? Why was this important to you?

#### **Most Improved Student Award:**

1. What are some steps you took to improve yourself in the last year? How have these steps helped you grow, and what are you doing to keep growing?
2. What is one tip you would give to someone who may be struggling and wishes to take a step toward improving themselves? Explain why.



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3. Pick one (1) motivational quote and explain why it is important to you. How does it relate to your life and why is it important?

**Outstanding Community Contribution Award:**

1. Why do you think it is important to work with and give back to your community? How have you done so in your personal life?
2. Define community. What does community mean to you? Why is it important for individuals to contribute to their communities?
3. “We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give”. Explain this quote using your own personal life experiences.

**Performing/Visual Arts Award:**

1. What creative medium would you like to pursue that you have not yet? How will this medium help share your creativity and/or story with the world?
2. How do you wish to affect your audience through your music, dramatics or artwork? What do you wish to convey when you perform in front of a crowd or present your artwork to an audience?
3. What are ways performing and visual arts work to convey larger societal or political ideas? Explain how you think two diverse concepts can work together to produce a strong impact on the audience.

**Multimedia/Creative Writing Award**

Choose from the questions allocated for the category you are applying for (i.e. if you are applying for Multimedia, please choose from the questions under that subheading)

**Multimedia**

1. How have you used a multimedia platform as a tool to express your identity as a Tamil youth?
2. Pick a creative tool you use and describe the process of how you create your work.
3. How has technology impacted your creativity? Describes the benefits and limitations.

**Creative Writing**

1. Where do you draw influence from to produce a written piece? How have events in your life or your surroundings affected your writing?
2. Why do you choose to write? Explain.
3. If you were given a choice of having anything you want to improve the field of creative writing, what would you choose and why? You may wish to touch on what you have struggled with and how this choice could help you.

**Young Entrepreneurship Award**

1. Do you think entrepreneurial skills are learned or inherited?
2. What qualities make for a successful leader, and why? Be sure to provide an example of a leader or entrepreneur that inspired you.
3. Discuss the following quote, “It’s fine to celebrate success, but it is more important to heed the lessons of failure.” – Bill Gates.



## E

### ESSAY QUESTION

**Only Grade 12 applicants** must answer Section D. Please answer the essay question for Section D on a separate sheet and insert the completed paper into the appropriate section of the application form. The essay must be between 600-800 words. Be sure your essay is written in proper essay format, double-spaced, in Times New Roman, with 12 point font.

How has the growth of Tamil youth progressed from 10 years ago until now? Compare and contrast the struggles and triumphs that Tamil youth experienced before to the Tamil youth of today.

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F

### Scholarships

This section is for **grade 12 students**. Please indicate below how you wish to use the CanTYD \$1000 scholarship should you be a successful candidate:

- I wish to use the CanTYD Scholarship toward tuition for the postsecondary institution I will be attending.
- Other: Explain how you wish to use the CanTYD Scholarship.

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## G

### DECLARATION

Applicants must sign and acknowledge the declaration in order for the application to be considered.

1. I certify that all the information provided in this application form and in all the documents herein attached are true, accurate, and complete to the best of my knowledge.
2. I understand that all the information submitted becomes the property of CanTYD and I authorize the release of information to the Awards of Excellence committee.
3. I waive any right that I may possess by law to access my application after submission.
4. I hereby agree to abide by all decisions made by the Awards of Excellence panel of judges.
5. I understand and commit that any information that I have submitted may be used for the promotional purposes of the Awards of Excellence and CanTYD.
6. Furthermore, if selected as an award recipient, I hereby attest that I will participate accordingly in the Awards of Excellence ceremony and fulfill all the responsibilities of an award winner to the best of my ability.
7. I have read the rules outlined by CanTYD. By submitting this application, I agree to be bound by all these rules.

Signature of Applicant:

Date:

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\*If applicant is under 18 years of age, Parent or Guardian signature is required:

Signature of Parent or Guardian:

Date:

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## H

### Application Feedback Form

In order to improve our applications for the following year(s), please take some time to fill out this feedback form. Completion of this form will have no impact on your application. CanTYD appreciates your input.

1. How would you rate the award categories and its respective requirements? Please circle one.
  - a. Poor
  - b. Fair
  - c. Good
  - d. Excellent

Suggestions/Comments:

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2. Are there any award categories which are not listed in the application that you feel would be of interest to you or your friends?

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3. How would you rate the essay length requirement? Please circle one.
  - a. Too Short
  - b. Fair
  - c. Too Long

4. a) Was the length of time provided to complete this application sufficient, given the release and deadline date? Please circle the following:

YES / NO



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b) If NO, please suggest an ideal application deadline and/or duration of time appropriate for completion of application.

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5. How did you hear about CanTYD's Awards of Excellence?

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6. Any additional suggestions/comments:

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