



Premier of Ontario - Première ministre de l'Ontario

March 16, 2018

A PERSONAL MESSAGE FROM THE PREMIER

On behalf of the Government of Ontario, I am delighted to extend warm greetings to everyone celebrating Nowruz.

Millions of people around the world celebrate Nowruz. While this ancient festival crosses different countries and cultures, its significance remains the same: It signals the first day of spring. But it is much more than that. It is a time of fresh beginnings and an opportunity to look to the future with hope and optimism. And it is a festival rich in rituals and traditions — from the donning of new clothes to visits with family, close friends and neighbours. It is little wonder that, in 2009, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization added Nowruz to its Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.

As Premier, I am proud that numerous communities within Ontario celebrate Nowruz. Such celebrations enrich our cultural landscape, strengthen our society and add to the diversity that has become one of the defining characteristics of our province.

I am also proud that, a decade ago, the Legislative Assembly supported a resolution introduced by Reza Moridi, Ontario's Minister of Research, Innovation and Science, recognizing the first day of spring as Nowruz.

I wish everyone celebrating Nowruz 1397 much good health, happiness and prosperity in the coming year. Nowruzetan Peerooz!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Kathleen Wynne'.

Kathleen Wynne
Premier