



Immediate press release

## Teesri Duniya Theatre Salutes Hon Jack Layton

1950 – 2011

On behalf of everyone in the Teesri Duniya Theatre, I express our deepest sympathies to the family and friends of the Hon. Jack Layton. Mr. Layton without a doubt was one of the greatest politicians of our time who fought tirelessly for equality, fairness and social justice for the people.

A lifelong activist, Mr. Layton was an example of fighting for social causes with rigor and hope. He was a determined and passionate man who worked for change because he believed change was not only possible but was the only solution for a just society. Mr. Layton inspired Canadians, young and old, by his uncompromising commitment to fairness and social justice.

What distinguished him from other politicians is the fact that when all others were talking about corporate globalization and maximization of profit, about cuts in social programs and education – Mr. Layton was raising such issues as the environment, AIDS, poverty, elderly, violence against women, equality, minority rights, gay rights, public transpiration and homelessness. For Mr. Layton, profits never came before people. Mr. Layton's contribution to the First Nations was so overwhelming, that even Prime Minister Stephen Harper acknowledged his role in shaping the federal government's apology for the residential school system.

Mr. Layton brought to Federal politics consciousness, hope, humanity and honesty.

Himself a writer, Mr. Layton was great supporter of the arts.

A friend of mine once told me that he met Mr. Layton at a public gathering. Mr. Layton gave him his card and said, *"call me, I will call you back."* This friend did, and to his surprise, Mr. Layton, did in fact, call him personally. That is the kind of man Jack Layton was.

In his last letter to Canadians he wrote, *"Love is better than anger. Hope is better than fear. Optimism is better than despair."* To that we add, that Mr. Layton also believed sharing is better than separating, which is why he was so overwhelmingly endorsed by Quebecers.

We will greatly treasure his wisdom and good humor. Let's celebrate the life and achievements of this great Canadian in his own words, *"let us be loving, hopeful and optimistic. And we'll change the world."*

Rahul Varma, Artistic Director

Teesri Duniya Theatre