Peter Julian

Member of Parliament, Burnaby-New Westminster

Official Opposition House Leader

7615 Sixth Street  
Burnaby, British Columbia  
V3N 3M6

May 7, 2015

Dear Mr. Julian,

**RE: Request for Congratulatory Message for Dr. Kimit Rai for his receipt of the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Canadian Society of Plastic Surgeons**

I am writing to request a letter of congratulations from you to Dr. Kimit Rai, a recipient of the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Canadian Society of Plastic Surgeons (CSPS), at a ceremony being held at the Empress Hotel in Victoria on June 5, 2015.

Dr. Rai is a New Westminster plastic surgeon and the President and Founder of Operation Rainbow Canada, a non-profit organization that provides free cleft lip and palate corrective surgery to impoverished children and young adults in developing countries.

As the 13th recipient of the prestigious award from the CSPS, Dr. Rai will join a distinguished group of his peers who have made outstanding contributions to the field of plastic surgery and to the community. In addition, Dr. was the recipient of the Governor General’s Caring Canadian Award in 2013 andthe UBC Faculty Community Service Award for distinguished alumni in 2014.

Operation Rainbow’s free surgeries helps children in developing countries, who often have difficulty nursing or eating, resulting in chronic malnutrition. They can grow up with dental or speech problems, and may be subject to ostracization. Dr. Rai’s humanitarian interventions have so far transformed the lives of more than 2,400 children and their families. The organization has successfully completed 23 missions in nine countries. Incredibly, the organization has never hired any paid staff in its entire 17 year history. Dr. Rai’s outstanding leadership has inspired hundreds of skilled professionals, medical and non-medical, to volunteer their time to a most worthwhile cause.

Dr. Rai serves as both teacher and mentor on the missions, providing education and hands-on training to the Canadian medical residents who volunteer their time, and the health care professionals in the host countries. Operation Rainbow has also trained Canadian plastic surgery residents, as well as anesthesia fellows and paediatric residents in BC Children’s Hospital.

As an internationally recognized plastic surgeon with more than 25 years of clinical experience, Dr. Rai’s work has been published extensively and he is a frequent speaker at educational symposiums. He’s held numerous distinguished positions, including Chief of Surgery for the Simon Fraser Health Region, and president of the North West Society of Plastic surgeons and of the Canadian Society of Plastic Surgeons. Dr. Rai is an inspirational leader whose work has improved the lives of thousands of underprivileged children and provided invaluable training for Canadian health professionals and those in host countries who will carry on the work.

On behalf of Dr. Rai and Operation Rainbow Canada, we thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Operation Rainbow Canada

Gloria Wong

Board Secretary