



## PRESS RELEASE

*For immediate release*

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### **ParlAmericas celebrates the passing of the Latin American heritage month bill by the parliament of Canada**

ParlAmericas applauds the historic approval of Bill S-238 *"An Act respecting Latin American Heritage Month"* by the House of Commons (300 votes in favour - zero against) on June 20<sup>th</sup>, 2018. This Bill, sponsored by the late Senator Tobias C. Enverga Jr. recognizes that members of the Latin American community in Canada have made significant contributions to the social, economic and political fabric of the nation, and designates October as the Latin American Heritage Month as a meaningful way to remember, celebrate and educate the public about these contributions.

According to the 2011 National Household Survey, there are nearly 750,000 people of Latin American heritage in Canada, out of which almost 50% are under the age of 25, being one of the fastest growing population groups in the country. During the bill's debate in the Senate and the House of Commons, parliamentarians from all political parties recognized the important contributions made by Latin-Americans to the culture, history and economy of Canada. This bill represents a significant moment for the Latin-American community in Canada and embodies the country's multiculturalism.

Senator Tobias C. Enverga Jr. passed away in 2017 while on parliamentary business as a member of the Canadian delegation to ParlAmericas' Annual Plenary Assembly. The passing of this legislation is a testament of his legacy and commitment to the Latin American community.

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ParlAmericas is the institution composed of the 35 national legislatures in North, Central and South America and the Caribbean which promotes parliamentary diplomacy in the inter-American system. ParlAmericas facilitates exchanges of best practices and produces tailored resources to support parliamentarians in carrying out their functions. The International Secretariat of ParlAmericas is headquartered in Ottawa, Canada.

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