The Elementary Teachers’ Federation of Ontario celebrates

# May Asian Heritage Month 2020

In Ontario, the month of May is dedicated to celebrating the contributions of Canadians from over 30 countries that make up the Asian and South Asian diaspora.

Asian Heritage Month has been a focus of celebration in many communities across Canada since the 1990s. In December of 2001, Senator Vivienne Poy proposed a motion that was adopted by the Senate of Canada, designating May as Asian Heritage Month nationally. In May 2002, the Government of Canada made this motion official by signing a declaration to designate May as Asian Heritage Month.  About this year’s poster:

Intersections of Earth and Identity May Asian Heritage Month, 2020

For Asian Heritage Month 2020, utilizing the work and words of Dr. David Suzuki and the creativity and artistry of Meera Sethi, ETFO highlights the intersections of earth and identity and raises awareness of how all elements and beings are symbiotic with the earth, and its movements.

“The human brain now holds the key to our future. We have to recall the image of the planet from outer space: a single entity in which air, water and continents are interconnected. That is our home. Our identity includes our natural world, how we move through it, how we interact with it and how it sustains us.” - David Suzuki

Artist’s Statement: Inspired by Dr. David Suzuki’s quote, I wish to show a sense of connectedness between us and everything else in the world: the wind, the oceans, the waterways, the fish and the trees. It is now up to us to use our collective heart and brain, our vision and our activity to bring about a positive, sustainable, global revolution. To invoke Asian Heritage Month, I have used patterns, motifs from Asian communities and a maximalist sense of colour from Japanese poster design.

About Meera Sethi: Meera Sethi is a Canadian contemporary artist whose practice encompasses a range of mediums to pose questions about the relationship between migration, diaspora, hybridity and belonging. <meerasethi.com/>

For a PDF version of the posters and for more information and resources on Asian Heritage Month, please see the link: <etfo.ca/link/asianheritagemonth>