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HOUSE OF COMMONS
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Elizabeth May

Member of Parliament / Député(e)
Saanich — Gulf Islands

Circonscription

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The Honourable Pascale St-Onge
Minister of Canadian Heritage

Re: Vandalism at cinemas playing South Indian movies

October 29, 2024

Dear Minister,

I am joining my constituents in calling for an investigation into the acts of vandalism at Landmark and Cineplex cinemas showing South Indian movies. Canada is home to a large population of South Indians and Sri Lankans. Canada's two largest movie theatre chains, Cineplex and Landmark, do not play South Indian movies in their cinemas due to recurring vandalism incidents during their showings. I have also sent this letter to the Minister of Innovation, Science and Industry, the Hon. François-Philippe Champagne, the Commissioner of Competition, Matthew Boswell, and the Minister of Public Safety, Democratic Institutions and Intergovernmental Affairs, the Hon. Dominic LeBlanc.

The lack of South Indian movie screenings at Cineplex and Landmark theatres has forced South Indian movie lovers to watch these movies in alternative theatres at higher ticket prices. Theatres across Canada are also charging higher ticket prices for South Indian movies than other movies. An average ticket for a South Indian movie is \$16.00, and sometimes reaches as high as \$25.00. On the other hand, the average ticket price for other movies in Canada is \$12.00. Without Cineplex and Landmark showing South Indian movies, many South Indian movie goers are unable to watch the movies they love. This is due to both costly movie tickets and the absence of alternative movie theatres in their communities. Given the recent revelations from the RCMP, I am also concerned that these acts of intimidation may be linked to foreign interference of a criminal nature.



I ask that you investigate the acts of vandalism primarily affecting Cineplex and Landmark cinemas. Additionally, an investigation into the cartel-like behaviour regarding South Indian movie ticket prices is needed to determine if price fixing has occurred, and those responsible should be held accountable. Finally, Cineplex and Landmark must be directed to resume screening South Indian films, with legal measures in place to ensure South Indian films are shown in those theatres.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Elizabeth May". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending from the end of the name.

Elizabeth May, O.C.
Member of Parliament
Saanich--Gulf Islands

