

**Statement by the Hon. Bas Balkissoon, MPP for Scarborough
Rouge in the Ontario Provincial Legislature on May 30, 2006 on
the occasion of the 4th Annual Walk for Values**

Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, on Sunday, May 28, the fourth annual Walk for human values organized by the Sathya Sai School of Toronto took place in the Malvern Community of my riding in Scarborough Rouge River.

Minister Harinder Takhar and myself joined over 3,000 participants from across the GTA to walk in the name of peace, nonviolence, truth, and love.

One participant in the crowd, Miss Megan Bennett, traveled all the way from Foothill Ranch, California, with the goal of implementing a similar walk in her community in 2007.

Mr. Speaker, this walk has now become a trailblazer for cities across Canada, 12 of which held their own Walk for Values on the same date.

The Cities of Edmonton, Regina, and Saskatoon proclaimed May 28 as Human Values Day in their cities.

Mr. Speaker, this walk was not about raising funds, or provoked by anger. Instead it was focused on character building and encouraging role models in the community.

Walking together as kindred spirits, participants raised awareness of the need to practice the values of tolerance, understanding, and respect values that are gradually being eroded by negative forces.

The walkers conveyed their messages of human values through songs and decorated floats.

The participants' demonstrations of understanding, peace, and commitment to positive change show us all the importance of recognizing our values.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate the Sathya Sai School of Toronto in their efforts in making a difference in our community, our province, and Canada through their walk for human values.

Thank you.

Bas Balkissoon