

**Panelist for the:**  
**Era 21 Networking Breakfast for Young Canadians**  
**Ms. Rathika Sitsabaiesan, M.P.**  
**Parliamentary Restaurant, Parliament Hill, Ottawa**  
**May 3, 2012**

**My Story:**

- Came to Canada at early age fleeing civil war
- Became active at a young age
- Fought for creation of local Tamil language school
- Remained active through high school and university

**Story around decision to run:**

- House not reflective of many marginalized women, but thought too young
- Jack convinced to run now rather than wait
- Proud of youthful and diverse caucus

**Importance of youth engagement:**

- Engagement in politics and the happenings in community and country important as they will largely affect our youth
- Engagement in the community, fighting for change, standing against injustice
- Leaders of today