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**Friday, June 2, 2023**

## **THE POPULATION HEALTH RESEARCH INSTITUTE KEYNOTE LECTURE**

**Surabhi Sivaratnam**

2022 CMHF Award Recipient | MD Candidate 2023, McMaster University

***“Finding Your Place”***



Surabhi Sivaratnam is a Sri Lankan-Canadian, first-generation immigrant, who grew up in a working-class community in which she often saw friends endure food insecurity and witnessed their families unable to afford non-OHIP-covered health expenses.

Fueled by a desire to address such health inequities, she pursued a Bachelor of Health Sciences as well as engaging in open global health courses through Yale University. Surabhi then went on to pursue her medical education while working part-time as a Clinical Research Assistant at SickKids Hospital. In this role, she collaborated with researchers across the globe to continue the development of a smartphone application for parents and caregivers of children with cancer. She also served as the Co-Director and Primary Organizer of the Hamilton TEDx Conference in which she created space for speakers who navigate everyday life in the face of adversity; these speakers powerfully shared their lived experiences with millions across the globe.

Surabhi was nationally appointed by the Canadian Government's Office of

International Affairs to serve as the youth delegate for the Canadian delegation to the World Health Assembly in which she collaborated with world leaders and Health Ministers to finalize a policy on responding to and preventing violence against women and children, successfully approved at the WHA by 194- member state countries.