**PRESS RELEASE From Surafael Musse Tesfamariam Family**

 **Winnipeg February 17th 2018**

**On February13,2018 at 08: 17 our eight years old son Surafiel Mussie Tesfamariam was tragically hit by a car and passed away in front of his mother Adiam Luulekal Weldeyohannes and his little brother eyes while he was crossing the pedestrian crosswalk on St. Anne’s Rd. between Bank Ave and Varennes Ave.**

**Surafael was on his usual route to school accompanied by his mother and young brother. Since it was a cold day we called a cab; but since the taxi we had called was late, in order not to miss the first class, we had decided to walk. He had just hit the crosswalk button and the cars stopped for us so that all of us able to cross the road. However, when we passed the stopped car, unfortunately a pickup truck came and hit Surafael with full force and dragged him in front of his own mother and young brother.**

**As the tragic event was unfolding in front of her eyes, the mother fell down in the middle of street, shocked and devastated, crying and shouting while hitting the street with her hands. We don’t wish anyone to experience such a traumatic loss of loved sons or daughters.**

**As a family, we are deeply moved by the overwhelmingly incredible support we received from the moment of the accident till present. We would like to thank the First responders’ fire fighters and paramedics, the WPS, the HSC Children’s Emergency staff, The Principal and staff of Ecole Verennes, as well as our dearest friends, neighbors, the wider community and parents of the school.**

**We would also like to say thank you to our Eritrean Community in Winnipeg that has comforted us in ways that it is not possible to describe with words. Day and night since the tragedy, they accepted the loss of our son as the loss of the whole community and stand up with us from the simplest needs to the deepest pain, concerns and worries we have. They have created a strong communal environment where we can have the comfort and time to reflect, deal with all the pain of this heavy loss of our beloved son Surafiel. A culture of sharing, and close proximity to people is giving us comfort, hope for healing and strength to find meaning to life.**

**We give our thanks to our priests and deacons as well as the whole congregation of the Eritrean St. Michael Orthodox Church. As we bury the body of little Surafiel today, you have all provided us with precious spiritual services according to our own traditions and eased our pain with your heart felt spiritual services and homily.**

**We would also like to thank the United Church at 613 St. Mary’s Rd for their generosity and allowed us to use their church hall and kitchen in order to accommodate huge number of people after the funeral services. We truly appreciate it.**

**At the end we want to ask all to come together to prevent such tragedy in the future in our society**

**May God bless you all**

**Family of Mussie Tesfamariam Meles and Adiam Luulekal Weldeyohannes**