



PRIME MINISTER · PREMIER MINISTRE

September 21, 2011

Greetings from the Prime Minister

It is my distinct pleasure to extend my warmest greetings to members of the Armenian community in Canada as you celebrate the independence of the Republic of Armenia.

Today, you commemorate the historic results of the 1991 Armenian independence referendum. This defining moment not only marked the reestablishment of an independent Armenia, but was itself an overwhelming affirmation of the power of democracy. Following that historic event, the dream of a free Armenian state once again became a reality after more than seventy years of Communist rule. Armenian communities around the world celebrate this achievement and have stood firmly with their homeland as it navigates a sovereign course.

As home to a significant community of Diaspora Armenians, Canada has always stood in support of a strong and free Armenia. We look forward to strengthening the many ties that bind our two countries in the years to come. Canadians of Armenian descent can take great pride in the contributions they have made our society, and their commitment to the universal values of freedom, democracy, human rights and the rule of law.

On behalf of the Government of Canada, please accept my best wishes as you celebrate this historic occasion.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Stephen Harper', written in a cursive style.

*The Rt. Hon. Stephen Harper, P.C., M.P.
Prime Minister of Canada*