

Minister
of Foreign Affairs



Ministre
des Affaires étrangères

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0G2

September 21, 2011

Friends:

I would like to congratulate you and the Republic of Armenia on 20 years of independence.

Canada was proud to be among the first Western nations to recognize Armenia as an independent state. We value our strong and growing bilateral cooperation with Armenia, notably through our common membership in the International Organisation of La Francophonie.

Over the years, we have forged bonds of friendship and cooperation based on our shared commitment to promoting democratic values and global peace. These links have been further strengthened by the presence of more than 40,000 Canadians of Armenian descent who continue to make significant contributions to Canada's cultural, political and economic life.

In honour of this celebration, Foreign Affairs and International Trade Canada has happily passed along to the Office of the Diocese, the News Release announcing the beginning of diplomatic relations between Canada and Armenia on January 31, 1992.

On behalf of all Canadians, I extend our best wishes to all Canadians of Armenian heritage celebrating this important 20th anniversary of Armenia's independence.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Baird".

John Baird, P.C., M.P.

Canada