



PRIME MINISTER · PREMIER MINISTRE

September 21, 2008

Greetings from the Prime Minister

I am pleased to extend my warmest greetings to members of the Armenian community in Canada as you celebrate the independence of the Republic of Armenia.

Today, we commemorate a pivotal moment in Armenian history when, during the 1991 referendum, Armenians voted overwhelmingly in favour of freedom and democracy. On this historic occasion, the dream of an independent Armenian state was once again a reality. Armenian communities around the world celebrated this achievement and have stood firmly with their homeland as it navigates a sovereign course.

Canada has always stood in support of a strong and free Armenia. As home to a significant number of the Armenian Diaspora, we also look forward to strengthening economic and diplomatic ties between our two countries in the years to come. Canadians of Armenian descent can take great pride in the contributions they have made to Canadian society, and their unwavering commitment to our shared 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 black ink, reading "Stephen Harper".

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