



PRIME MINISTER HARPER MARKS THE OCCASION OF GREECE'S INDEPENDENCE DAY

OTTAWA - Prime Minister Stephen Harper issued the following greeting to mark Greece's Independence Day:

"I am pleased to extend my heartfelt greetings to all Canadians of Hellenic origin on this historic day. In honouring the anniversary of Greek Independence Day, March 25, 1821, we are celebrating democracy, a Greek legacy and the heartbeat of our nation.

"Hellenic Canadians can take pride in their motherland's heritage of the rule of law and the inherent desire for a government built on the principles of democracy. Greece is a vibrant testament to our common values and man and woman's unbended will in the pursuit of freedom that has transcended time and boundaries.

"Today, more than 250,000 Greek descendants live in Canada and are integral contributors to our modern nation. Since their ancestors have made Canada their home, Greek Canadians have made important contributions to all aspects of Canadian society. They are also instrumental in developing and maintaining strong human, commercial and cultural ties between Canada and Greece.

"Canada has enjoyed a long history of friendship and cooperation with Greece. We are partners today in bringing peace and stability to the people of Afghanistan and we work together in forums such as the United Nations, NATO and La Francophonie.

"I invite all Canadians to join me in celebrating with Canadians of Greek descent."

