



PRIME MINISTER · PREMIER MINISTRE

February 21, 2014

Message from the Prime Minister

*I am delighted to extend my warmest personal greetings to members of the Bangladesh Heritage and Ethnic Society of Alberta as you observe International Mother Language Day.*

*International Mother Language Day, first proclaimed by UNESCO in 1999, is an occasion to promote multilingualism and multiculturalism. With our tremendous cultural and linguistic diversity, this celebration holds special significance for Canada. In addition to our two official languages, and the mother tongues of our First Nations, millions of Canadians proudly preserve the language of their country of origin in their homes and communities.*

*For Canada's Bangladeshi community, February 21<sup>st</sup> also marks the 43<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of the Independence of Bangladesh. On this special day, I am pleased to join you in recognizing a defining moment in Bangladesh's history and your community's invaluable contributions to Canada's proudly pluralistic society.*

*On behalf of the Government of Canada, please accept my best wishes for a wonderful celebration.*

*Sincerely,*

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