

I am delighted to extend my best wishes to everyone marking International Mother Language Day.

One of Canada's greatest strengths is its rich diversity. We are known throughout the world as a shining example of a truly multicultural society, where respect for others is paramount. I am filled with tremendous pride when I visit communities across the country and meet with citizens whose origins are as varied as the languages they speak.

Today—and every day, in fact—Canadians are free to celebrate their native languages and to share their traditions and customs with one another. In doing so, we can all learn how much we have in common.

I wish all of you the very best.

David Johnston

February 2015