



PRIME MINISTER · PREMIER MINISTRE

March 23, 2012

Greetings from the Prime Minister

I am pleased to extend my warmest greetings to all those marking the 72nd Republic Day of Pakistan.

Today's celebration commemorates the signing of the Lahore Resolution of 1940, which eventually led to the creation of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan in 1956. Across Canada, more than 300,000 Canadians of Pakistani descent mark the occasion by celebrating their heritage and sharing their traditions with the wider community.

This is a day to reflect on the events that have shaped the history of Pakistan and celebrate the ties between our two countries. Canada and Pakistan enjoy longstanding bilateral relations in a range of areas, including trade, development, democratic governance, regional security and human rights. I am pleased to have the opportunity to commend the community's contributions to Canadian society and your commitment to advancing this important friendship.

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

Sincerely,

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