



Bosnian and Herzegovinian Independence Day

I would like to take this opportunity to extend my best wishes to members of the Canadian Bosnian and Herzegovinian community on the occasion of *Bosnian and Herzegovinian Independence Day*.

In 1992, between February 29th and March 1st, citizens of the Socialist Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina voted in an independence referendum. The question on the ballot was “*Are you in favour of a sovereign and independent Bosnia-Herzegovina, a state of equal citizens and nations of Muslims, Serbs, Croats and others who live in it?*” Voter turn out was 63.6% of which 99.7% voted in favour of independence.

The Parliament of Bosnia and Herzegovina accepted the results of the referendum on March 6, 1992. It declared that March 1st would be the *Independence Day of Bosnia and Herzegovina* and a national holiday.

Since 1992, Canada has played a significant role in the development of Bosnia and Herzegovina in the areas of peacekeeping; reconstruction; and, the promotion of good governance and the rule of law.

Canada is a proud multicultural nation that embraces a wide variety of cultures and heritages. Canadians of Bosnian and Herzegovinian heritage help to foster this identity and strengthen the fabric of our society. Members of the Bosnian and Herzegovinian Diaspora in Canada have made, and continue to make, significant contributions in a number of areas including sports, business, the arts, medicine and public service.

Canada has attracted, and continues to attract, people from all over the world. We will continue to work together to build our nation and enhance our international reputation. As the Liberal Critic for Multiculturalism, I look forward to our ongoing work in building a stronger Canada.

On behalf of the Liberal Party of Canada, please accept our wishes on the occasion of *Bosnian and Herzegovinian Independence Day*.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "James Karygiannis".

The Honourable Jim Karygiannis, P.C., M.P.
2013