



**Deepak Obhrai, MP**  
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Parliamentary Secretary to the  
Minister of Foreign Affairs

# Media Release

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## Parliamentary Secretary Deepak Obhrai strengthens ties with South Korea

**(CALGARY) September 12<sup>th</sup>, 2012** – Parliamentary Secretary Deepak Obhrai today described for Korean-Canadian reporters details of and reflections from his recent trip to South Korea.

The trip helped further strengthen relations between Canada and this important Asian partner.

While in South Korea, he met with senior officials, academics and prominent North Korean defectors in a roundtable discussion on the current realities and challenges of the human rights situation in North Korea. He reiterated Canada's grave concerns over the serious and ongoing human rights violations committed by North Korea against its citizens. These include public executions, torture, arbitrary detentions and collective punishment. He also expressed Canada's concern at reports of increasingly harsh treatment against those who have fled North Korea and have subsequently been repatriated.

PS Obhrai met with South Korean political party leaders to strengthen ties saying: **"Canada and Korea are natural partners – we have complementary, similar sized economies, share common values and democratic traditions and have a history of cooperation on the world stage."**

He also assured his hosts that Canada remains committed to advancing our two countries' ties in areas including, but not limited to, trade, travel and international aid.

On one of his final stops in the country, Mr. Obhrai visited the War Memorial of Korea that features a plaque on which the names of all 516 of Canada's fallen soldiers from the Korean War are engraved, to lay a wreath in commemoration of their sacrifice.

On behalf of Foreign Affairs Minister John Baird, PS Obhrai extended to South Korea's FM an invitation to visit Canada in the very near future. -30-

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