



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

Media Release

For Immediate Release

March 19, 2013

Foreign Minister John Baird and Parliamentary Secretary Deepak Obhrai highlight Canada-India relations at Toronto meeting with Indo-Canadians

(Toronto) Foreign Affairs Minister John Baird and Parliamentary Secretary Deepak Obhrai on Monday met with leaders of the Greater Toronto Area's Indo-Canadian community for a discussion on Canada-India relations.

Minister Baird and Parliamentary Secretary Obhrai attended a roundtable in Brampton, Ontario with more than 85 Indo-Canadian business and community leaders and discussed the state of Canada-India bilateral relations, and the prospects of increasing economic and people-to-people ties.

Among those present were executives from the National Council of Indian Canadians, the Canada-India Foundation, the Indo Canadian Chamber of Commerce, Canada India Business Council, heads of various Hindu temples and Sikh gurdwaras, Indo-Canadian War Veterans and members of Indo-Canadian media.

Minister Baird discussed the importance of deepening Canada's ties with India and responded to questions from participants.

"Canada and India have longstanding bilateral relations, built upon shared traditions of democracy, pluralism and strong interpersonal connections," the minister said. He added Canada's priorities in India include infrastructure, energy, food, education, science and technology. He addressed questions on energy, science and technology, education and research. "Energy will be a big part of our relationship with India," Minister Baird said.

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Deepak Obhrai, M.P. and Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Foreign Affairs, said that Canada considers India a priority partner and the two countries were well on their way to unlocking the full potential of Canada-India trade through the realization of an ambitious free trade agreement. Mr. Obhrai also pointed out that Indo-Canadian diaspora networks were critical to achieving the full potential of this partnership and welcomed the participation of the one million strong Indo-Canadian diaspora.

Yogesh Sharma, National Convener, National Council of Indian Canadians said: "The community welcomes and highly appreciates the opportunity given to meet the Hon. Minister of Foreign Affairs for a face-to-face dialogue. We are delighted to be able to play a role in the growing Indo-Canadian relationship."

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