



**Hon. Deepak Obhrai**  
Parliamentary Secretary to the  
Minister of Foreign Affairs and for  
International Human Rights

# Press Release

**For Immediate Release**

**February 7, 2014**

## **Thailand should honour the electoral process, Parliamentary Secretary Obhrai tells Parliament**

The Hon. Deepak Obhrai, M.P. and Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Foreign Affairs and for International Human Rights, today made the following statement in the House of Commons:

“Canada and Thailand have enjoyed warm relations. Thailand held parliamentary elections this past Sunday.

Despite actions by anti-government protestors intent on derailing the polls and the political process, 47 percent of Thailand’s 43 million eligible voters came out to exercise their right to choose who will govern them. This sends a strong message to all political parties, the military and the Election Commission; that the people of Thailand value their right to vote.

The actions of protestors to block voters and prevent polling stations from opening are a cause of concern for Canada.

It is worth noting the restraint shown by the Thai government, the military and other authorities which ensured mass scale violence was averted and skirmishes and disruptions were kept to a minimum.

We now call upon the opposition to return to talks, and the Election Commission to ensure the electoral process is carried out fully and expeditiously. That is the overwhelming desire of the Thai people and also that of Canada.”

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