



**Hon. Deepak Obhrai, Member of the Queen's Privy Council
Member of Parliament for Calgary Forest Lawn**

The Honourable Deepak Obhrai was born in Tanzania and attended school in three separate continents: in Tanzania, India and the United Kingdom. He immigrated to Canada with his family in 1977. In Canada, Deepak became heavily involved in his community, acting as President of the India – Canada Association, Monterey Community Association and the Hindu Society of Calgary.

Deepak was first elected as the Member of Parliament for Calgary East in 1997. He was then re-elected in 2000, 2004, 2006, 2008 and 2011; successively receiving a larger percentage of the popular vote. Deepak was re-elected in the last general election held in October 2015, from the newly-formed Riding of Calgary Forest Lawn.

Deepak is the longest-serving Conservative MP in Canada's 42nd Parliament. Currently, he serves as the International Development Critic in the Shadow Cabinet of the Official Opposition.

In January 2006, Prime Minister Stephen Harper appointed Deepak as Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Foreign Affairs. In March 2008, Deepak was vested with the additional responsibility of Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of International Cooperation. In September 2013, Deepak was given the additional responsibility of Parliamentary Secretary for International Human Rights.

In September 2013, Deepak was appointed to Her Majesty's Privy Council for Canada, in recognition of his many years of public service as a Member of Parliament and in promoting the Government's foreign affairs agenda internationally as Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Foreign Affairs.

As the founder-chair of the Canada-India Parliamentary Friendship Group, Deepak initiated many activities leading to further strengthening of Canada's relations with India. For the past 15 years, Deepak has organized and hosted the National Diwali Celebration on Parliament Hill. Africa is Deepak's other great passion. Born and raised in Tanzania, he has travelled widely across Africa and continues to work hard to build bridges of understanding between Canada and countries of Africa. He is a member of the Canada-Africa Parliamentary Association.

In 2009, the Government of India recognized Deepak for his contribution in strengthening Canada-India relations by awarding him the prestigious Pravasi Bharatiya Samman award, which is the highest honour given to overseas Indians. In 2008, *India Abroad* newspaper named Deepak as one of 35 most influential Indo-Canadians in Canada. In April 2014, *Hill Times* newspaper named Deepak as one of the most influential persons among the Top 100 influencers of Canada's global future. A June 2014 survey by the Embassy newspaper named Deepak as one of the Hardest Working Parliamentarian on Foreign Policy and one of the Most Well-connected Parliamentarian to the diplomatic scene.

In 2014, the Indo-American Friends Group of Washington DC presented Deepak with the Pride of India Award, for his work at empowering the Indian diaspora. Also in 2014,

Sri Chinmoy Peace Foundation awarded Deepak Obhrai the Peace Dreamer award for a life of service to Canada. In 2015 Vision World organization of Ahmedabad, India, conferred the Global Visionary Award to Deepak Obhrai for his contributions to parliamentary democracy and strengthening of Indo-Canadian bilateral relations. Also in 2015, the Vietnamese Canadian Federation presented Deepak with the VCF Award 2015, in recognition of his dedication to the Vietnamese Canadian Community.

Deepak Obhrai and his wife, Neena, have two daughters: Priti and Kaajal, a son: Aman, son-in-law: Robin Martin, grandson: Davin Jacob and granddaughter Evasha. **(Ends)**.