



**Honourable Deepak Obhrai, P.C.**  
Member of Parliament  
Calgary Forest Lawn

# Media Release

For Immediate Release

October 31, 2018

## Large crowds join Deepak Obhrai and Parliamentarians at the 18<sup>th</sup> National Diwali Celebration on Parliament Hill

(Ottawa) Hon. Deepak Obhrai, P.C., M.P. hosted the 18<sup>th</sup> National Diwali Celebration on Parliament Hill in Ottawa on Tuesday evening (October 30).

Mr. Obhrai was joined by Members of Parliament representing all political parties and an enthusiastic crowd of over 500 from Toronto, Montreal, Calgary and Ottawa. There were diplomatic representatives from 18 countries, led by India's High Commissioner to Canada Vikas Swarup.

Speaking to the crowd, Mr. Obhrai pointed to the Bill he recently presented in Parliament to establish the month of October as Hindu Heritage Month throughout Canada. "This Bill recognizes the important role played by Hindu Canadians in our country's social development and economic growth," he said.

Mr. Obhrai added: "The National Diwali Celebration in Parliament has always been a community-driven event. This is your Diwali. It will continue with your support."

This year's Diwali Celebration was organized with the cooperation of Hindu Temples and Indo-Canadian Community Organizations from across Canada. Among the institutions are:

Canada-India Foundation; Overseas Friends of India Canada; Sikh Society of Ottawa; BAPS Shri Swaminarayan Mandir Toronto; Hindu Bhajan Mandly of Calgary; Laxmi Narayan Mandir Toronto; Bharat Mata Mandir Brampton; Vishwa Shakti Durga Mandir Ottawa; Jai Durga Hindu Society of Scarborough; Canadian Hindu Association Toronto; Shiv Shakti Mandir of Ottawa; Hindu Mission Montreal; Hindu Temple of Ottawa-Carleton; Shri Hanuman Mandir Brampton; Rajasthan Association of North America (RANA) Canada; India Canada Organization of Montreal; Indo Canadian Council for Arts & Culture Ottawa; Canadian Hindu Association Toronto and Canada-India Global Forum Montreal.

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### Ottawa Office:

Room 426N Centre Block  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, Ontario  
K1A 0A6  
Tel: (613) 947-4566  
Fax: (613) 947-4569



### Constituency Office:

Radisson Centre  
Suite 225, 525-28 Street SE  
Calgary, Alberta  
T2A 6W9  
Tel : 403-207-3030  
Fax : 403-207-3035



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Click here to view Deepak's statement in the House of Commons on the 18<sup>th</sup> National Diwali Celebration

<https://www.facebook.com/DeepakObhrai/videos/2020577894672606/?eid=ARD3cV-gj91fC8aYpr7kapaxRbZNZ4a73O7IBJ50b6oPFDOws3q4pxYJuSXE5CZN31G7wnN5ua8AcmV8>



Hon. Deepak Obhrai, Hon. Lisa Raitt and HE Vikas Swarup light the Diwali lamp



Hon. Deepak Obhrai addresses the crowd



Deepak and dignitaries escorted to the hall with drums and dance

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