



PRIME MINISTER · PREMIER MINISTRE

July 11, 2008

Greetings from the Prime Minister

I am delighted to extend my warmest greetings to the Ismaili community in Canada as you mark the anniversary of the accession of His Highness Prince Karim Aga Khan as Imam of the Shi'a Ismaili Muslims.

Celebrating over five decades as Imam, His Highness Aga Khan has earned the respect and admiration of the Ismaili community, and people around the world, as a philanthropic and benevolent leader. Through the Aga Khan Development Network (AKDN), His Highness has contributed significantly to the advancement and stability of Asia and Africa.

Our Government is proud to partner with the AKDN agencies to implement effective foreign aid and development programs. We were honoured when, in 2006, His Highness chose Ottawa as the location for the Global Centre for Pluralism, in recognition of the unparalleled and harmonious diversity of Canadian society. One of Canada's greatest strengths is its rich cultural diversity and commitment to pluralism. Today, as the community gathers to honour Prince Karim Aga Khan's achievements, I hope you will take the opportunity to reflect upon the contributions Ismaili Canadians have made to our great nation in keeping with this proud legacy.

On behalf of the Government of Canada, please accept my best wishes for a memorable celebration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Stephen Harper".

*The Rt. Hon. Stephen Harper, P.C., M.P.
Prime Minister of Canada*