



Deepak Obhrai, MP
Calgary East
Parliamentary Secretary to the
Minister of Foreign Affairs
(Asia-Pacific & Africa)

Media Release

For Immediate Release

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Obhrai reiterates Canada's support for peace in Congo and the African Great Lakes Region

(OTTAWA) Deepak Obhrai, M.P. and Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Foreign Affairs, today made the following statement in the House of Commons:

"Canada is committed to supporting peace, security and development in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

The 500 deputies were elected on July 30 during the first democratic elections held in 40 years. Canada has contributed \$12 million to the organization of these elections. Since 1998, Canada has contributed more than \$193 million in development assistance to the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Canada announced in March support for the joint initiative on sexual violence in the Congo. This project supports the efforts of the UN organizations, the Congolese government and the Congolese civil society to address sexual violence against women in eastern Congo.

This August, I visited the Congo in our capacity as the vice-chair for the Great Lakes Region peace initiative. We will continue our support for this very important conference that will bring, we hope, a new era of peace in the entire region."

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For more information, contact Mohan Samarasinghe at (613) 947-4567

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 East
Calgary, AB
T2A 6W9
Tel: (403) 207-3030
Fax: (403) 207-3035