



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

Media Release

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Obhrai returns from visit to African Great Lakes Region

OTTAWA - Deepak Obhrai M.P. for Calgary East and Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Foreign Affairs, visited the Great Lakes Region of Africa from August 7 to 24, 2006.

Obhrai, on his second visit to the African continent as Parliamentary Secretary, visited the Democratic Republic of Congo, the Republic of Congo, Rwanda, Burundi, Kenya and Tanzania.

The key purpose of Obhrai's visit was to demonstrate Canada's and the international community's support for the 2nd Summit of the Conference for the Great Lakes Region, scheduled for December 2006 in Nairobi, Kenya.

"This region has been wrecked by ethnic violence and the resulting strife has been devastating to its economy. Canada has joined the U.N. in spearheading a long-term programme to provide political, diplomatic, financial and technical assistance, in order to bring about a meaningful and sustainable peace and economic growth to the region," Obhrai said.

"I was very encouraged by the recently concluded multi-party elections in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Congo's democratic electoral process would have an overall positive impact on the safety of the region."

"This trip will reinforce Canada's commitment to peace in the region."

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