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

# Media Release

**For Immediate Release**

**October 6, 2006**

## **Obhrai applauds continued strengthening of democracy in Fiji**

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

“Mr. Speaker, on October 24-25, 2006, the government of Fiji will be hosting the 37<sup>th</sup> Session of the Pacific Island Forum in Nadi. This important gathering brings together leaders of the Pacific nations to address a range of issues of common concern, including environmental degradation, economic underdevelopment, democratization and anti-money laundering.

Fiji will be hosting the Pacific Island Forum at a time of renewed hope in the country. The recent democratic elections are ensuring the participation of different stakeholders in Fiji’s political life. Local parties and ethnic communities, indigenous and Indian, are working together to build a Fiji that is democratic, tolerant and prosperous.

As one of Fiji’s partners in the Post-Forum Dialogue Partners of the Pacific Islands Forum and the Commonwealth, Canada encourages the continued strengthening of democracy in Fiji.”

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