



**Deepak Obhrai, MP**  
Calgary East  
Parliamentary Secretary to the  
Minister of Foreign Affairs

# Media Release

**For Immediate Release**

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## **Deepak Obhrai welcomes Diwali with statement in Parliament**

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

Today is Diwali, also known as Deepawali. It is the famous Festival of Lights celebrated by Hindus, Sikhs and others around the world.

On this day, people light their homes, to symbolize the dawning of light over darkness. They mark Diwali with religious blessings, or pooja, and celebrate in a festive mood with the exchange of sweets. It is the dawn of a New Year.

I am proud to say that in 1998, I spearheaded the celebration of Diwali on Parliament Hill, which has today blossomed into a National Diwali Celebration. Over the years since then, Canadians have joined with Prime Ministers and Members of Parliament, including you, Mr. speaker, to celebrate this event on Parliament Hill.

This year, the 10th National Diwali Celebration will be held on November 16<sup>th</sup> at the Government Conference Centre in Ottawa, starting at 6.30 p.m. I cordially extend an invitation to all my colleagues to join community members from Ottawa, Toronto and Montreal to celebrate Diwali.

Happy Diwali to all my colleagues and to you, Mr. Speaker.

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