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Media Release

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Deepak Obhrai, who called for a Canada-India Free Trade Agreement back in 2005, welcomes the launch of negotiations for an FTA

(CALGARY, November 12, 2010) Deepak Obhrai, M.P. and Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministers of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, today hailed the launching of negotiations for a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement between Canada and India.

On Friday, during their meeting in Seoul, South Korea, Prime Minister Stephen Harper and Prime Minister Manmohan Singh of India announced the beginning of negotiations for a free trade agreement between the two countries.

Mr. Obhrai, who called for a Canada-India Free Trade Agreement as far back as 2005, said he was delighted to see the FTA was finally becoming a reality.

Making a statement in Parliament on November 16, 2005, Mr. Obhrai said : "Based on my experience as part of the Canadian trade delegations to India in 2000 and 2005, I have seen the remarkable growth of the Indian economy and the opportunities that it presents. The time is right to seize those opportunities. When we come to power, we will give actions to words."

"I am very pleased to see that our efforts are now yielding positive results. This is another step towards enhancing trade and people-to-people relations between two vibrant democracies," Mr. Obhrai said from Calgary on Friday.

Mr. Obhrai said he would like to congratulate the people who supported this idea and laid the groundwork for it to become a reality, among them the former Minister for International Trade David Emerson and Thomas d'Aquino, former head of the Canadian Council of Chief Executives.

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