



PRIME MINISTER • PREMIER MINISTRE

May 2009

Asian Heritage Month



In December 2001, the Senate adopted a motion to officially designate May as Asian Heritage Month in Canada. I am delighted to join Canadians across the country in marking this annual celebration, which proudly recognizes the contributions of the more than three million Canadians who trace their heritage to Asia.

Since Confederation, people from around the world have come to Canada in search of opportunities and a better future for themselves and their families. Together, we have built a peaceful, pluralistic and prosperous society that stands as a model for the

world. Hailing from every corner of a vast and diverse continent, Asian communities in Canada have played an integral role in this endeavour.

This year's theme "Building Canadian Identity" speaks to the beneficial contributions Canadians of Asian descent have made to our unique social and economic landscape. These achievements, in all spheres of society, have helped shape Canada into the culturally rich nation it is today. The impressive calendar of events scheduled throughout the month is a fitting tribute to the vibrant and diverse Asian communities across the country. These celebrations will provide an opportunity for all Canadians to learn more about a resplendent facet of our national heritage.

On behalf of the Government of Canada, I invite all Canadians to participate in the Asian Heritage Month activities that are taking place from coast to coast.

Sincerely,

*The Rt. Hon. Stephen Harper, P.C., M.P.
Prime Minister of Canada*