



## NATIONAL DAY OF AZERBAIJAN

May 30, 2009

On behalf of the Government of Ontario, I am delighted to extend greetings to everyone celebrating the National Day of Azerbaijan.

This special occasion is an ideal time to celebrate Ontario's and Canada's dynamic Azerbaijani community, and the invaluable contributions of Azerbaijani Canadians to our society. You continue to make Ontario — and Canada — an even better place to live.

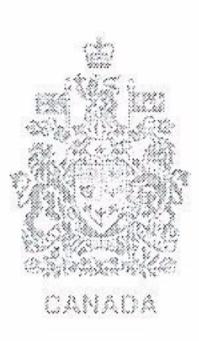
For those Canadians whose roots are in Azerbaijan, tonight's gala is an opportunity to reflect on the rich heritage and traditions that define and distinguish your vibrant community — and a time to celebrate the country's achievements.

My colleagues and I congratulate the people of Azerbaijan on this important anniversary. Ontarians join you in celebrating this significant occasion, and we share your desire for Azerbaijan's ongoing success.

Oaller, MASpit

Dalton McGuinty Premier

Presented by Reza Moridi MPP for Richmond Hill



## Azerbaijan's National Day

It is a pleasure for me to extend greetings everyone gathered this evening to celebrate Azerbaijan's Republic Day and welcome tonight's honoured guests. I would like to thank the Assembly of Azerbaijani Canadian Organizations and the Azerbaijan State Committee on Affairs with Diaspora for their work in organising the events these past days.

Celebrating Azerbaijan's National Day shows how the dreams of independence have been held dear by the Azerbaijani people including amongst Canadians of Azerbaijani descent and tonight's dinner gives us all the opportunity to reflect upon the hopes we all have to build a better world.

Our country is noted for its diversity – a truly enriching social characteristic. Clearly, your presence here is an eloquent expression of our cultural diversity and something in which we can all take great pride. Be it those who have been here for many years or those who have arrived more recently, the country continues to be strengthened by this diversity.

Please accept my best wishes.

Michael Ignatieff, M.P. 2009

1 Lind Heren