



**EMBASSY OF GREECE
IN OTTAWA**

Ottawa, 21 March 2014

**MESSAGE OF H.E. ELEFThERIOS ANGHELOPOULOS, AMBASSADOR OF
GREECE TO CANADA, ON THE OCCASION OF THE 193rd ANNIVERSARY
OF THE NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE DAY OF 25 MARCH 1821.**

On the occasion of the celebration of Greek Independence Day, I wish to extend a warm patriotic greeting to the Hellenism of Canada, with whom I would like to share all the emotion, all the pride and glory, and all the symbolism inherent in this great Day of our Nation.

We honour and pay tribute to all the fighters, the initiators, martyrs and founders of our freedom who, armed with our millennia old history, our nation's enduring struggles, our language, our Orthodox Faith and tradition, and the memories of Greek antiquity and Byzantium, fought to the last ounce of their strength on the fields of battle, endowing us with a free Greece.

We are grateful to them above all for their teaching of ethos, attitude toward life, courage, self-sacrifice, as well as for the altruism that demonstrated, inspired by ancient Greek virtues, before the unique and uncompromising goal: the Freedom and Rebirth of our Motherland.

These are the imperishable virtues and priceless values left to us by our heroic ancestors, as a sacred and valuable heritage in order to guide and illuminate our current struggles.

The new challenge for Greece in the 21st century is to address the economic crisis and to achieve the rapid transition of our country into a cycle of growth, through the mobilization of all the forces of Hellenism. It is our belief that we will win this battle, as always happened in the past.

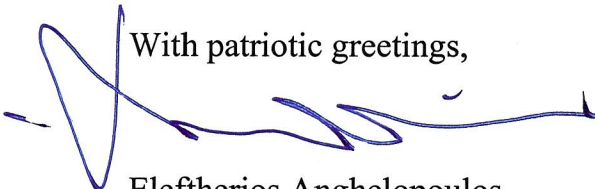
In conjunction with today's celebration, we should always recall that it was the Greek Diaspora which provided the spark for the Revolution of 1821, and always supported wholeheartedly, with patriotism and dedication, our national goals and efforts for economic development, progress and prosperity.

Undoubtedly, the dynamic Greek-Canadian Community has a prominent position in the global Greek Diaspora. As the strongest link between our two countries and peoples, the Greek-Canadian Community is leading the new dynamics of our relationship with Canada, so as to fully exploit the comparative advantages of the two countries and the potential for a broadened, innovative and creative collaboration.

With selfless contribution, dynamism and creativity, the Greek-Canadian Community is actively promoting the Greek language, Orthodoxy, history and culture in Canada, as well as the eternal values of Hellenism.

I wish that today's tribute and recognition of the sacrifices, visions and ideals of our Heroes of 1821, always guides and inspires every Greek around the world, in the successful course of our Nation.

With patriotic greetings,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a large, stylized initial 'E' followed by a series of loops and a long horizontal stroke.

Eleftherios Anghelopoulos