



Independence Day in Toronto 2012



PRIME MINISTER · PREMIER MINISTRE

I am pleased to extend my warmest greetings to everyone attending "Raising the Lebanese Flag," at Queen's Park.

This special occasion offers an ideal opportunity to reflect on the history of Lebanon and to celebrate its ties with Canada. For thousands of Lebanese seeking safety during the Lebanese Civil War, Canada offered a new and welcome home. In turn, Canadian society has benefited from the contributions made by the more than 165,000 Canadians who can trace their roots to Lebanon. This flag raising ceremony is a fitting symbol of the pride felt by Lebanese Canadians in Lebanon's achievements since independence, as well as their hope for a future of peace and prosperity for the country.

I would like to congratulate the members of the World Lebanese Cultural Union, Toronto Chapter, for organizing this event. Your efforts to preserve and promote Lebanese heritage and traditions in Canada are commendable.

Please accept my best wishes for a memorable day.

The Rt. Hon. Stephen Harper, P.C., M.P.

OTTAWA
2012



1812.gc.ca



The Honorable Dalton McGuinty
The Premier of Ontario, Canada

Re Raising of the Lebanese Flag

The World Lebanese Cultural Union being the official representative of the Lebanese Diaspora, is deeply grateful to the province of Ontario in particular and to the people of Canada in general for their warm and genuine hospitality of the people of Lebanon who have chosen to make Canada as their new homeland.

We are proud of our Canadian Lebanese Community's dedication and loyalty to Canada and also in their continued determination in preserving and protecting the democratic and multicultural values of our country of origin Lebanon.

On this special occasion of the 69th Anniversary of Lebanon's independence, we extend our congratulations to our Canadian Lebanese community for their endless commitment and our deepest gratitude to the people of Ontario and for their strong support of our celebration.

For and on behalf of the World Lebanese Cultural Union

Nov 22, 2012

Michel Doueih
World President





Premier of Ontario - Premier ministre de l'Ontario

November 22, 2012

A PERSONAL MESSAGE FROM THE PREMIER

On behalf of the Government of Ontario, I am delighted to extend warm greetings to everyone marking the anniversary of Lebanon's independence. As Premier of Ontario, I am honoured to add my voice to this occasion as Lebanese people around the globe celebrate a proud moment in 1943.

Independence is a blessing that allows a nation to chart its own destiny, to engage with other nations, as partners and friends, and ultimately, to take its place in the global community. This gathering is an opportunity to reflect on Lebanon's past accomplishments and to look forward to its many achievements yet to come.

Today, Lebanese are making their mark in many parts of the world — in business, in the professions and in every field of endeavour. Ontario is proud to be home to a dynamic Lebanese Canadian community — a community that has contributed immensely to our social, cultural and economic life — and strengthened our ties with Lebanon.

Please accept my best wishes for a meaningful independence day celebration.

Dalton McGuinty
Premier





TIM HUDAK

ONTARIO PC LEADER



November 22, 2012

Dear friends,

On behalf of the Ontario PC Caucus, I would like to extend my warmest greetings to everyone celebrating the 69th anniversary of Lebanese Independence Day, and thank the World Lebanese Cultural Union for organizing today's flag raising ceremony.

A fierce national pride and an unwavering belief in self-determination, democracy and the rule of law led to Lebanon's independence in 1943. This belief has only grown stronger over the years, guiding the nation and its people.

I'm proud that Ontario has become home to one of our country's largest communities of Lebanese-Canadians. You have strengthened our province by running thriving businesses, raising families and being actively involved in the community.

To our province's Lebanese-Canadian community, thank you for your dedication to Ontario, and may you have a joyous celebration today with your friends, family and loved ones.

Sincerely,

Tim Hudak, MPP
Ontario PC Leader





Ontario
Andrea Horwath, MPP/députée
Leader/chef
Ontario's NDP/NPD de l'Ontario

November 22, 2012

On behalf of Ontario's New Democrats it gives me great pleasure to extend warmest greetings to everyone attending the ***Raising of the Lebanese Flag***.

We join with Lebanese everywhere in the celebration of the **69th** anniversary of Lebanon's independence of a nation with a rich history and vibrant culture.

Today, at Queen's Park, the anniversary occasion is being celebrated with a flag raising ceremony along with sentiments of cheer and goodwill. Like Lebanon, Ontario values the diversity of its people and appreciates and values the contributions being made to our broader community.

It takes an incredible amount of time and effort to organize an event of this stature. I would like to express appreciation to the World Lebanese Cultural Union, Toronto Chapter organizers and the many dedicated volunteers for the hard work and commitment it takes to make this special day such a success.

As leader of the Ontario's New Democrats, I am very pleased to relay my best wishes to all Lebanese Canadians as you celebrate the success of your democracy.

Sincerely,

Andrea Horwath, Leader
Ontario's New Democrats





November 22, 2012

Our Independence Day is an important day to commemorate and celebrate the end of the French Mandate and the independence of a nation with a rich history and vibrant culture which has spread throughout the world.

Lebanon received its independence after French troops arrested Lebanese national leaders in the Rashaya Citadel (this massive Feather Tower, built by the Crusaders in 1172). After national and international pressure, the prisoners were released on November 22, 1943, and that day was officially declared the Lebanese Independence Day.

Today is certainly a day to celebrate the success of our democracy. However, on this occasion we should also be introspective about what remains to be done. We will achieve independence in the true sense only when we are able to banish all the external power being exercised on our country. This will be possible only when we learn from our failures and build on our successes.

The World Lebanese Cultural Union is celebrating this important day in Toronto and namely at Queen's Park on November 22nd, to highlight our Lebanese existence in a multicultural country. Canada is a place where we believe all people can express their opinions freely without being judged or discriminated against. Diversity is celebrated and cherished every day. Diversity in Canada makes for a rich tapestry, and we must understand that all the threads of the tapestry are equal in value no matter what their color or texture.

Lebanese Canadians have played an important role in shaping our current society and in contributing to the success and the prosperity of Canada.

Thank you Canada, and congratulations to our beloved country, Lebanon!

Ghada Sadaka

WLCU-Toronto Chapter
President



Lebanon

The name *Lebanon* comes from the Semitic root *LBN*, meaning "white", likely a reference to the snow-capped Mount Lebanon. Occurrences of the name have been found in different texts from the library of Ebla, which date to the third millennium BC, nearly 70 times in the Hebrew Bible, and three of the twelve tablets of the Epic of Gilgamesh (perhaps as early as 2100 BC). The name is recorded in Ancient Egyptian as *Rmn*, where *R* stood for Canaanite.

Evidence of an early settlement in Lebanon was found in Byblos, which is considered to be one of the oldest continuously inhabited cities in the world and date back to earlier than 5000 BC. Archaeologists discovered remnants of prehistoric huts with crushed limestone floors, primitive weapons, and burial jars left by the Neolithic and Chalcolithic fishing communities who lived on the shore of the Mediterranean Sea over 7,000 years ago.

Lebanon was a part of northern Canaan, and consequently became the homeland of Canaanite descendants - the Phoenicians, a seafaring people that spread across the Mediterranean before the rise of Cyrus the Great. Their most famous colonies were Carthage in today's Tunisia and Cadiz in today's Spain. The Phoenicians are best known as the inventors of the alphabet, among many other things. After two centuries of Persian rule, Macedonian ruler Alexander the Great attacked and burned Tyre, the most prominent Phoenician city. Throughout the subsequent centuries leading up to recent times, the country became part of numerous succeeding empires, among them Egyptian Empire, Persian, Assyrian, Hellenistic, Roman, Eastern Roman, Arab, Seljuk, Mamluk, the Crusader's state of County of Tripoli founded by Raymond IV of Toulouse that encompassed most of present day Lebanon, and the Ottoman Empire.



WLCU

The World Lebanese Cultural Union (WLCU)

is an International Non-governmental Organization (INGO) associated with the UN DPI and accredited with the ECOSOC of the UN






The WLCU was founded in 1959 with the goal to unite descendants of Lebanese origin and friends of Lebanon into one worldwide organization and to promote and preserve Lebanese culture and heritage ensuring its spirit for generations to come.

The WLCU is a non-profit organization, non-sectarian, and independent of the Lebanese government. The interest of the organization includes the preservation of the homeland as an independent democratic country, which promotes human rights, freedom and justice.

WLCU Mission Statement:

The WLCU strives to unite descendants of Lebanese origin and friends of Lebanon into one worldwide organization or union with the aim to promote and preserve Lebanese culture and heritage and to ensure its spirit for generations to come. The WLCU currently maintains 390 active Chapters Worldwide that work in coordination to further its mission and goals.

Goals Of The WLCU:

-  Promote and preserve the Lebanese culture and identity.
-  Be model citizens and contribute positively to our local communities and our countries through local chapters and clubs.
-  Network people of Lebanese origin from all over the world.
-  Provide resources and information thru the website which will serve as a cyber community that links people to share ideas, resource, projects, etc.
-  Contribute positively to Lebanon.





In Mexico



In Victoria BC



In Lebanon - 2011



Daleth - Montreal



In BC—Canada



In Beirut 1973



World Lebanese Cultural Union
Associated with the EPF of UN
NGO - ECOSOC



Back to roots 2012



Back to roots 2012



Welcoming Basketball team



Memorial Day 2007



At the Prime Minister office



With minister Jason Kenny



Appreciation from minister Kenny



Judge George Kouri ceremony





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Queen's Park, ON. Nov.22. 2012