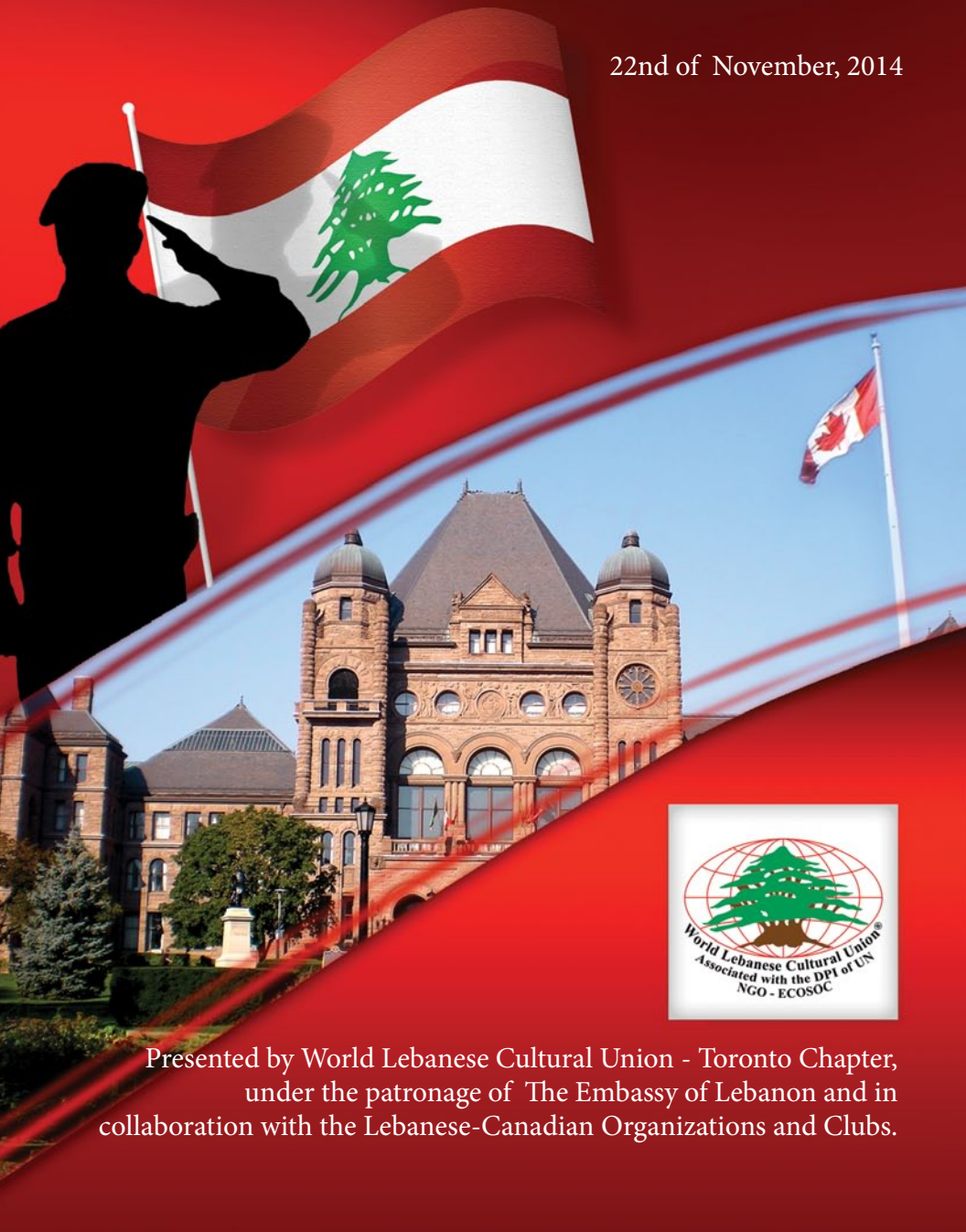


# THE LEBANESE INDEPENDENCE DAY

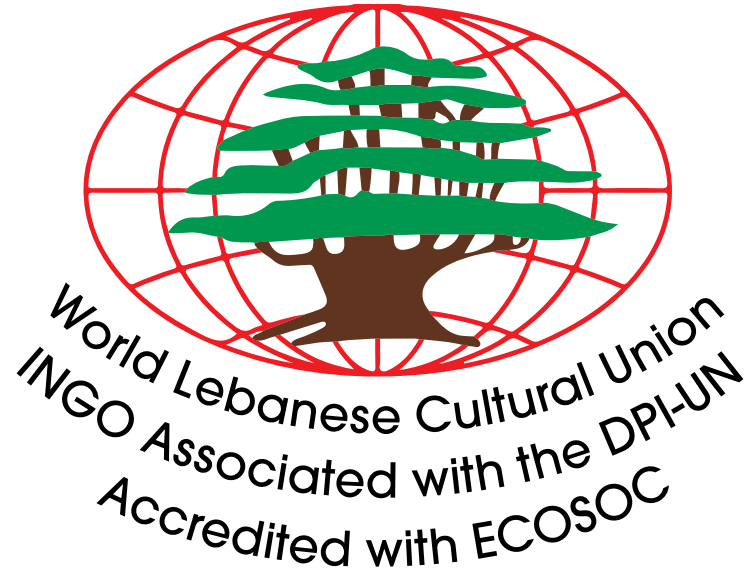
*A Tribute to the Lebanese Army*

22nd of November, 2014



Presented by World Lebanese Cultural Union - Toronto Chapter,  
under the patronage of The Embassy of Lebanon and in  
collaboration with the Lebanese-Canadian Organizations and Clubs.

# WORLD LEBANESE CULTURAL UNION



الجامعة اللبنانية  
الثقافية في العالم



PRIME MINISTER • PREMIER MINISTRE

*I am pleased to extend my warmest greetings to everyone attending "Raising the Lebanese Flag," at Queen's Park under the patronage of Her Excellency, Micheline Abi Samra, Ambassador of Lebanon in Canada.*

*This special occasion offers an ideal opportunity to reflect on the history of Lebanon and to celebrate its close 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. Today's 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.*

*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.*

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

OTTAWA  
2014





EMBASSY OF LEBANON  
OTTAWA  
AMBASSADE DU LIBAN



*As we hail the flag of Lebanon, we thank Canada, this generous, hospitable land of the free, for joining us to salute all the men and women who stood ready to defend the land of the cedars, generation after generation...*

*In the midst of the crises and upheavals that shake the Middle East, Lebanon faces unprecedented challenges threatening her security and sometimes her very soul; nonetheless, she remains a beacon of freedom, tolerance, and deep humanity. Truly, the land of milk and honey so often celebrated since the dawn of history*

*To the government of Ontario, to the Lebanese-Canadian community and its leaders, I extend my sincere congratulations and warm wishes of success in strengthening Lebanese-Canadian friendship.*

*Sincerely,*

*Micheline Abi-Samra*

*Ambadress of Lebanon to Canada*



In celebration of  
*Lebanon's Independence Day*

it is my great pleasure on behalf of the  
*Legislative Assembly of Ontario*

to send you our heartfelt congratulations for  
this important occasion.

Hon. David Levac, Speaker  
November 20, 2014





Premier of Ontario - Première ministre de l'Ontario

November 20, 2014

**A PERSONAL MESSAGE FROM THE PREMIER**

On behalf of the Government of Ontario, I am delighted to extend warm greetings to everyone marking the 71<sup>st</sup> anniversary of Lebanon's independence.

This celebration is an ideal occasion for Lebanese and Lebanese-Canadians to reflect on the many achievements Lebanon has made since that momentous day in 1943 — and to raise their flag with pride. The impact of Lebanon's vibrant cultural heritage is felt internationally — including here in Canada, where we take great pride in our long-standing relationship with Lebanon.

As Premier, I am incredibly proud of Ontario's diversity — it broadens our horizons, enriches our understanding and deepens our appreciation of different voices and views. The Lebanese community is a vital part of this diversity and has made many valuable contributions to our province's social, cultural and economic life.

As you join with family and friends in commemoration of this important event, please accept my best wishes for a joyful and meaningful ceremony.

**Kathleen Wynne  
Premier**



*Dear Friends,*

*On behalf of the Ontario PC Caucus, it gives me great pleasure to congratulate you on the 71<sup>st</sup> anniversary of the Declaration of Lebanese Independence.*

*This special occasion gives us an opportunity to reflect on the rich cultural heritage of the Lebanese people as well as the many contributions of the Lebanese community to our vibrant province.*

*The first Lebanese immigrants to Canada arrived in Montreal in 1882. Today, over 160,000 Lebanese Canadians call our great country their home. They include successful entrepreneurs, politicians, doctors, teachers and athletes.*

*We are joined by close cultural ties, the French language and values of freedom and democracy. These values as well as a strong belief in peace and prosperity brought people from Lebanon to Ontario where diversity is cherished every day.*

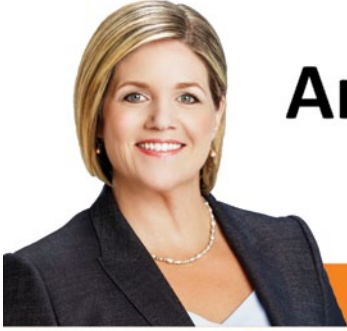
*I would like to thank the members of the World Lebanese Cultural Union, Toronto Chapter, for organizing today's flag-raising ceremony. Your dedication and hard work have created a unique opportunity for the people of Ontario to learn about the history of Lebanon and the vivid culture of the beautiful land of cedars.*

*Please accept my best wishes for a joyous Independence Day.*

*Sincerely,*

**Jim Wilson, MPP  
Interim Leader of the Official Opposition**





# Andrea Horwath

Leader, Ontario's New Democrats

November 22, 2014

On behalf of Ontario's New Democrats, it is my sincere pleasure to extend my congratulations and best wishes to the World Lebanese Cultural Union, Toronto Chapter and to everyone attending the Raising of the Lebanese Flag.

The flag raising ceremony celebrates the great goodwill between Lebanon and Ontario. Both communities value the diversity of their people and appreciate and respect the contributions being made to our broader communities.

On this, the 71st anniversary of Lebanon's independence as a nation, we join with Lebanese people everywhere in celebrating a rich history and vibrant culture. We honour the contributions, achievements and sacrifices of the Lebanese community which have provided an example to today's generation. You have clearly demonstrated that it is possible to shape your destiny and be a positive influence your community.

I would like to express my appreciation to the World Lebanese Cultural Union, Toronto Chapter organizers and the many dedicated volunteers for the long hours of hard work and commitment that have gone into making 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

[www.ondpcaucus.com](http://www.ondpcaucus.com)



Office of the Mayor

Tel. 905-683-4550  
Fax. 905-683-8207

65 Harwood Avenue South  
Ajax ON L1S 2H9  
[www.townofajax.com](http://www.townofajax.com)



## Greetings from the Mayor of Ajax

November 20, 2014

World Lebanese Cultural Union (WLCU)

Dear Organizers and Participants,

On behalf of all Members of Council and the Town of Ajax, it is my pleasure to extend the heartiest of congratulations and best wishes to the organizers and celebrants participating in the raising of the Lebanese Flag to commemorate Lebanon's Independence Day.

This event offers a unique opportunity to experience Lebanese culture and heritage and the Town of Ajax supports the World Lebanese Cultural Union's 2014 goal to exhibit harmony, unity, and solidarity within the Lebanese-Canadian community.

Please accept our very best wishes for a successful event, to you and all participants.

Sincerely,

Steve Parish  
Mayor

[www.townofajax.com](http://www.townofajax.com)



# The Corporation of the City of Brampton



Susan Fennell  
Mayor



November 20, 2014

Dear Friends,

On behalf of the City of Brampton, it is my pleasure to offer greetings and best wishes as the World Lebanese Cultural Union, Toronto Chapter, proudly raises the flag of Lebanon at the Ontario Provincial Legislature.

The World Lebanese Cultural Union was founded to promote and preserve the rich culture of the Lebanese people and to unite the Lebanese diaspora throughout the world. As Mayor of the City of Brampton I applaud your goal of promoting and preserving Lebanese culture and heritage for generations to come.

Brampton is a very culturally diverse city and our citizens are committed to the principle that everyone has the right to live, work, play and pray in peace and harmony with one another. I hope this flag raising event provides an opportunity for the community to come together in fellowship and I thank the World Lebanese Cultural Union for organizing this wonderful public event.

Sincerely,

Susan Fennell  
Mayor

2 Wellington Street, West, Brampton, Ontario L6Y 4R2 Tel (905) 874-2600 Fax: (905) 874-2620  
www.city.brampton.on.ca



Frank Scarpitti  
Mayor

November 20, 2014

## MESSAGE FROM MAYOR SCARPITTI

On behalf of Members of Council and the City of Markham, I am pleased to extend our best wishes to all those attending today's Flag Raising Ceremony hosted by the World Lebanese Cultural Union, Toronto Chapter, in celebration of the 71<sup>st</sup> Anniversary of Lebanon Independence Day on November 20, 2014.

In Markham, we welcome people from all over the world to make their home in our city. We are proud to be recognized as Canada's most diverse city and take every occasion to celebrate the many cultures and traditions from across our community.

We are very pleased to share in this landmark anniversary with residents from Markham and across the GTA of Lebanese Heritage.

As Mayor, I am pleased to extend best wishes for this national and international observance, and wish everyone happiness, peace and prosperity.

Sincerely,

Frank Scarpitti  
Mayor



The Corporation of the City of Markham, Anthony Roman Centre, 101 Town Centre Boulevard, Markham, Ontario L3R 9W3  
Tel: 905.475.4872 • Fax: 905.479.7775 • [fscarpitti@markham.ca](mailto:fscarpitti@markham.ca) • [www.markham.ca](http://www.markham.ca)





OFFICE OF THE MAYOR



November 22, 2014

Dear Friends:

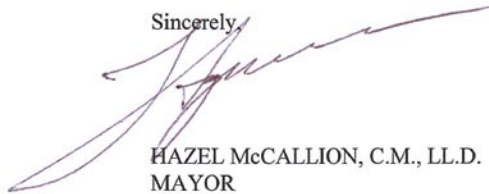
On behalf of members of Council and the residents of the City of Mississauga, I am pleased to extend greetings to the organizers and guests of the World Lebanese Cultural Union, Toronto Chapter's 'Raising the Lebanese Flag' event.

Poet T.S. Eliot once said, "Culture may even be described simply as that which makes the world worth living." Today's event embodies this sentiment by commemorating Lebanon's Independence Day and celebrating Lebanese heritage and culture. It is inspiring to see communities come together to celebrate holidays of significance. Annual holidays allow for the community to celebrate traditions, enjoy food and drink and spend quality time with family and friends.

As Mayor of Canada's sixth largest city, Mississauga is home to many cultures from around the world. It pleases me to see the Lebanese community come together to preserve and share its culture with others. Each culture brings a uniqueness that complements our multicultural mosaic. It is through the experience and appreciation of other cultures that our understanding and friendship grows.

Once again, on behalf of my colleagues on Council and the residents of the City of Mississauga, best wishes for a memorable evening.

Sincerely,

  
HAZEL McCALLION, C.M., LL.D.  
MAYOR



THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF MISSISSAUGA  
300 CITY CENTRE DRIVE, MISSISSAUGA, ONTARIO L5B 3C1  
TEL: (905) 896-5555 FAX: (905) 896-5879



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR



November 20, 2014

Dear Friends,

On behalf of the City of Pickering and its Members of Council, I am pleased to send greetings to the organizers and guests of "Raising the Lebanese Flag" at Queen's Park.

Lebanon's Independence Day is a meaningful and joyous event for millions of people worldwide. The City of Pickering is proud to recognize this occasion in honour of our friends in Lebanon and our very own Lebanese-Canadian residents.

As one of the country's most diverse municipalities, the City of Pickering embodies Canada's renowned mosaic of varying cultures and faiths. I commend the World Lebanese Cultural Union and its dedicated members for showcasing Lebanon's vibrant culture and for joining together to commemorate the 71<sup>st</sup> anniversary of Lebanon's independence.

Once again, on behalf of my colleagues on Council, happy Lebanese Independence Day and best wishes for continued long life, happiness, and prosperity.

Yours truly



Dave Ryan  
Mayor, City of Pickering

The Corporation of the City of Pickering  
One The Esplanade, Pickering, Ontario L1V 6K7  
Tel 905.420.4600 1.866.683.2760  
pickering.ca





Mayor Dave Barrow  
Town of Richmond Hill

**MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR**

On behalf of the Members of Council, I am pleased to bring greetings and welcome everyone marking Lebanon's Independence. Thank you to the World Lebanese Cultural Union for organizing today's flag raising ceremony.

The World Lebanese Cultural Union was founded to promote and preserve the rich cultural of the Lebanese people and to unite the Lebanese diasporas throughout the world.

Council is very appreciative of the vital role culture plays in the wellbeing of the Town and the importance of such cultural awareness on the welfare of our community. I want to thank the World Lebanese Cultural Union for the important contribution both it and its members make to the success and vitality of our community.

I hope this flag raising event provides an opportunity for the community to come together in fellowship and I thank the World Lebanese Cultural Union for organizing this wonderful event. We join Lebanese everywhere in the celebration of the 71<sup>st</sup> anniversary of Lebanon's independence.

Yours very truly,

Dave Barrow  
Mayor



Office of the Mayor | 225 East Beaver Creek Road, Richmond Hill ON, L4B 3P4  
905 771 2493 | dave.barrow@richmondhill.ca | RichmondHill.ca



**Thank You  
for Celebrating  
Lebanese Independence Day**

November 20, 2014

I am pleased to extend greetings to everyone attending the 'Raising the Lebanese Flag' event at Queen's Park.

Today's event marks the 71<sup>st</sup> anniversary of Lebanon's independence. It is an honour to share in the joy and happiness of this important moment. I join together with all Lebanese Canadians to celebrate this day and recognize Lebanon's sovereignty, independence, and national and cultural identity.

As a growing city, Vaughan is strengthened by its diversity. We appreciate the efforts of organizations like the World Lebanese Cultural Union to pay tribute to their traditions while strengthening their relationship with the wider community. I want to thank Lebanese-Canadians for their continuing contribution to the rich diversity that strengthens our community and this country.

I offer my best wishes for a successful and enjoyable event.

Yours sincerely,

Hon. Maurizio Bevilacqua, P.C.  
Mayor







World President

حضرة رئيسة وأعضاء فرع الجامعة اللبنانية الثقافية في العالم – تورونتو،  
أبناء الجالية الكرام،

هنيئاً لكم الإحتفال باستقلال لبنان، وهنيئاً لكم اللقاء، يا أبناء أبناء الجالية اللبنانية الأعزاء، نقيمون  
عرس الحرية، وترفعون علم لبنان على برلمان أونتاريو، وكلُّ منكم علمٌ مرفوعٌ في سماء العالم  
خطوا الأرز، وإصراراً على التعلق بالوطن، حاضناً لكلِّ أبنائه، عزيزاً لهم، وفخوراً بهم .

أيها المغتربون،  
أنتم حجرٌ زاوية في بناء صرح لبنان، وشرفته المظلمة على العالم، وشعلةٌ تُضيء لنا الطريق في  
مسالك الهجرة الوعرة.

لم يبقَ إلا أنتم أملاً بغد أفضل، علمكم تحملون للبنان ترمسكم بالديمقراطية في بلاد الإغتراب،  
وتُصدرون إليه نجاحكم، رُغمٌ سياسيينا، لأنهم مخطوفون، من الوعي والمسؤولية مخطوفون!  
خطفوا من زمن بعيد، من قبل قبل أن يُخطف عسكرونا! وما هذا الخطف إلا تجسيدٌ لإرادةٍ  
سياسيةٍ مُحلّة ومُهشمة!

أنظروا البلاد بلا رئيس! والخدود مُشرعة لكلِّ الجنون!

وحدكم لم تُخطفوا بعد، لأن أجسادكم وأرواحكم متحررة من براثن الواقع اللبناني الأليم، إذا  
تحملون بزاعم الأمل لربيع لبنان، ولذا تُصير الجامعة على إعطاء المغتربين حقوقهم بالإقتراح،  
وللمتحررين منهم بالجنسية، كي يساهموا مع أقرانهم المقيمين في إنشغال الوطن، وإعادته إلى  
مصاف الدول التي تحترم حقها بالسيادة، وواجبها في حقوق الإنسان.

زملاني في الجامعة في كندا،  
شكراً لكم، فرداً فرداً، تجمعون ولا تُفترقون، تُضحون من غير مئة، وتمثلون الإغتراب في مُنكبكم،  
في ولاياتكم، وفي كندا، وترفعون، مع أقرانكم في الولايات المتحدة، راية الجامعة بين المنظمات  
غير الحكومية في الأمم المتحدة.

ودعوني أشكر، بإسمي وبإسمكم، سفيرة لبنان في كندا، السيدة ميشلين أبي سمرا، لرعايتها هذا  
الإحتفال.

والشكر الخاص لحكومة أونتاريو التي تتابع هذا التقليد السنوي، ولكندا وشعبها العظيم.

ونحن، إن كنا بعيدين عنكم بالجسد اليوم، فنحن بينكم بالروح التي تجمعنا، بالقيم التي تحملون،  
وبالإيمان الذي تجسدون. عسى نلتقي بكم، في الخامس من كانون الأول المقبل، لنشارك زملائنا  
في الجامعة في إزاحة الستار عن نُصب جبران خليل جبران في مبنى بلدية لوس أنجلس،  
وللمشاركة في أعمال المجلس العالمي للجامعة.

ألفخندرو خوري فرس

دمتم، عاشت كندا، وعاش لبنان.

الرئيس العالمي للجامعة اللبنانية الثقافية في العالم

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Insurgentes Sur 686-1201 - Del Valle, Benito Juárez - México DF 03100, México  
Tel: +52 55 12041240 – Mobile: +52 1 55 54062322  
GEMA Center, 9<sup>th</sup> floor – Dbayeh Highway, Lebanon  
Tel/Fax: +961-4-540015



22<sup>nd</sup>, November, 2014

The World Lebanese Cultural Union, Toronto Chapter, would like to extend their warmest greetings to everyone present here today at our annual “Raising of the Flag” ceremony on the occasion of Lebanon’s Independence Day.

Lebanon played a key role in the world’s heritage. The famed Phoenicians of modern day Lebanon brought the first phonetic alphabet to the world transplanting it to the ancient Greeks as the first sailors in world history. Once known as a roman cultural hub as part of the Roman Empire. Lebanon is famed for holding the first Roman law schools in the region. It is also part of the Holy Land, encompassing Christianity and Islam. This is exemplified by the Bible’s recounting of a long standing relationship between the King of Tyre and King Solomon, leading to the building of King Solomon’s temple with Lebanon’s famed cedars.

Lebanon’s Independence Day is a meaningful and joyous event celebrated by Lebanese, spread all over the world and of course in Lebanon. Lebanon is now, and has been struggling to keep its independence from all external powers which we can only overcome if we stand united Christians, Druz and Moslems of the country. On this occasion, I would like to pay tribute and to honor and support our Lebanese army who are sacrificing their lives in order to maintain a fragile peace and to protect our borders from surrounding dangers. Today more than ever our country needs us and is counting on our faith in our homeland and our love for freedom, let’s not let Lebanon down.

Our Lebanese community is well established and integrated into the Canadian society and has been recognized for its contribution and dedication in all aspects of life whether political, economic, social and cultural. As Lebanese-Canadians we cherish and respect the diverse society of Canada, and we thank Canada for giving us the opportunity to enjoy its hospitality and peace of mind and in retrospect we commend The Lebanese-Canadian people who excelled in their entrepreneurial businesses and who contributed to the success and prosperity of Canada.

THE MAIN CATALYSTS OF INDEPENDENCE ARE FREEDOM, LIBERTY AND DEMOCRACY WHICH WILL NEVER BE BESTOWED, BUT ACHIEVED.

Thank you all for sharing this memorable day with us, May God Bless you.

Leila Hajje - President  
WLCU (Toronto Chapter)







[www.assaha.ca](http://www.assaha.ca)





O Canada!  
Our home and native land!  
True patriot love  
in all thy sons command.

With glowing hearts  
we see thee rise,  
The True North strong and free!  
From far and wide,  
O Canada,  
we stand on guard for thee.

God keep our land  
glorious and free!  
O Canada,  
we stand on guard for thee.  
O Canada,  
we stand on guard for thee.

---

O Canada!  
Terre de nos aïeux,  
Ton front est ceint de fleurons glorieux.  
Car ton bras sait porter l'épée,  
Il sait porter la croix.  
Ton histoire est une épopée,  
Des plus brillants exploits.  
Et ta valeur, de foi trempée,  
Protégera nos foyers et nos droits.  
Protégera nos foyers et nos droits.



كلنا للوطن للعلم  
ملء عين الزّمن سيفنا والقلم  
سهلنا والجبل منبت للرجال  
قولنا والعمل في سبيل الكمال  
كلنا للوطن للعلم  
كلّنا للوطن

شيخنا والفتى عند صوت الوطن  
أسد غاب متى ساورتنا الفتن  
شرقنا قلبه أبداً لبنان  
صانه ربه لدى الأزمان  
كلنا للوطن للعلم  
كلنا للوطن

بحره برّه درّة الشرقين  
رفدّه برّه مالى القطبين  
إسمه عزّه منذ كان الجدود  
مجدّه أرزّه رمزّه للخلود  
كلّنا للوطن للعلم  
كلّنا للوطن



Presented by World Lebanese Cultural Union - Toronto Chapter,  
under the patronage of The Embassy of Lebanon and in  
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