

## **Speech of the Ambassador in the 197<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Independence of Chile**

**Dear friends,  
Chers amis et amies,  
Queridas amigas y amigos :**

Thank you for joining us in celebrating our National Day festivities. It is a great honour for us to share this historic day with you.

**Je vous remercie d'être des nôtres pour célébrer notre fête nationale. C'est un grand honneur pour nous que de pouvoir partager cette journée historique avec vous.**

197 (hundred ninety seven) years ago, Chile achieved its independence. Like many countries in Latin America, three years from now, we will celebrate the second centennial of our life as an independent nation. **Si nos fondateurs ont réussi à affirmer notre souveraineté il y a presque deux siècles, la tâche ne s'arrêtait pas là. Les Chiliens ont pris le relais, car notre liberté en tant que peuple indépendant demeure une tâche inachevée.**

Now, the task of Chileans is to strive for increased freedom and happiness, greater dignity and better opportunities for all. It is a great honour to represent the first President woman in the Chilean history. **J'ai l'honneur de représenter en qualité d'Ambassadeur la première femme présidente du pays depuis ses presque deux siècles de vie indépendante. Son gouvernement s'attache à mener à bien, la part qui lui revient de la oeuvre historique de consolider notre indépendance. Elle a invité tous les citoyens et citoyennes à approfondir les valeurs de la démocratie, de la liberté, de la solidarité et d'une plus grande justice sociale. Ces valeurs constituent le fondement moral de notre vie collective et de notre coexistence nationale.**

Today we also celebrate our friendship with the people and government of Canada. The deep ties that unite us were given form in the Free Trade Agreement, signed between our two countries. As we celebrate 10 years of its existence, we can proudly say that this agreement has been a great success for Canada and Chile alike. More than 2 billion dollars in trade and nearly 12 billion in investment are proof enough. The Agreement has also helped us to increase mutual knowledge and trust between our peoples.

Building on this foundation, we have now signed the first Partnership Framework between the Right Honourable Stephen Harper, Prime Minister of Canada, and our President, Her Excellency Michelle Bachelet. We are very pleased to have had the opportunity to welcome the Prime Minister in his successful visit to our country.

**Ce cadre de partenariat entre le Chili et le Canada donnera une nouvelle profondeur à nos liens d'amitié et se traduira par des projets concrets menés de conjoint dans divers secteurs de notre vie sociale.**

The Government of Chile is also celebrating the Canadian government's decision to afford a high priority to Latin America and the Caribbean countries. The Prime Minister in Chile said: "Canada New Government has made clear that re-engagement in its hemisphere is a **critical international priority for our country**". Our government is certainly eager to play an active role in the concrete tasks resulting from this important political decision.

**Thank you very much to share with us this historic day for the Chilean people**

**Merci beaucoup pour partager cette jour avec nous.**

**Gracias a todos por su cálida compañía.**

**Ottawa, 19 Sept.2007**