



PRIME MINISTER · PREMIER MINISTRE

March 9, 2011

Message from the Prime Minister

I am pleased to extend my warmest personal greetings to all of the distinguished guests assembled for the World Affairs Council, Washington, DC Global Education Gala.

Education is fundamental to building an international community capable of addressing the challenges of the 21st century. Learning and understanding can forge enduring partnerships and foster innovation and prosperity. Canada's relationship with the United States is a sterling example of this approach to global relations.

Canada and the United States share far more than a common border. We share a devotion to freedom, democracy and justice, built on mutual respect. These ideals have shaped our friendship. They are capable of transforming our international relationships.

That is why the work of the World Affairs Council is so important. By expanding awareness of international political, economic and social issues through education you are fostering a climate of possibility around the globe. Tonight, you will recognize outstanding individuals dedicated to promoting your mission. I commend all of the honourees and your organization for supporting innovation in global education.

I was delighted to learn that His Excellency Gary Doer, Ambassador of Canada to the United States, is the recipient of the Distinguished Diplomatic Service Award. Canada shares the dedication of our American partner to encourage programs that promote knowledge of international affairs. Together, we are proud to demonstrate the benefits of a friendship that allows both our countries to work collaboratively in a global society and in a digital age.

On behalf of the Government of Canada, I offer my best wishes for a wonderful evening and for the continued success of the World Affairs Council, Washington, DC.

Sincerely,

*The Rt. Hon. Stephen Harper, P.C., M.P.
Prime Minister of Canada*