



HOUSE OF COMMONS
CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES

July 26th 2010

DEEPAK OBHRAI, M.P.

CALGARY EAST

Dear Friends,

It has been 13 years since Deepak Obhrai was elected to Parliament. During these years and being in the "Corridors of Power," it became evident that issues and challenges facing Canada's South Asian Community were absent on the national agenda.

While the South Asian community has made its presence felt in all aspects of Canadian life, it has lacked substantive inputs to the decision making process. This was recognized by key members of the communities and last September, Deepak and Vim Kochhar dwelled on the subject.

Of course with the appointment of Vim Kochhar to Canada's Senate, an excellent opportunity presented itself and both of us, on April 15th met with Prime Minister Stephen Harper. We talked about the issue and told him we would widely consult the public and prepare a roadmap to present to him on how to channel the intellectual strengths of South Asians towards Canada's benefit.

Today in Canada, South Asians play leading roles in every conceivable sphere of our lives, that include professionals, entrepreneurs, academics and intellectuals. To this potent mix, we may include the young professionals and senior citizens.

Our government would like to ensure that this vast resource of knowledge, experience and intellect embedded within the South Asian community is not overlooked and that it is tapped in a way that would contribute to Canada's future growth that would benefit all Canadians.

We are asking for your inputs, thoughts and any suggestions you may have. These will form part of our report to the Prime Minister. We ask you to forward this message onwards to your contacts from all walks of life and forward their responses to us at the address below.

We thank you for your consideration and wish you all the best.

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