



Dear Friends of the Jewish Federation of Greater Vancouver,

I am greatly honoured to be sending you and your community members well wishes ahead of the State of Israel's 75 anniversary of independence. Yom Ha'atzmaut, Israel's Day of Independence, is always a beautiful and celebratory day. With the 75th anniversary approaching, we recognize that this three quarter-century feat is momentous, and know that it will be celebrated to the fullest extent in Israel, Canada, and across the Israeli and Jewish diasporas.

Throughout the past 75 years, it hasn't always been easy. Living in a desert climate, in a tough neighbourhood, no one could have predicted that Israel would flourish to become Start Up Nation with one of the strongest defence forces in the world. However, it is through the challenges that the true essence of the Israeli dream has emerged. The Israeli people persevere, they innovate, and they collaborate to change their country for the better. Israeli scientists and engineers have developed the most cutting edge water technologies in the world, and sold them to other drought-prone areas, such as California. Israeli commanders continue to protect their streets from armed terrorists. Finally, we have and will continue to make peace with our neighbours. This is already evident in the economic, social, and cultural triumph of the Abraham Accords.

Despite our challenges both past and present, I am more optimistic than ever. The Israeli innovation sectors in research and development, agriculture, water technology, biosciences, and more are helping usher the western world into the future. As we collaborate on more projects with our Canadian colleagues, I know that the next 75 years are going to be bright as individual nations, and as partners in supporting our mutual allies and in combatting our shared enemies.

In 2023 while Israel celebrates 75 years of independence, Canada and Israel celebrate 74 years of diplomatic relations. The past 74 years have proven that the bond between our two countries cannot be broken. Among so many values, we share strong people-to-people ties, vibrant liberal democracies, and an upmost respect for the rule of law. It has been one of the greatest honours of my career to live in Canada and work with the kind and generous Canadian people.

On behalf of the government of Israel, I send you a Mazel Tov on your 75th anniversary celebration of Israeli independence in downtown Vancouver. May the next 75 be as exciting as the previous!

Sincerely,

Dr. Ronen Hoffman

Ambassador of Israel to Canada