



Prime Minister Stephen Harper:

*"All of my life, Israel has been a symbol—  
a symbol of the triumph of hope and faith."*

*"In the [last 60 years], Israel blossomed into  
one of the most successful countries on earth;  
a land of ingenuity and enterprise, an oasis of  
agricultural genius, a wellspring of fine art and  
high culture, a model of democracy. Israel truly  
is the 'miracle in the desert.'"*

*"But the source of Israel's strength and success,  
in my view, is its commitment to the universal  
values of all civilized peoples: freedom,  
democracy, human rights and the rule of law."*

*"Canada stands side-by-side with the State  
of Israel, our friend and ally in the democratic  
family of nations. We have stood with Israel  
even when it has not been popular to do so,  
and we will continue to stand with Israel, just  
as I have always said we would."*

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu:

*"On the occasion of the 60th Anniversary  
of the establishment of diplomatic ties between  
Israel and Canada, I take this opportunity to  
express the appreciation of the Government  
of Israel and the people of Israel for the deep  
and steadfast friendship shared between our  
nations. The strong ties that bind us began  
with Canada's vote in favour of the UN Partition  
Plan of 1947 which recognized the right of the  
Jewish People to reestablish its sovereignty  
in its historic homeland."*

*Our close relations are based on our shared  
values: liberty, democracy, the rule of law,  
and respect for human dignity and human  
rights. For the past 60 years, both our countries  
have cooperated and succeeded in science and  
technology, medicine, commerce, agriculture,  
jurisprudence, internal security, academia,  
and culture. This cooperation has significantly  
contributed to the enhancement of our mutual  
understanding, and contributed much to the  
welfare of both our countries."*

*I look forward to further strengthening  
the friendship between our peoples in  
the years ahead."*

1 Prime Minister Stephen Harper and  
Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu  
Source: Foreign Affairs and International  
Trade Canada

