



PRIME MINISTER · PREMIER MINISTRE

*April 2, 2009*

*World Autism Awareness Day*

*I am honoured to join with all Canadians observing World Autism Awareness Day.*

*Autism affects tens of millions of people around the world. To bring international attention to this complex brain disorder, especially as it affects children, the United Nations General Assembly declared April 2 as World Autism Awareness Day.*

*On this day, I salute the thousands of families in Canada who confront the unique challenges of autism on a daily basis. This is also an opportunity to recognize the tireless work of all those who are championing the cause. I commend Autism Speaks Canada for providing a strong voice to those affected by autism through your ongoing efforts to increase autism awareness, service delivery and research.*

*On behalf of the Government of Canada and my wife Laureen, I invite all Canadians to reflect on the lives of those living with autism and to recognize their valiant efforts to overcome the challenges of this disorder with compassion and perseverance.*

*Sincerely,*

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