

## Victoria Day

May 21, 2010

**Her Excellency the Right Honourable Michaëlle Jean,  
Governor General of Canada, on the occasion of Victoria Day**

OTTAWA—On behalf of all Canadians, it gives me great pleasure to offer Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II my best wishes for health and happiness on the occasion of the Canadian celebration of her official birthday, May 24. This date, chosen in honour of Queen Victoria, born May 24, 1819, perpetuates a tradition that is very dear to us.

Canadians hold Her Majesty in the highest esteem and are eagerly anticipating the visit she is making here this summer with the Duke of Edinburgh. This will be an opportunity for the entire country to come together to celebrate our history and our close ties with the Monarchy.

Canada is proud not only of its relationship with the Monarchy but also of its role as an active participant in the Commonwealth of Nations headed by Her Majesty. So many countries have followed her wonderful example of compassion and generosity. Her kind words and steadfast leadership inspire nations around the world to continue to pursue and maintain peace, goodwill and international co-operation.

The respect and admiration we feel for Her Majesty this May 24 illustrate the genuine affection and great loyalty our sovereign inspires.

Michaëlle Jean