



NEWSLETTER

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June 2, 2011

№10

Celebrating Azerbaijan's Independence Day

On May 25, 2011, on the occasion of the National Day of the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Embassy of Azerbaijan in Canada organized a reception at Fairmont Chateau Laurier Hotel in Ottawa. The event brought together members of the Canadian parliament, foreign diplomats accredited in Ottawa, as well as representatives of various communities living in Ottawa. During his speech at the event, Ambassador of Azerbaijan to Canada Mr. Farid Shafiyev noted that the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic established on May 28, 1918 was the first democratic republic in the Muslim world. Ambassador Shafiyev also mentioned that women in Azerbaijan had been granted the right to vote much earlier than in many European countries. Mr. Shafiyev highlighted the economic development of Azerbaijan during the past 20 years of its independence from the Soviet Union and growing bilateral trade relations between Azerbaijan and Canada.

Flag Raising Ceremonies in Canada

The 93rd anniversary of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic was also celebrated by Azerbaijani community of Canada. On the occasion of the National Day, an Azerbaijani flag raising ceremony was held in Toronto on May 28, 2011. The event was organized by the Azerbaijani Students Association of Toronto University. During the ceremony Mr. Isgender Gadirzadeh, an active member of the Association, spoke about the history of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic. Thereafter, Mr. Monte Kwinter, member of the Legislative Assembly of Ontario delivered a speech in which he stressed the importance of May 28 for Azerbaijan and the entire region. During the event Ambassador of Azerbaijan to Canada Farid Shafiyev spoke about the activities organized by the Azerbaijani community in Canada. After the speech, the flag

raising ceremony was held accompanied by the national anthem of the Republic of Azerbaijan. On the occasion of Republic Day, an Azerbaijani flag raising ceremony was also held in Vancouver and Calgary. The mayors of Ottawa and Vancouver declared May 28, 2011 as the Day of Azerbaijan.

97.9 FM Ottawa Chin Radio hosted Azerbaijani Ambassador

On May 25, 2011, Ambassador Farid Shafiyev took part at the radio program "Dialogue with Diversity" hosted by Dr. Qais Ghanem on 97.9 FM Ottawa Chin Radio. At the program Mr. Shafiyev talked about Azerbaijan, its history, culture and arts.

Podcast of the program is available at http://www.dialoguewithdiversity.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=9431:dwd-radio-show-2011-05-25-azerbaijan&catid=54:radio&Itemid=82

Statement in Ontario Parliament

On May 31, 2011, on the occasion of the National Day of the Republic of Azerbaijan Mr. Monte Kwinter, MPP of Ontario Parliament, made a statement. In the statement: "Republic Day commemorates the day Azerbaijan first declared independence from the Russian Empire in 1918 - becoming the first ever Muslim democratic republic, granting suffrage to women ahead of many Western countries... Despite ongoing challenges in recent years Azerbaijan has reached a remarkable progress... Azerbaijan has also assumed an important political role in the fight against terrorism. Today Azerbaijani peacekeepers serve shoulder to shoulder with Canadian and other forces in Afghanistan."