



November 22, 2012



Our Independence Day is an important day to commemorate and celebrate the end of the French Mandate and the independence of a nation with a rich history and vibrant culture which has spread throughout the world. Lebanon received its independence after French troops arrested Lebanese national leaders in Rashaya. After national and international pressure, the prisoners were released on November 22, 1943, and that day was officially declared the Lebanese Independence Day.

Today is certainly a day to celebrate the success of our democracy. However, on this occasion we should also be introspective about what remains to be done. We will achieve independence in the true sense only when we are able to banish all the external power being exercised on our country. This will be possible only when we learn from our failures and build on our successes.

The World Lebanese Cultural Union is celebrating this important day in Toronto and namely at Queen's Park on November 22nd, to highlight our Lebanese existence in a multicultural country. Canada is a place where we believe all people can express their opinions freely without being judged or discriminated against. Diversity is celebrated and cherished every day. [Diversity in Canada makes for a rich tapestry, and we must understand that all the threads of the tapestry are equal in value no matter what their color or texture.](#) Lebanese Canadians have played an important role in shaping our current society and in contributing to the success and the prosperity of Canada.

Thank you Canada, and congratulations to our beloved country, Lebanon!

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