



PRIME MINISTER • PREMIER MINISTRE

August 12, 2016

Dear Friends:

I am delighted to extend my warmest greetings to Canada's Hungarian community as you commemorate the 60th anniversary of the Hungarian Revolution.



In October 1956, Hungarians spontaneously began a revolt against the oppression of the Communist government. In the days that followed, the Soviet Union sent in tanks and troops to crush the uprising. As a result, some 200,000 Hungarians fled their homeland. More than 37,000 found refuge in Canada —the first time our country would accept so many refugees of a single origin and the largest group any country received in proportion to its population.

I would like to thank the Embassy of Hungary in Ottawa and the Consulate General of Hungary in Toronto for organizing the many activities commemorating this national historic event. This is also an ideal opportunity to celebrate the successful partnership between Canada and Hungary, reflected in bilateral trade, membership in NATO and strong people-to-people ties.

The refugees who arrived in 1956 worked hard to build successful lives in a new country, and their experience served as a model for Canada's subsequent immigration and refugee policies. Today, over 315,000 Canadians can claim Hungarian ancestry. They can be proud of their many contributions to the social, economic and cultural fabric of our great nation.

Please accept my best wishes for a memorable celebration.

Sincerely,

The Rt. Hon. Justin P.J. Trudeau, P.C., M.P.
Prime Minister of Canada