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Canadian Delegation to the
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Délégation du Canada auprès de
l'Organisation pour la sécurité et la coopération
en Europe

**DELEGATION OF CANADA TO THE OSCE
STATEMENT BY YVES BEAULIEU, CHARGÉ D'AFFAIRES
ON THE ELECTIONS IN AFGHANISTAN
772ND MEETING OF THE PERMANENT COUNCIL
3 SEPTEMBER 2009**

Thank you Madame Chairperson,

Canada congratulates the Afghan people for their participation in the historic Presidential and Provincial council elections on August 20th. Across the country, the Afghan people mobilized in the millions to organise, campaign and vote in these elections, the first Afghan-led since the fall of the Taliban.

These elections took place under difficult circumstances amid ongoing security challenges in some parts of the country. We condemn any attempt to prevent Afghans from participating in the electoral process.

Canada is proud to continue playing a supporting role, alongside our international partners, in this historic electoral process. Canada worked with the Government of Afghanistan and the international community to ensure that these elections take place in the safest environment possible.

Canada awaits the official results of the elections. We look forward to the report of the OSCE/ODIHR Election Support Team, which included two Canadians.

Canada has a strong military and civilian presence in Afghanistan at the request of the democratically elected Afghan government and as part of a UN-mandated mission. Canada's continued objective is to help Afghans build a stable and secure country based on the fundamental values of democracy, human rights and the rule of law.

Thank you Madame.