

Canadian Delegation to the
Organization for Security & Cooperation
in Europe



Délégation du Canada auprès de
l'Organisation pour la sécurité et la coopération
en Europe

ENGLISH only

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**DELEGATION OF CANADA TO THE OSCE
STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR FREDERICKA GREGORY
ON THE SITUATION IN TUNISIA
847TH MEETING OF THE PERMANENT COUNCIL
20 JANUARY 2011**

Mr. Chairman:

Today, I wish to address in the Permanent Council recent developments in one of our Partners for Cooperation – Tunisia – because Canada cares and is concerned, and because the rapidly unfolding situation there speaks to the core values and work of the OSCE on security and democracy. Last week the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Canada expressed Canada's regret at the loss of life in the last month of violence in Tunisia and extended Canada's sincere sympathies to the families of the victims and concern over the deteriorating situation in Tunisia, one of our OSCE Partners for Cooperation, and I would like to reiterate our sympathy for the affected families today before the Permanent Council.

Canada welcomes the announcement of an interim government in Tunisia and calls on all Tunisians to work together to end the violence that continues to threaten the safety of the people. Canada welcomes news that elections will be held in the near future.

We strongly urge the Government of Tunisia to ensure that these elections are free, fair and transparent. All Tunisians deserve to have a voice in building a new government in their country that is committed to democracy, human rights and the rule of law; - the fundamental values enshrined in the OSCE and its work

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Thank you – Merci.