

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

As delivered

**DELEGATION OF CANADA TO THE OSCE
STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR FREDERICKA GREGORY
IN RESPONSE TO PRESIDENT OF KYRGYZSTAN,
H.E. MS. ROZA OTUNBAYEVA'S ADDRESS TO THE OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL
865TH MEETING OF THE PERMANENT COUNCIL
09 JUNE 2011**

Mr. Chairperson,

Canada joins others in warmly welcoming President Roza Otunbaeva to the Permanent Council and in thanking her for her vision, courage and commitment to the promotion of democratic values, domestic reforms and peace and prosperity for her country. The President's presence here today in the Council signals the seriousness with which Kyrgyzstan takes its international commitments and its cooperation with the OSCE.

As we approach the first anniversary of the tragic events in the Kyrgyz Republic (June 2010), we are hopeful that the tensions and factors which caused and fuelled the outbreak of violence will never again resurface, and that tolerance among all peoples in the country will grow with the passage of time, and will be supported by national and international efforts aimed at bringing about national reconciliation.

To this end, Canada commends the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic for allowing the independent **Kyrgyzstan Inquiry Commission** to conduct its work without impediments. We have read the Inquiry Commission's Final Report with great interest and have taken note of the response from the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic. It is Canada's view that many of the Report's recommendations provide valuable guidance to furthering inter-ethnic relations within Kyrgyzstan. We therefore encourage Kyrgyz authorities to carefully consider the Report's final recommendations on addressing these challenges and moving forward.

Mr. Chairperson,

We wish to take this opportunity to commend the excellent collaboration between the OSCE Centre in Bishkek and the Kyrgyz Republic over many years (some 20 in fact). This is especially evident in joint work on promoting human rights, the rule of law and democratisation. In our view, OSCE capacity-building assistance to Kyrgyzstan has been effective and has made a positive contribution and difference in building a vibrant civil society and in holding free and peaceful elections that have met most international standards. In this connection, I wish to say a special word of thanks to the Head of the OSCE Centre, Ambassador Andrew Tesoriere, and his team in Bishkek who have worked so hard in assisting the Kyrgyz authorities during a challenging period in Kyrgyzstan's history and evolution.

In closing, Canada also wishes to underscore the important work by the OSCE Centre in assisting the Kyrgyz policing services and reforms. Community policing and public order management remain cornerstones of the OSCE Centre's programme; they are imperative for ensuring that the events of last June are not repeated, and for making progress in the national reconciliation process.

Thank you.