

Remarks by H.E. Ambassador Lan Lijun at the Reception
celebrating 40th Anniversary of China-Canada
Diplomatic Relations

The Right Honorable Stephen Harper, Prime Minister of Canada
Hon. Ministers,
Hon. Members of Parliament,
Distinguished guests, Dear friends,
Ladies and gentlemen,

Good afternoon.

It is indeed a great pleasure and honor to welcome you all to the reception celebrating the 40th anniversary of diplomatic relations between the People's Republic of China and Canada. I wish to express, on behalf of the Chinese Government, warmest congratulations to the Canadian Government and people.

China and Canada established diplomatic relations on October 13, 1970. This opened a new chapter in our bilateral ties. In the past four decades, with joint efforts from both sides, China-Canada relations have achieved historic progress. There have been frequent exchanges at the top and other levels between our two countries. China and Canada have made remarkable achievements in areas including economy and trade, energy, resources, science, education, culture, health, environment protection and tourism. The practical cooperation between our two countries in all fields has borne rich fruits. Our two sides have maintained good communication and coordination on a series of major international and regional issues. The growth of China-Canada relations have brought tangible benefits to our two peoples and strongly promoted peace, stability and development of the Asia-Pacific Region and the world beyond. President Hu Jintao's state visit to Canada this June and Right honorable Prime Minister, your

visit to China last December have greatly enhanced our bilateral relationship to a new height.

China and Canada are both countries of great influence in the world. A stable and steadily growing China-Canada relationship, not only conforms to the common aspirations of the Chinese and Canadian people, but also is conducive to the peace, stability and prosperity of the Asia-Pacific Region and the world at large. China values its relations with Canada and sees in Canada an important partner of cooperation. At present, China-Canada relationship faces important opportunities for development. As we jointly celebrate the 40th anniversary of our diplomatic ties, in keeping with the spirit of the *China-Canada Joint Statement*, we wish to work together with Canada to treat and develop our relations from a strategic and long-term perspective, strengthen our friendly exchanges, expand win-win cooperation and further advance our strategic partnership from a new starting point.

May Canada and China enjoy prosperity and development. May the friendship between the Chinese and Canadian peoples everlasting.