



PRIME MINISTER . PREMIER MINISTRE

*It gives me great pleasure to extend my warmest greetings to everyone marking **National Foster Family Week**, from October 21 to 27, 2007.*

*This week recognizes the important role and contributions of foster families in Canada. Foster families step in voluntarily where family structures can no longer cope and children are unable to live in their own homes. Irrespective of whether the placement is for a few days or for many years, foster parents make a positive difference in the lives of children with complex needs by providing a stable, nurturing environment.*

*I would like to commend the many thousands of Canadian foster parents who generously expand their family circles to include children in need. We owe a special debt of gratitude to those who share their lives with children. The task requires extraordinary patience and love, and the rewards are often intangible or fleeting. Their selflessness has helped shape our nation's future.*

*On behalf of the Government of Canada, please accept my best wishes for a most enjoyable and memorable week.*

*The Rt. Hon. Stephen Harper, P.C., M.P.*

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