



May 31, 2017

Dear Israel Connect Participants,

Since my arrival in 2016, I have had the great pleasure and privilege of meeting and working with Canadians from across the country, who through both their words and deeds have exhibited a deep love and passion for the people and State of Israel. It is these connections and the values we share that exemplify the ties that bind the friendship between our two countries.

As a diplomat who has served in postings around the world, I understand the importance of having a strong command of the English language. As an Israeli abroad, I also understand the importance of building and maintaining meaningful connections between the Diaspora and Israel. As we celebrate Israel's 70th anniversary, we recognize that our story is an inspiring one, but that it is a result of the hard work of Jewish communities, and their friends, in both Israel and the Diaspora, that choose to dedicate their time and energy to building our strong and vibrant country.

Thus, it is so heartwarming to see the work and volunteer hours that go into Israel Connect and the great success the program has been for students across Israel.

On behalf of the State of Israel, I would like to thank each and every one of you for your tireless volunteerism and invaluable commitment to Israeli students and their education. Your generosity of spirit has no doubt made a significant impact on our nation's youth.

Sincerely,



Nimrod Barkan