



For immediate release
January 23, 2008

News Release

MP JOY SMITH SPEAKS ON AFGHANISTAN AT GRAY ACADEMY ON RAOUL WALLENBERG DAY

Winnipeg, MB: On January 17, 2008, Joy Smith, Member of Parliament for Kildonan-St. Paul, spoke on Canada's involvement in Afghanistan after accepting a tribute on behalf of the Canadian government, for its involvement in rebuilding Afghanistan.



"I am proud of our country's contribution to the people of Afghanistan and I believe it is something all Canadians should be proud of. Our brave soldiers are working hard to ensure hope and progress for millions of Afghans," said MP Joy Smith. *"I would also like to thank the Gray Academy for its efforts to empower students to make a difference in the lives of others."*

The tribute to the Canadian government was presented during an annual high school student conference focused on human rights issues. The conference is organized by the Jewish Federation of Winnipeg and the Gray Academy of Jewish Education as part of commemorations for Raoul Wallenberg Day. The government of Canada has dedicated January 15 of each year, as Raoul Wallenberg Day. Mr. Wallenberg was a Swedish diplomat known for saving over 100,000 Jewish lives during the Holocaust and is recognized annually in Winnipeg.

The theme of this year's conference was "Afghanistan – Emerging Rights". The aim of the conference is to use history to provide students with a better understand of human rights issues and empower them to develop action plans to assists those currently suffering from human rights abuses.

- 30 -

For more information or to arrange an interview please contact:

Joel Oosterman, Parliamentary Assistant

Office: (613) 992-7148

Mobile: (613) 220-6795

Email: smithj8@parl.gc.ca