

"SUCCESSFUL YEAR": ARM. CANADIAN CONSERVATIVE ASSOCIATION

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 **Staff**, March 2016

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"I am pleased to say that within the brief time of its existence the ACCA has made many inroads and achieved great success," said the Chairman Vatche Demirdjian. "Our politician friends and various community organizations have highly praised the association's unique and creative plans. We are confident that with your support we will be able to break new ground to further advance the cause of our association with the Conservative Party of Canada and the Armenian community," he added.

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Demirdjian said that a paramount goal of the association is to attract young people so that they may become active in politics and productive members of Canadian civil society.

In its mission statement the ACCA has deplored the local political situation before its founding when the Armenian political arena had been "monopolized by a handful of individuals."

The core mission of the ACCA is to support family values and promote fiscal responsibility in addition to advancing Armenian interests. According to an ACCA new release, since its inception in Nov. 2014, it has increased its membership by nearly 35%.

In the past year the Toronto-based political association has attended at least three gatherings where the prime minister of Canada made major policy statements. During last October's federal elections the ACCA assisted 17 Conservative Party candidates, including such political heavyweights as MPs Peter Kent, Harold Albrecht, and Brad Butt. And in the weeks leading to the federal elections, the ACCA organized two fundraisers which netted \$35,000. Minister of National Defense Jason Kenny was a keynote speaker at one of the fundraisers.

In the past six months ACCA members have also helped Syrian-Armenian refugees settle in Toronto. Members have located accommodation for the newcomers and provided them with access to free

furniture, employment advice and information about various federal and provincial services.

Looking forward, the association sees a busy 18 months as the Conservative Party of Canada prepares to elect a new leader. The association will also participate in the campaign to elect Official Opposition leader Patrick Brown as premier of Ontario.

The general annual meeting was attended by Cozette Giannini, adviser to the office of the opposition leader. She extended Mr. Brown's greetings and well-wishes to the association. The meeting was also attended by former MP Joe Daniel, Majed el Shafie, founder and president of One Free World International, and other political dignitaries.

The speakers praised the association's contributions and the value they have brought to enrich Toronto, the Armenian community's political activities and the humanitarian contribution to the resettlement of Syrian-Armenian refugees.

Elected--by acclamation--to the board were Salpy Azadian, Razmig Hairabedian, Meghri Hajinian, Sevan Hajinian, Arbi Haroutunian, Patil Imasdounian, Vartan Kasbarian, Saro Khachadourian, and Mike Shahinian.

Outgoing vice-chair Sevan Hajinian acted as master of ceremonies of the meeting.

Following the meeting, a reception was held to celebrate a successful year and to welcome Armenians from Syria to Toronto.

