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Dear Friends,

At this time last year, we gathered together at the Gibbons Park Gazebo to celebrate the 74th National Liberation Day of Korea, and this year I am sure we all looked forward to a similar celebration to mark the 75th. The times may have changed, and our celebrations may be very different from what we have been used to for some time to come, but we can still find ways to celebrate and commemorate.

Gwangbokjeol not only allows Koreans everywhere to show their pride, and mark a pivotal turning point in their history, but provides an opportunity for the contributions of Koreans and Korean Canadians to be recognized by all Canadians and people around the world. It is an occasion to celebrate the close bonds that unite Canada and South Korea, bonds initially forged over a century ago. These were strengthened in 1947 when Canada helped oversee the first democratic elections in the Republic, and again when almost 27,000 Canadian military personnel were sent to help South Korea fight the North; including hundreds who would never return home.

Liberation Day has been celebrated in London for over fifty years, and the community in London has flourished. While we might not be able to be together sharing music, food, and each other's company for this year's celebration, I hope all Londoners will find time to celebrate the 75th National Liberation Day of Korea and the contributions Koreans around the world have made.

Maybe you are gathering with friends and family for your own celebrations. If you aren't sure how you can mark this event maybe you can try some Korean cuisine and watch Bong Joon-Ho's Academy Award winning film *Parasite*, listen to some K-Pop, or simply remember and commemorate the ties between our countries. However you chose to mark this occasion, I wish everyone to have a pleasant day and I want to thank the Korean Society of London for giving me an opportunity to share remarks for the 75th National Liberation Day of Korea.

Thank You,

Kate Young, M.P. London West