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## **STATEMENT BY PRIME MINISTER STEPHEN HARPER ON THE ELECTION OF BARACK OBAMA AS THE 44<sup>th</sup> PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

“On behalf of the Government and the people of Canada, I want to congratulate Senator Barack Obama for his victory in tonight’s United States Presidential Election.

“I look forward to meeting with the President-elect so that we can continue to strengthen the special bond that exists between Canada and the United States.

“In the weeks and months ahead Canadian officials and diplomats will be working closely with members of President-elect Obama’s transition team. Ministers in our government look forward to building a strong working relationship with their counterparts in a new Obama cabinet.

“I would also like to congratulate all incoming Members of Congress and Governors. Given the challenges facing the world economy, it is vital that Canadian and American legislators continue to work together on the important issues facing families on both sides of the border.”

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