



### **A Message from the Mayor**

**It gives me great pleasure to warmly welcome everyone to the State of Eritrea's 22<sup>nd</sup> Independence Day celebration hosted by the Eritrean National Holidays Organizing Committee of Ontario.**

**The independence of a country is a time of reflection, celebration and great pride. The State of Eritrea's Independence brings to the forefront its history, achievements, growth and success over the last two decades, something of which Eritreans are most proud.**

**As you gather with family, friends and the community to celebrate this occasion, you can be extremely proud of your rich culture and traditions and reflect upon the values we all share and treasure - peace, freedom and democracy.**

**We join you in celebrating this very special anniversary and thank you for contributing to the diversity and vibrancy of our city.**

**On behalf of Toronto City Council, I thank everyone involved in organizing this event and extend my best wishes for a memorable Independence Day celebration.**

**Yours truly,**

**Mayor Rob Ford  
City of Toronto**