



**HON. ANDREW SCHEER, P.C., M.P.**  
**L'HON. ANDREW SCHEER, C.P., DÉPUTÉ**  
**LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION / CHEF DE L'OPPOSITION OFFICIELLE**

*Message from the Leader of the Official Opposition*

*July 20, 2020*

*Today marks twenty-one years since the beginning of the illegal and violent persecution of Falun Gong practitioners by the Chinese Communist Party. Falun Gong, also known as Falun Dafa, is a spiritual practice that millions around the world have made a part of their lives. Rooted in Buddhist tradition, it consists of two main components: self-improvement through the study of philosophical teachings, and gentle exercises and meditation. The belief system of Falun Dafa focuses on the possibility of spiritual growth through the disciplined pursuit of these practices.*

*Since the first crackdown on Falun Dafa in 1999, hundreds of thousands of practitioners have been arrested and detained. Many were incarcerated in labour camps for the ostensible purpose of “re-education”. The Parliamentary Subcommittee on International Human Rights has heard volumes of compelling testimony from many experts on the horrific treatment of Falun Dafa detainees who are subjected to forced labour, torture, arbitrary execution and organ harvesting.*

*In a time when freedom of religion and belief is under increasing threat internationally, Canada must stand resolutely with those persecuted and clearly condemn the human rights abuses and crimes of such despotic regimes as the one in Beijing.*

*Canada's Conservatives have and always will speak out against human rights violations and religious intolerance and persecution. The Chinese Communist Party must stop its illegal widespread surveillance, arbitrary detention, imprisonment, and torture of Falun Dafa practitioners and other religious minorities.*

*Sincerely,*

*The Hon. Andrew Scheer, P.C., M.P.*  
*Leader of the Official Opposition*

