

## "We salute the Nepali people..."

Canadian Ambassador to Nepal, Lucie Edwards, spoke to Nepali Times last week just before she finished her term.

Nepali Times From Issue #298 (19 May 06 - 25 May 06)



WEB EXCLUSIVE

Posted on 21 May | 8.30AM NST

**Nepali Times: What is your assessment of the recent political changes in Nepal?**

**Lucie Edwards:** We thought Thursday was a very special day. In many ways the proclamation closed a very difficult chapter for the fight for democracy but also opened another chapter for a new Nepal that would be based on a new system of parliamentary government and the process for negotiation of peace. It was a very exciting historic moment for the country, but it will clearly be a challenge for Nepalis to take it forward. The Nepali people have shown incredible determination and will to govern themselves and that is something we salute. The new government has a lot in its plate. I was able to participate in the meeting the finance

minister had with the foreign donors this week and there's a huge task getting the economy back on its feet with the agenda of support for the actual process of peace building and creating a new democratic constitution. There is a very long term social agenda in terms of women, dalits, poor people and so on. We believe we've just begun a conversation with the donor group and the government of Nepal about their priorities and about what can be done in all those areas. We are very pleased with the priority on inclusiveness, but we will wait to hear from the people and government of Nepal about what their priorities and the needs are in the weeks and months ahead.