



A CELEBRATION OF ALL  
THINGS ITALIAN IN CANADA

# MEDIA RELEASE

## **CANADIAN ITALIAN HERITAGE FOUNDATION NATIONAL CONGRESS OF ITALIAN CANADIANS-TORONTO DISTRICT**

**ATTENTION: ASSIGNMENT and NEWS EDITORS**

**For Immediate Release – June 1, 2016**

**Italian Community celebrates the Historic Contribution made by Canadians of Italian heritage in Ontario by celebrating its Sixth Annual Italian Heritage Month**

**JUNE, 2016**

Toronto- On the first day of Ontario's Italian Heritage Month celebrations, the Canadian Italian Heritage Foundation (CIHF) and the National Congress of Italian Canadians-Toronto District (NCIC-TD) called on all members of Parliament from all parties to support the creation of a national "Italian Heritage Month".

The *Italian Heritage Month Act, 2010* is significant to all Canadians of Italian origin in Ontario as it serves to acknowledge and validate all of the hard work and sacrifices of past generations who have left the security of their country of birth to arrive in a new land and make it their home. Now in its 6<sup>th</sup> anniversary, it provides an opportunity to celebrate all things Italian.

It is significant to all Canadians because it demonstrates the importance of multiculturalism in our society and our right to celebrate our differences thereby making this one of the most beautiful and harmonious places in the world.

For the children of the Italian immigrants, it serves as a permanent reminder of their proud heritage and the need to continue building a tolerant society based on the strengths and values of their forefathers.

It is a time for all of us to reflect and remember the contributions of all Canadians of Italian origin to the betterment of mankind.

The celebrations are not limited to the province of Ontario, but rather extend from Vancouver British Columbia to Halifax, Nova Scotia. More than 150 events have been scheduled across Canada for 2016.

The CIHF in collaboration with the NCIC-TD has requested the federal government recognize the significance of the contributions of Italians across Canada by proclaiming June as Italian Heritage Month nationally.

The federal parliament has demonstrated its enthusiasm for celebrating Italian contributions to the building of Canada. With more than 1.5 million Canadians of Italian Heritage living from coast to coast to coast, having contributed to the building of infrastructure, mining, construction, the arts, cuisine, medicine and law, it is time that the contributions be formally recognized and celebrated.

The CIHF and the NCIC-Toronto District is appealing to all parties to stand with the Italian community in recognizing their pan-Canadian contributions in all fields of human endeavor. To recognize the immense efforts of Canadians of Italian heritage, the CIHF and the NCIC-Toronto District is urging the passing of legislation to celebrate Italian contributions in Canada ahead of the 2017 Italian Heritage Month.

2017 is also Canada's 150th anniversary of Confederation, providing a special opportunity to celebrate the success of Canada's diversity and pluralism, and to recognize the generations of Italians who have given back and worked to strengthen the economic, social, political, humanitarian and artistic sectors in Canada.

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