

Assemblea Generale Di Elezione
domenica 12 dicembre 2010, 15,30 p.m.
Sede Italo-Canadian Senior Citizens
10 Balsam Street (angolo di Gladstone)

President's Report:

The Executive Committee and the Board of Directors of the NCIC (National Capital District) were extremely active in 2008-2010. The NCIC represented the Italian Canadian community within a number of community events and sponsored a number of Community initiatives. Indeed, the NCIC was called upon time and time again to participate and collaborate on various community initiatives. The Board of Directors (member Presidents and Representatives of the various Italian Canadian Associations, who are members of the organization) were united and supportive of the Congress on a number of key issues. The Board in fact met on a number of occasions throughout the two years to discuss issues of concern to the Associations and to the Italian community. The Congress worked closely with key organizations such as Italian Week, Dante Alighieri Society, the Canadian Italian Business and Professional Association and Villa Marconi.

One area that has dominated the local Congress agenda over the last year or so was the application of funding for a key community project that would see the creation of the ***Italian Canadian Historical Center: A Center for Learning*** at Villa Marconi. The members of the Ad-hoc Committee on the grant worked tirelessly throughout the year to meet very stringent deadlines and submissions.

The absence of the youth within the organization and the unification of the Italian community and the Associations were also key topics of our focus over the mandate. Unfortunately, there are some members of our community that continue to attempt to fragment the community and this is unfortunate. However, notwithstanding and with committed resolve for what was right and just, we continued to pursue projects for the benefit of our community.

Three major initiatives during the mandate included:

a) **SOS Abruzzo Ottawa** - Fundraising initiatives in collaboration with the Italian Canadian Associations and Clubs through the Canadian Red Cross (April 2009) A series of fundraising activities were launched following the earthquake in the Abruzzo Region to raise funds to assist our brothers and sisters in Italy. The funds raised were collected and sent to the Canadian Red Cross. A Special Presentation ceremony was organized on January 24, 2010 where the funds were presented to the representatives of the Red Cross. The funds used were joined with funds raised by the Congress (Quebec Region) and sent to Italy for the reconstruction of the town of Onna.

b) **Youth Recognition Ceremony** - 39 Italian Canadian Youth in Ottawa were recognized for their achievements in education, professions and community involvement in conjunction with the Foundation (EODD) (March 2009) The Executive and the Board decided to host the first ever Youth Recognition Ceremony with the NCIC Foundation to recognize our Italian Canadian

youth. This event was a huge success and saw the participation of Italian Canadian Associations and Clubs who recognized the contribution of their Youth members.

c) Federal Government grant application - **Canadian Heritage Recognition Program** The numerous presentations and submissions made to government officials to bring our application forward cannot be numbered. The creation of the Italian Canadian Research Center: A Center for Learning would be a tremendous achievement for our community. It is anticipated that the Center will house archival material on the Internment as well as books and resource material on Italian immigration, culture, literature and language.

The list of activities undertaken by the Executive Committee members and the Board of Directors also included:

Social Events:

- Dante Alighieri Society of Ottawa - Lectures Series (National Library and Archives) under the patronage of the Italian Embassy
- Association Molisani di Ottawa - Presentation of the Zampogna to the Museum of Civilization (November 29, 2010)
- Giovanni Caboto Scholarship Ceremonies - NCIC Foundation and NCIC (Ottawa District) - March 2009, March 2010.
- Italian Week 2008, 2009 and 2010 - Literary Award Presentation - June 2008, 2009 and 2010
- Parolossima - June 2010
- Italian Week 2009 - *Italian Wine and Food Show* in collaboration with the Italian Canadian Associations - June 2009
- Italian Week 2010 - *Assaggi Night - La Dolce Vita* in collaboration with Italian Week 2010 and St. Anthony's Italia Soccer Club
- Sabatum Concert - May 2009
- Parkdale Orchestra Concert - June 2008 (coosponsors with IW and Centro Giovanile Formativo)
- Capital Brass Orchestra - June 2009 (coosponsors with IW and Centro Giovanile Formativo)
- Person of the Year 2009 and 2010 - Assoc. Savuto Cleto
- Carnevale dei Bambini - St. Anthony's Italia Soccer Club - February 2009 and February 2010
- St. Anthony's Day Celebrations- June 2008, June 2009, June 2010 - Presiding
- Madonna della Risurrezione - May 2008, May 2009 and June 2010 - Presiding
- Centro Giovanile Formativo - Christmas, Easter, School closing ceremonies - Presiding
- Remembrance Day ceremonies (2008,2009, 2010) - Presiding

General Assemblies (Executive and Board of Directors):

Throughout the mandate, while the Executive met on a monthly basis, a number of Board meetings were also held with member Associations including:

October 28, 2008
December 11, 2008
January 14, 2009
April 21, 2009
May 21, 2009
June 4, 11, 2009
July 2nd, 2009
November 11, 2009
January 24, 2010
April 8, 2010
October 1st, 2010
December 9th, 2010

Ad hoc Committee on the Federal Grant met bimonthly to discuss the various submissions and stages of the community project.

Acknowledgement Presentations and Advocacy:

- Redress - Italian interment - Interviews of the National Congress (Ottawa District) and Government officials on Tele 30, Chin Radio as well as meetings with Government (Canadian and Italian) Officials
- SOS Abruzzo - Fundraising for victims of the Abruzzo earthquake 2009
- Italian Week Presentation to Pres. Joe Cama - Italian Week 2009
- Italian Week Presentation to Joe Ierullo 2010 (St. Anthony's Italia Soccer Club)
- Piazza Dante - Meeting with City Officials re. renovation prospects
- Vicentini Social Club - Recognition Award Presentation (2009)
- Italian Heritage Month (June) - Private members bill passed in the Ontario Legislature (September 2010)
- John Caboto Trail (Giovanni Caboto Trail) - Private members motion before the Federal Government - petition
- UIM - Social Services projects - future collaboration

Conclusion:

These are but some of the many initiatives, activities and events in which the local Congress was visible and involved. The main objective of our mandate was to mark the presence of the organization, as the representative body of the Italian Canadian community. While not interfering with the numerous community events, we attempted to support, acknowledge and participate, to the greatest extent possible, in the various initiatives.

I am truly grateful to have had to opportunity to have worked with some key individuals in the community. I was blessed to have a very strong Executive Committee and Board of Directors (Presidents of the Associations) who were truly loyal and committed to continue the hardwork of the Congress during this mandate. The NCIC (Ottawa District) was fortunate to have had their

services over the two year term and I want to thank each and every one of them for supporting me and the Congress in the best and worst of times.

A note of thanks to the Senior Citizens on Balsam Street (their President Antonio Bucciarelli) for always agreeing to host the Congress Elections in their Hall. For their generosity, hospitality and their hardwork, I want to thank them.

One final word to our local Ottawa media, L'Ora di Ottawa and Tele 30, who throughout the years serve our Italian community with the utmost of integrity and respect. These institutions require our support and commitment as they are fundamental to the communication of issues of importance to our community. On behalf of the NCIC (Ottawa District), I want to extend my sincerest gratitude to them for their objectivity, accuracy and fairness in covering community events and affairs.

Josephine Palumbo
President