

For Immediate Release:

**Trillium Foundation of Ontario issues funding
to our Italian Canadian Senior Citizens**

Ottawa, May 16th, 2011 - The National Congress of Italian Canadians (Ottawa District) is pleased to announce the generous support of the Ontario Trillium Foundation towards a grant in favour of our Italian Canadian Senior Citizens in the Nation's Capital. In an official presentation ceremony held on May 7th, 2011 in the Hall of the Senior Citizen's Club, Yasir Naqvi, Member of Provincial Parliament, Ottawa Center, announced a successful funding initiative of \$15,000.00 in favour of the the Italian Canadian Senior Citizens Club (Balsam Street). The presentation was attended by Lévit Koloko, Senior Representative of the Trillium Foundation of Ontario and Josephine Palumbo, President, National Congress of Italian Canadians (Ottawa District) and in the presence of over 100 Senior Citizens and their families.

The volunteer sector plays a critical role in building healthy and vibrant communities. We believe it is imperative to support the work of our volunteers and enhance the long-term capacity of organization such as Senior Citizen's Clubs. .

Maintaining voluntary associations is not an easy task and relies upon the unwaivering commitment and hardwork of numerous volunteers and members of our local community who dedicate many hours in the planning, producing and presenting activities and events on a weekly basis. We do this because we care and because we recognize the tremendous value of fostering our local community which brings to life each and every week the wonderful richness of our multicultural society. Our Senior Citizens Club is one of the most valued recreational centers in our community.

The Italian Canadian Senior Citizens Club, which has been in existence for over 30 years, acts as a focal point of recreational activities for our Italian Seniors who would not have alternative venue to attend. The Club is lead by a well known member of our Italian community, Antonio Bucciarelli, whose passion and commitment to serving our community and in particular our precious Italian Seniors is known by many.

The Club offers a number of recreational and social services to its members. Through its various activities, it enhances the quality of life of our Seniors by ensuring that the lives of our Seniors remains active, meaningful and rich. The Club offers a sense of companionship and friendship to over 200 members who range in age from 70 to 100 years of age. The Club has, over the years, supported various community initiatives including fundraising efforts coordinated by the Canadian Red Cross and Italian Week initiatives. They are a focus point for political gatherings involving the municipal, provincial and federal governments.

Josephine Palumbo, President of the NCIC (Ottawa District) expressed her views as follows: “We are so pleased that the Trillium Foundation of Ontario through its generous financial support demonstrated its commitment to assisting our Italian Canadian Senior Citizens Club as a way to increase and promoting community engagement and volunteerism among people of all ages and abilities.”

She continued to say : “The NCIC (Ottawa District) is committed to ensuring that our Seniors continue to have a venue where they are able to meet with friends and family; engage in recreational activities that gives meaning and substance to their lives. Our Seniors have done so much for us and it is only fitting that we ensure that their needs and assistance are met.

We applaud and thank the Trillium Foundation of Ontario and our Member of Provincial Parliament, Yasir Naqvi, for assisting us in the presentation of this successful funding initiative which demonstrates our profound value and care for our Italian Seniors.”