

Conseil d'administration

Me Antonio Sciascia
Président

Friday, April 21, at the reception hall Plaza Le Rizz, in the district of Saint Leonard, was held the 50th anniversary gala of the National Congress of Italian-Canadians (Quebec region) and the 30 years of its known festival ItalfestMTL.

Me Philippe Messina
1^{er} Vice-Président

A historic event for the community and for the city of Montreal attended by several prominent personalities and introduced by **Sabrina Marandola** (CBC Radio One), **Joe Cacchione** (comedian and presenter), **Marco Luciani Castiglia** (journalist OMNI News/Rogers Media) also entertainers of the evening. The President of the Congress, **Antonio Sciascia**, the Director General **Josie Verrillo** and the President of the Organizing Committee, **Paolo Fortugno**, welcomed the guests.

Me Maria R. Battaglia
2^{ème} Vice-Présidente

Franco Palermo
Trésorier

Throughout the evening, meaningful words were spoken in support and in appreciation for the long activity of the Congress. The speeches by **Gaia La Cognata** (Deputy Head of Mission for Political Affairs, Responsible for coordinating the activities of the Italian Consular Network in Canada), Canadian Senator **Tony Loffreda**, Hon. **Pablo Rodriguez**, Canadian Heritage Minister, Quebec Lieutenant, Member of Parliament for Honoré-Mercier, and Hon. David Lametti, Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada, Member of Parliament for Lasalle-Émard-Verdun, have valued the history of the Congress and that of ItalfestTMTL.

Me Pietro Iannuzzi
Secrétaire

Administrateurs

Pino Asaro

Faustina A. Bilotta

A warm greeting to the community was also given by the Member the National Assembly for Jeanne-Mance-Viger and Chief Whip of the Official Opposition **Filomena Rotiroti** and by **Marc Tanguay**, Member the National Assembly for LaFontaine, and Leader of the Official Opposition.

Jonathan De Sua

James Di Sano

Also present were the Member of Parliament for Alfred-Pellan, **Angelo Iacono**, the President of the National Congress of Italian Canadians for Canada, **Roberto Colavecchio**, the President of the Italian-Canadian Community Foundation, **Joseph Broccolini**, **Chantal Rossi**, City Councillor of Montreal North, **Aref Salem**, City Councillor of Saint-Laurent, **Angela Gentile**, City Councillor of Saint-Leonard, as well as **Achille Cifelli**, City Councillor for Val-des-Arbres; **Isabelle Piché**, City Councillor for St-François; **David De Cotis**, City Councillor for St-Bruno; Paolo Galati, City Councillor for St-Vincent-de-Paul.

Paolo Fortugno

Eduardo Minicozzi

Francis Santoianni

Enrica Uva

During the evening a video was shown of all the past presidents of the Congress with their messages and words of encouragement. The Congress thanked them with a special gift: a limited edition reproduction of **Tristan Tondino's** work, commissioned in 2009 and representing the challenges and successes of the community. In addition to an excellent meal, the evening was highlighted by the remarkable music played by **SophistOccasion Showband**.

Josie Verrillo
Directrice Générale

It was therefore a unique evening to remember these five decades of history of the Congress which, through its actions, initiatives and activities, have positively influenced our community. To name but a few: the issue of dual citizenship and the right to vote abroad, the redressing and the official apology for the internment of Italian-Canadians during the Second World War, the repatriation of the Canadian Constitution, the issues of culture, migration and multiculturalism, and the numerous interventions against discrimination and stereotypes often attributed to our community. Most importantly, the creation of an Italian Week (now ItalfestMTL) to promote and safeguard our millennial culture.