

December / dicembre 2020

UNO SPIRAGLIO DI SPERANZA!

- “Hope smiles from the threshold of the year to come, whispering ‘it will be happier’...” – Alfred Lord Tennyson

Dear friends / Cari amici,

This has been quite a year. Like many of you, I will be very happy to see 2020 leave our thresholds and to have 2021, enter, with hope, encouragement and a beam of light, peering through at the end of the tunnel.

On behalf of the National Congress of Italian-Canadians (National Capital District), I would like to express a deep gratitude to all health care workers, first responders, their families and the many individuals who have tirelessly provided essential services during this pandemic. Because this global health crisis has brought many challenges to peoples’ livelihoods and small businesses within our community, please remember them through the many local charitable organizations. Remember to shop local-order takeout from the many wonderful restaurants that dot our Ottawa landscape. So many of these businesses are family run and have been around for many years. Businesses are the heart of a community and it is essential that they survive and remain vibrant long after this pandemic has ended.

March 1 marked the last live cultural event held at the Italian-Canadian Historical Centre and it is our hope that once things begin to look brighter on the horizon and we can provide and guarantee safe social practices and protocol, the NCIC will present a new roster of cultural activities, either solely or partnering with other Italian-Canadian

activities. Suggestions and ideas are always welcome. Un grande grazie al mio esecutivo. I am blessed to be surrounded by such dedicated individuals.

This Christmas holiday season, albeit a little different from past years, will provide each one of us the time to sit back and reflect on these past 9 months. Be grateful for all that you have. Please extend that gratitude and pay it forward to a friend, neighbour or family member who just may be in need.

On behalf of the many Italian-Canadian associations and the Executive of the NCIC, I wish you and your family a very Merry Christmas and a Happy 2021. Buon Natale e Felice Anno nuovo! Please stay safe this Holiday Season.

Sincerely,

Trina Costantini-Powell

President, National Congress of Italian-Canadians (NCD)