

CULTURAL COOPERATION PROGRAM BETWEEN THE
GOVERNMENT OF CANADA
AND THE
GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF ITALY
FOR THE PERIOD OF 1991-1992-1993-1994

The Government of Canada and the Government of the Republic of Italy, prompted by the desire to intensify their cultural cooperation and to strengthen cultural ties and friendship between the people of Italy and the people of Canada, pursuant to Article XVI of the Agreement on Cultural Cooperation between Italy and Canada of 17 May 1984, have agreed to the following exchange program for the period 1991-1992-1993-1994.

I. TEACHING OF RESPECTIVE LANGUAGES AND CULTURES

Article 1. The two parties shall strive to promote the development and strengthening of their respective languages and cultures in the two countries.

Article 2. The two parties note the existence of courses in Italian language and culture in Canadian schools of different provinces, both at the elementary and secondary levels.

In particular, Italian is being taught as an elective foreign language within the Heritage Languages Program in Ontario, the Programme d'Enseignement des Langues d'Origine (P.E.L.O.) in Quebec, and in over 800 extracurricular courses being offered to Canadian children mostly of Italian descent, which are run with substantial support from the Italian government.

In view of the level of interest and growing demand, the two parties will promote the development of programs to teach the Italian language and culture even at the secondary level, in order to draw attention to Italian not only as the language most widely spoken in Canada after the official languages, but also as a language of culture.

