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HERITAGE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION AND THE NATIONAL CONGRESS OF ITALIAN-CANADIANS, EDMONTON DISTRICT LAUNCHES ITALIAN WEBSITE

www.AlbertaSource.ca/abitalian

EDMONTON—The Heritage Community Foundation and National Congress of Italian Canadians, Edmonton District are launching the *Celebrating Alberta's Italian Community* website at 10:00 a.m. on February 20, 2003. The launch will be held in the *Ancient Rome* exhibit galleries, the feature exhibit, at the Provincial Museum of Alberta.

Adriana Albi Davies, Ph.D., Executive Director of the Foundation and the Italian community's historian, noted "The *Celebrating Alberta's Italian Community* website is a model for presenting the contributions of Alberta's ethnocultural communities. It gives those largely faceless and nameless immigrants a presence and ensures that their stories are told and that they become a part of the official history of the West. It is a new way of doing community history."

Carlo Amodio, President of the National Congress of Italian Canadians, Edmonton District, said "I was amazed to discover that the Italian community celebrated its centenary in Alberta in 2001/2002 without knowing about it. This information is now available not only to our children and grandchildren but also to all Albertans as a curriculum resource."

The website covers three major topics: Background, Lifeways and People and includes original national, provincial and regional profiles as well as overview articles on a range of themes including arts and culture, religion, Fascism and internment. Other features include a Virtual Tour of Edmonton's Little Italy, photo albums of pioneering families and organizations, and articles from *Il Congresso*, Alberta's leading Italian newspaper. The most important aspect of the site is that immigrants speak in their own voices—audio clips from selected oral histories allow the user to hear the voices and memories of members of the Italian community. The website is media rich and is the Foundation's largest exceeding 1100 html pages.

This website is a vital part of the proposed *Alberta Online Encyclopedia* (www.AlbertaSource.ca), the Heritage Community Foundation's intellectual legacy project for Alberta's centenary in 2005.

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