



For immediate release

## **Official Delegation from City of Milan in Toronto**

### ***Group to Study Toronto's Expertise in Providing Social Services to Ethnically Diverse Newcomers***

TORONTO – June 18, 2008 – A delegation from the City of Milan will visit Toronto from Friday, June 20<sup>th</sup> until Tuesday, June 24<sup>th</sup> to study how Toronto tackles the pressing social issues of affordable housing, drug prevention, social integration and the delivery of other key social services to an ethnically diverse population – a problem facing large metropolitan centres around the world.

The delegation, led by senior elected officials from the City of Milan, will include: Councillor **Aldo Brandirali**, Chairman of the Social Services Committee; Councillor **Paolo Bianco**, Chairman of the Health and Prevention Committee; Councillor **Michele Mardegan**, Chairman of the Cultural Affairs Committee; Councillor **Patrizia Quartieri**, Chairman of the Equal Opportunities Committee and Councillor **Marco Cormio**.

The fact-finding mission, organized by the Italian Chamber of Commerce of Toronto (ICCT), will allow the visiting councillors to meet with counterparts in Toronto, as well as affording them a chance to observe firsthand how Toronto successfully employs social services as a means to integrate large numbers of immigrants from the four corners of the world.

*“This visit represents an enormous compliment to Toronto’s ability to welcome newcomers from around the world,”* says **ICCT Executive Director Corrado Paina**, *“large cities like Milan are facing the same issues as we are: how do you successfully integrate newcomers – who come from ethnic backgrounds different from that of the majority – without causing a major social upheaval?”*

*“Experts agree that countries with low birthrates, such as Canada and Italy, face major competitive issues if they cannot renew an aging workforce,”* Paina adds, *“and I think that cities which successfully implement strategies that truly integrate newcomers will have a distinct economic and social advantage over cities unable or unwilling to welcome them.”*

Both Toronto and Milan are the undisputed economic engines – and financial capitals – of their respective G8 countries. Twinned since 2002, this mission is the latest initiative to bring the two sister cities closer together, culturally, socially and economically.

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#### **Media Contact:**

**Although no press conference is planned during this mission, requests for photo sessions and/or interviews with visiting officials are most welcome:**

**Please Contact Martin Holley for more information:**

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#### **ABOUT ICCT**

The Italian Chamber of Commerce of Toronto’s mission is to promote economic and cultural synergies worldwide – between business, government and individuals, with special emphasis on Italy, Ontario and the GTA.