



MILANO

## **C MILANO ICCO ITALY CANADA AWARD**

**Nicola Capomasi**

**Vice President, Thor & Partners Inc.**



Born and raised in Padua, Veneto region in Northern Italy, a place where owning your business is everybody's dream. After a few years at university, in 1993 I started working in my parents' company, founded in 1978. It was a janitorial company specialized in churches, monasteries and office buildings owned by the Catholic Church. The more I worked with materials and products, the more I wanted to learn about the latest techniques and cleaning processes. Because I was surrounded by history and ancient stone wherever I went, I started being passionate about cleaning and preserving the magnificent heritage around me. My ambition was to create a specialized company like no other and acquire the expertise to clean and protect the most sensitive surfaces. That is why I sold the janitorial company in 1999 and, together with a few techs, I started dealing with specialized cleaning only, heritage cleaning above all. Results came quickly: we cleaned the main monuments and main altar inside the

Basilica of St Anthony, we cleaned and restored the railway station palace, the bell tower of St. George and Saint Martha's Port Authority in Venice. In the early 2000's I was asked to clean the stone pillars of the Tour Eiffel in Paris, a stairway at the Louvre Museum, Piazza Duomo and Piazza della Scala in Milan, the façade of the Italian Embassy in Moscow. At that point, I knew sky was the limit but I also knew that the Italian economic system would never allow me to grow. That's why I decided to push myself even more and try to move to Canada. I decided to leave everything and everyone behind in 2014, at 42, and I left my homeland with a dream: "I want to be free to expand my business and make my potential grow every day". I will always be thankful to Mr. Franco Prevedello, who showed me the open door and introduced me to Mr. Glen Pestrin, owner of York Marble, who sponsored my work visa and most of all believed in me from day one. Now our company, Thor&Partners, has 15 employees and in October 2016 we won the bid to clean the Parliament Walls in Ottawa and to restore the works of art inside the Parliament. My vision now is teaching Canadian youths how to restore and preserve "the Italian way".

*"Italy gave me the skills, Canada gave me the chance".*