



*Consolato Generale d'Italia a Toronto*



## **PRESS RELEASE**

The Consulate General of Italy in partnership with the Canadian Italian Business and Professional Association (CIBPA) of Toronto will review the feasibility and any alternative options related to the potential redevelopment of the property located at 136 Beverley Street in Toronto, historically known as ‘*Chudleigh House*’.

The purpose of the potential redevelopment is to create an icon for Torontonians, preserving the historical character of the building. The intent is to establish an Italian landmark in downtown Toronto to showcase Italy and benefit Italians and Canadians of Italian origin living in Toronto, and more broadly in the rest of Ontario and Canada, as well as consolidating the institutional presence of the Italian Government under one roof in a state-of-the-art facility, while housing other organizations of the Italian and Italian-Canadian Community as well.

In order to assist with the process and review all possible options the Consulate and CIBPA have appointed an Advisory Committee.

During the process, the Consulate and CIBPA will be hosting public consultations.

For further information related to the initiative, please visit the Consulate’s website, [www.constoronto.esteri.it](http://www.constoronto.esteri.it).

### *Chudleigh House*

George Lissant Beardmore, a prosperous tanner, built the house, named for his birthplace, in 1871-72, with additions and alterations by architect Eden Smith in 1890. His son, George Wathen Beardmore, occupied the house until his death. In 1936 it was purchased by Toronto Casa d’Italia Limited for use as the Italian Consulate. The

property was confiscated by and transferred to the Government of Canada in 1941, and, for almost twenty years, the building served as a barracks for the R.C.M.P..

On July 6, 1955, the Canadian Government transferred the property to representatives of the local Italian Community in trust and for the benefit of the said Community. On December 21, 1960, these representatives who were members of the Canadian Italian Business and Professional Association (CIBPA) transferred the property to the Consul General of Italy in Toronto in trust for the Italian Republic retaining priority rights in the event the Consul General of Italy wished to sell or lease the property.

Between 1962 and 1977 the building housed COSTI (*Centro Organizzativo Scuole Tecniche Italiane*) and in 1979, after an extensive renovation, “Chudleigh” again became the home of Toronto’s Italian Consulate and has been used as such ever since.

### *About the Organizations*

The Consulate General of Italy in Toronto is an office of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation. The Consulate protects the interests of Italians living in Ontario, Manitoba and Northwest Territories and provides services and resources to Italian citizens. The Consulate also promotes bilateral trade, Italian culture and language, as well as bilateral scientific cooperation and intercultural exchange.

The Canadian Italian Business and Professional Association of Toronto (CIBPA) is a non-profit member organization founded in 1952. Since then, it has earned a reputation with Greater Toronto Area communities and Government for representing the interests and views of Canadians of Italian heritage.

Toronto, October 6, 2016