

**For Immediate Release:  
December 6, 2010**

**WAS YOUR FAMILY AFFECTED?**

We need the Italian Canadian community's help to realize our goal to document the Italian Canadian World War II experience, including the Canadian government's actions resulting in internments.

**UPDATE:**

***Italian Canadians as Enemy Aliens: Memories of World War II*  
— a project by Columbus Centre of Toronto**

The project has a new public name — *Italian Canadians as Enemy Aliens: Memories of World War II*. With all the members of the project team on board, the project is moving forward in its initial stages of research, securing potential interviewees for the oral histories and developing its archival/artifact collection.

**MEET THE TEAM**

Leading the team is Project Director Lucy Di Pietro (B.A. Honours, M. MSt.), who has over ten years of experience in various aspects of museum work. Supporting Lucy are Researchers/Writers Melina De Guglielmo (B.A. Honours, B.Ed.) and Travis Tomchuk (Ph.D); Exhibit/Collections Coordinator Stefanie Petrilli (B.F.A. Honours, M.A.); and Project Assistants Louanne Aspillaga (B.A. Honours, M.A.) and Krystle Copeland (B.A. Honours, M.A.).

**CURRENT WORK**

The project is in the process of identifying and contacting possible interviewees for the development of the oral histories collection. The project is collecting personal memories of those who were either directly affected by the internment, an "enemy alien" designation and other forms of discrimination, or who want to share the experiences of family members. Stories of personal resilience and community initiative during this period are also of interest to the project.

Additionally, any donated or loaned personal objects and their accompanying stories will assist in forming a permanent exhibit that will be housed at the Columbus Centre.

Most recently, the project team has visited potential interviewees and material donors within the GTA and Montreal. Pilot interviews with those confirmed interviewees are currently underway.

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

Focus Group (January 2011)

You can contribute to this national project by sharing your suggestions and opinions.

Become a member of one of our focus groups: (i) Youth Focus Group (ii) Italian Community Focus Group (iii) Education Focus Group.

Town Hall (February 2011)

Be a part of this special event! Meet the team, preview pilot interviews, receive exclusive information regarding project updates and get a sneak peek of the permanent exhibit.

**CONTACT INFO:**

For more information on the project — to suggest an interview contact, or if you have any materials related to the war experience of Italian Canadians in Canada — please contact the project office at 416 789 7011 ext. 330 or 335, or email [director@italiancanadianww2.ca](mailto:director@italiancanadianww2.ca) or [info@italiancanadianww2.ca](mailto:info@italiancanadianww2.ca).

**About the Columbus Centre:**

Columbus Centre, a not-for-profit organization, is the largest Italian Canadian cultural centre in Canada. The Centre is located in Toronto, and within the Golden Horseshoe, where the largest numbers of Canadians of Italian origin reside. Columbus Centre is part of Villa Charities Inc., a family of organizations which includes long-term care facilities and apartment buildings for the elderly and individuals with intellectual and mental health disabilities; athletic facilities; three day centers; and an art gallery.

**Funded by:**

