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**A Proud Businessman is elected to
Vaughan City Council to make a difference**

Feature Story



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Letter from the Editor



The year 2023 has ended! It was a dramatic year with wars and tragedies. I look to 2024 to bring positive change, peace and joy to the world. Even though we reflect on the year behind us we look forward to creating personal wish lists for ourselves and family. These lists may include travel and creative projects to satisfy our inner being. In many countries these cultural creative projects are implemented throughout the

year to bring us joy and happiness.

In this Issue I feature Chris Ainsworth a prominent businessman and philanthropist who truly cares about our community. Chris turned to politics to give back to the community by offering his expertise achieved in private business ventures. I hope you get to meet him and feel the energy he brings to Vaughan City Council

On Valentine's Day quickly approaching don't forget to love your neighbour and show how grateful you are for their long-lasting friendship. I stress this because of our busy lives, and we tend to not know our neighbour. The world is changing at an accelerated pace, but we must stop and appreciate who we have living next to us. Family Day on February 19th is also an important date to rejoice and spend the day with your family including your siblings and loved ones close to you and living far from you. Family Day is a holiday celebrating the importance of families and family life to people and their communities. Rejoice and enjoy the day with reflection and love.

My vision for 2024 is to change the world to a better place in which to live where enemies become friends and peace is achieved. Imagine that there would be no more wars and all people living in harmony coming to the aid of each other. This vision would be utopia in which our children and grandchildren would be living.

Enjoy life to the fullest and have a great 2024 fulfilling your dreams.

Cheers!



Josie Alonzi

The Voice 2020

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Memories of 2023



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A Message from the Mayor

I want to wish everyone in Vaughan a happy and healthy New Year! I hope to see you at our Mayor and Council New Year's Levee to celebrate the start of a new year together!

Sunday, January 21, 2024
9:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

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We look forward to celebrating the start of the new year with you!

Steven Del Duca - Mayor, City of Vaughan

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**Wishing you a prosperous
& joyful New Year ahead!**

Stay tuned for the upcoming
March/April issue of *The Voice 2020*
for a special feature from the VCC.

Hammering Away at Housing Affordability: Recommendations from the Senate

by *The Honourable Senator Tony Loffreda*

“People who live without a house are not homeless because of their ancestry or because of mental health or addictions or because they live in poverty. They are homeless because there is not enough affordable housing in their community.”

This is what the Minister of Housing told our Committee on Banking, Commerce and the Economy when he appeared before us as part of our study on affordable housing. As he said, “people do not choose homelessness.”

Indeed, there are numerous factors – some economic, others societal – that explain why individuals find themselves without a home. Chief among them may be the fact that there is a serious housing shortage in Canada. Recognizing the urgency of this crisis, our Committee undertook a study on housing affordability, heard from various experts, and published interim findings earlier this month.

If there’s one number that should worry us the most, it is: 3,500,000.

That’s the number of additional homes, according to the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC), that must be built by 2030 to reach its affordability target. We are already on pace to build 1.7 million new homes from now until then, so in total, we actually need to increase the stock of houses by 5.2 million in the next seven years. This is nearly impossible in the current environment with high interest rates, long approval delays, zoning issues, cost of material and inflation, and skilled labour shortages.

Of course, there is no panacea, but there are remedies that could be implemented to address some of these challenges.

Based on the testimony we gathered, our Committee put forward ten recommendations that we hope the federal government will consider as it prepares its 2024 Budget. Our report is structured around four themes: alignment, innovation, people, and capital.

Our Committee’s very first recommendation is to encourage the Federal Government to consider attaching conditions to municipal funding for public transit that would require housing densification in urban centres near those projects.

One interesting takeaway from our meetings was the suggestion that a shift in perspectives in terms of what constitutes a home is needed among Canadians. Bob Dugan, Chief Economist at the Canada Mortgage and Housing

Corporation, explained how there is nothing wrong with renting. Society has, in some ways, labelled home ownership as an important goal to aspire to in life, but as he said, “we have to also stop treating rental as a second-best option... it’s a perfectly legitimate way to house yourself.” This is particularly the case in major urban centres which further supports the idea of densification.

Randall Bartlett, from the Desjardins Group, explained that in some of our larger cities we seem to penalize density and promoted the notion of converting existing office spaces into congregate living spaces with centralized resources that could be shared among several individuals like student accommodations or seniors’ homes. This approach may not always be the most cost-effective, but it is one of many solutions.

Likewise, the federal government should continue to streamline the application process for CMHC’s housing programs and support the construction of more social housing. By way of comparison, social housing in Canada represents only 3.5% of total stock, which is among the lowest in the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development.

Finally, there is a severe shortage of skilled workers in the construction sector. As we suggested, the Federal Government must attract immigrants that are trained in the skilled trades and should consider housing supply when developing immigration policies. Notwithstanding my strong personal support for ambitious immigration targets, I do recognize, as did some of our witnesses, that Canada’s immigration levels may be negatively impacting housing affordability. The Government must manage population growth so that it advances at a pace which is sustainable and does not further erode housing affordability.

Despite the Government’s housing strategy and the billions of dollars it has already invested to address affordability, we need to do more and, hopefully, the Government will review our findings as it considers next steps.

As the Holiday Season fast approaches, I can’t help but think of all those Christmas mornings at my childhood home and current residence with my parents, children, and family. Looking back, I realize how lucky we were to have a place to call home. As Perry Como reminds us in his 1954 holiday classic:

“There’s no place like home for the Holidays, ‘cause no matter how far away you roam, if you want to be happy in a million ways, for the Holidays, you can’t beat home sweet home.”

Not everyone will have that luxury this Holiday Season. For those of us who will gather with friends and families in our homes, I hope we will all have a special thought for those who may not be as fortunate.

A Success Story in Consultations at the Federal Level: Employee Ownership Trusts Are Coming to Canada

by *The Honourable Senator Tony Loffreda*

Canada will soon have an employee ownership trust (EOT) regime.

We knew this was coming as the Federal Government had first articulated its intention to engage with stakeholders to examine what barriers exist to the creation of these trusts in Budget 2021.

A year later, in Budget 2022, and most recently, in Budget 2023, the Government reconfirmed its commitment to incorporate EOTs into the Income Tax Act and sought further stakeholder feedback to make sure that the model Canada would adopt can be successful and achieve its intended objectives. Following consultations this summer, the Government finally set out its plan in the Fall Economic Statement that the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance delivered in the House of Commons last week.

As described by the Government, EOTs enable employees to share in the success of their work by supporting participation in business decisions and allowing workers to receive their share of profits. Because of this, I have been a vocal advocate for EOTs.

For months, the Canadian Employee Ownership Coalition, of which I am a supporter, has been collaborating with the Department of Finance and advocating for the best possible EOT model for Canadian entrepreneurs and businesses. Our Coalition knew that without proper incentives, business owners would likely not consider EOTs as an attractive option.

All our hard work paid off last week when the Government announced that it would integrate incentives into its model, something it had been hesitant to include from the outset. The Government is now proposing to exempt the first \$10 million in capital gains realized on the sale of a business to an EOT from taxation.

The timing of this measure could not have been any better. Projections suggest that 76% of Canadian business owners anticipate retiring in the next decade. Having EOTs as an alternative option for any business succession plan is quite appealing and, with last week's announcement, a very incentivizing one that, I hope, Canadian business owners will seriously consider.

Indeed, according to the Canadian Federation of Small Businesses, 59% of entrepreneurs support adopting EOTs

and more than half of those surveyed also said they would be more likely to sell their business to their employees if incentives would be incorporated into the Canadian model.

The Government projects this measure will reduce federal revenues by \$52 million over the next four years. While I appreciate that the Government needs to be increasingly more fiscally responsible, I strongly believe the long-term benefits certainly outweigh the short-term costs.

First, and perhaps most importantly, EOTs allow employees to reap the benefits of its employer's success and take part in profit-sharing. Beyond that, EOTs can also help support local economies, protect jobs, improve business performance, and can even help mitigate and reduce worker inequalities.

With a Federal Government committed to growing the middle class, this measure should help Canadian workers accumulate more wealth and, hopefully, make life a little more affordable for them in the long run. Of course, EOTs are also quite appealing to entrepreneurs and owners themselves because they could help secure and preserve their business legacy, ensure that their life's work remains in their community, and protect and strengthen the connection they have established and cultivated with its people, its customers and its staff over many years and decades.

Putting politics and partisanship aside, I believe that last week's announcement can serve as a great example of consultations gone right.

Just a few months ago, it was apparent that the Government wanted to introduce EOTs without the capital gains incentive. I had a sense that they wanted to introduce EOTs incrementally and evaluate its initial success before adding any incentives into the model.

Clearly, the Government always kept an open mind. I wrote extensively on the subject, spoke with the minister's office and the Coalition lobbied Finance Canada. The Government listened, and I think, what we have before us, is an interesting and appealing alternative for business owners to consider, whether it be a part of a succession plan or not.

Business owners and workers alike can benefit tremendously from employee ownership trusts, and I look forward to casting my vote in favour of this measure when the Senate reviews the upcoming bill that will legislate this concept into law.





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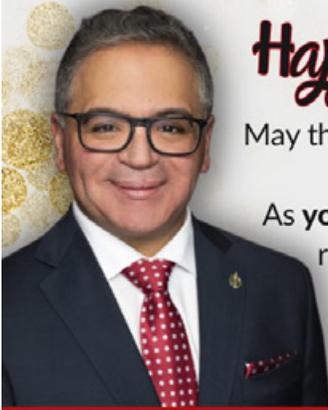
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Happy New Year 2024, Vaughan-Woodbridge!

May this year be blessed with moments of joy, achievements that fill us with pride, and a sense of togetherness that knows no bounds.

As **your local voice in Ottawa**, I remain focused on delivering real results for Vaughan residents. From building more homes to making life more affordable, we are putting more money in your pockets, investing in Vaughan-Woodbridge, and creating more good-paying jobs for Canadians.

Wishing you & your loved ones a year filled with peace, prosperity & happiness!



FRANCESCO SORBARA, MP

Member of Parliament *for* Vaughan-Woodbridge

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NEW

Canadian Dental Care Plan



Launched on December 11th, the **Canadian Dental Care Plan (CDCP)** will help ease financial barriers to accessing oral health care for up to nine million uninsured Canadian residents with an annual family income of less than \$90,000. Applications first opened for seniors aged 87 and above in December 2023. The plan will expand in phases to seniors:

- aged 77 to 86 starting in January 2024
- aged 72 to 76 starting in February 2024
- aged 70 to 71 starting in March 2024
- aged 65 to 69 starting in May 2024

Individuals in these age groups, who may be eligible, will receive letters inviting them to apply, with instructions on how to validate their eligibility and apply by telephone.



[LEARN MORE AT CANADA.CA/DENTAL](https://canada.ca/dental)



2024 Federal Benefits Payment Dates

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
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Canada Child Benefit	19	20	20	19	17	20	19	20	20	18	20	13
GST/HST Credit	5			5			5			5		
Veterans Disability Benefit	30	27	29	26	30	28	26	30	27	30	29	20
Climate Action Incentive Payment	15			15			15			15		
Advanced Canada Workers Benefit	12						12			11		

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Fall Prevention and Recovery

By Dr. Yako Merogi

As we age, maintaining mobility and preventing slips and falls becomes paramount for seniors. Chiropractors, in collaboration with rehabilitation exercise experts, offer comprehensive strategies to safeguard seniors against falls and support their recovery in the event of an accident.

Preventing Falls: Tips for Seniors

Tailored Exercise Programs: Chiropractors and rehabilitation exercise experts work together to design personalized exercise programs for seniors. These programs focus on strengthening core muscles, improving balance, and enhancing overall flexibility, critical components in preventing falls.

Home Safety Assessments: Collaboratively, conducting home safety assessments to identify potential hazards. Simple modifications such as removing clutter, installing grab bars, and ensuring proper lighting can significantly reduce the risk of falls within the home environment.

Footwear Considerations: Chiropractors stress the importance of proper footwear for seniors. Rehab experts can recommend shoes with non-slip soles and good arch support, providing seniors with stable footing and reducing the likelihood of slips.

Regular Chiropractic Check-ups: Routine visits to a chiropractor are essential for seniors. Chiropractors can identify musculoskeletal imbalances or joint issues, allowing for early intervention to address potential problems before they contribute to a fall.

Immediate Steps After a Fall Stay

Calm and Assess:

In the aftermath of a fall, seniors are advised to stay calm and assess themselves for injuries. By taking a moment to check for pain or discomfort, they can determine the severity of the situation.

Seek Professional Help: Immediate medical attention is crucial after a fall. Chiropractors, working in tandem with rehabilitation exercise experts, can conduct a comprehensive assessment to identify misalignments or injuries resulting from the fall.

Chiropractic Care and Rehab for Post-Fall Recovery

Alignment Corrections: Chiropractors specialize in realigning the spine and joints. Following a fall, adjustments can correct any misalignments, relieving pain and restoring optimal function.

Targeted Rehab Exercises: Rehabilitation exercise experts develop customized programs to aid in the recovery process. These exercises focus on rebuilding strength, improving flexibility, and enhancing mobility, facilitating a faster and more effective recovery.

Pain Management Strategies: Collaboratively, chiropractors and rehab experts employ various pain management techniques. From therapeutic massage to targeted stretches, these approaches help reduce inflammation and alleviate discomfort, promoting a smoother recovery.

In conclusion, a proactive approach to fall prevention, coupled with the expertise of rehabilitation professionals, empowers seniors to lead active and confident lives. By integrating personalized exercise routines, routine chiropractic care, and immediate action after a fall, seniors can significantly reduce the risk of falls and navigate recovery with resilience. Should you have any questions, please contact our office. **Dr. Yako Merogi** | www.bodycure.ca



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New Year, New You Get Ready to Transform your Life to a better place in 2024!

By Vince Soda

As we welcome a fresh start this January, it's time to embrace the "New Year, New You" spirit with Vince Soda, your dedicated health and life coach at Lighthouse 1 Eighty. Vince's personal journey from battling weight issues, high cholesterol, and a host of health challenges to a vibrant, healthy life is nothing short of inspiring. He understands the struggles of dieting, the feeling of being overwhelmed by life's changes, and the temptation of self-sabotage.

Vince's transformation wasn't just about losing weight; it was a holistic change that began with a shift in mindset. By Integrating nutrition, holistic methods, and science-based approaches, Vince crafted his journey towards health and happiness. Now, he's here to guide you through the

1 Eighty Program, a transformative experience tailored to your unique goals, be it weight loss, well-being, or navigating life's transitions.

Self-sabotage is a common hurdle many face in achieving their goals. It's not just about choosing between a diet and enjoying

life with family and friends; it's about striking a balance and making lifestyle changes. Often, we find excuses – too busy to hit the gym, prioritizing others over our self-care, or letting minor inconveniences derail our plans. These are signs of putting ourselves last, and it's time to change that narrative.

External factors like the behavior of friends or family and internal conflicts can lead to self-sabotage. It's crucial to recognize these elements and confront them head-on. Vince's approach is about becoming hyper-aware of these temptations and setting up conditions for inevitable success. Remember, it's not about deprivation but about making choices that align with your health and happiness goals.

Vince is more than a coach; he's your accountability partner, cheerleader, and guide. His advice to you is take small steps, consistent steps towards your goals and celebrate each victory. With his support, you'll embark on a journey towards a healthier happier you in which place success is not just possible but inevitable.

This year let's break the cycle of self-sabotage and embrace a lifestyle that brings out the best in us. Let the 1 Eighty Program help you not only set your goals but transform your life. Join us at Lighthouse1Eighty and start your journey to a New You this New Year!



The best version of you already exists, we help you bring it out with the **1Eighty Coaching Program**

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A Proud Businessman is elected to Vaughan City Council to make a difference

By Angelo Filoso

From the bustling heart of Toronto, Chris Ainsworth's journey from a vibrant childhood in North York to his current role as the Ward 4 City Councillor in the City of Vaughan has been nothing short of extraordinary. Born to hard working parents, Glen and Peggy Ainsworth, who hail from English and Scottish heritage, Chris experienced a bustling middle-class upbringing in North York surrounded by his eight siblings. Chris's father, Glen, carved a successful sales career at Esso Imperial Oil, while Peggy initially dedicated herself to raising their large family before joining the public sector. The Ainsworth family legacy included the founding of Toronto's Largest Electrical Company, "Ainsworth Electric," by Chris's grandfather and his brothers.

The Ainsworth household buzzed with activity, creating a vibrant environment for Chris to fondly recall his childhood, marked by outdoor escapades such as skateboarding and go-karting. Nestled in a multicultural neighborhood, his formative years were marked by the harmonious blend of cultures, creating a foundation for lifelong friendships that transcended cultural boundaries.

Chris attended Ernest Public School in his early years before progressing to Senator O'Connor Catholic High School. His academic journey culminated at Ryerson University (now Toronto University), where he earned a Bachelor of Commerce in Business Management, laying the foundation for his diverse career in sales and marketing.

From early roles at Coca-Cola Bottling to later achieving Senior VP Sales and Marketing positions in the Restaurant Food Equipment Industry, Chris displayed a penchant for leadership and entrepreneurship. His dream of business

ownership materialized with the creation of the "Ainsworth Foodservice Group," a Canadian Food Equipment & Small wares Buying Group.

Upon settling in Vaughan's Thornhill Woods area back in 2002 with his wife Shirley and sons Ryan and Matthew, Chris felt a calling to contribute to community development. His commitment to making a positive impact led to the creation of the Thornhill Woods Haunted House, an annual Halloween attraction that not only entertained but also raised over \$180,000 for SickKid hospital.

Beyond the recognition garnered through his annual Halloween Haunted House, Chris has become renowned for curating the most impeccable lawn and garden in the area. Chris's affinity for gardening traces back to his late mother, Peggy, who passed down the love of cultivating green spaces. This familial connection to the soil became a cornerstone of Chris's identity, intertwining his green thumb with a deep sense of responsibility to the community he calls home. Organizing regular clean-up events, he encourages fellow residents to actively participate in maintaining the cleanliness and charm of the neighborhood. In recognition of his exceptional contributions, Chris was honoured with the



City of Vaughan Civic Hero award in 2020.

While a career in politics wasn't initially on Chris's radar, an unexpected opportunity emerged when the previous Ward 4 City Councillor Sandra Yeung Racco encouraged, him to run for the position. With the support of his family, friends, and a dedicated team of volunteers, Chris



With MP Melissa Lanstman, MPP Laura Smith and Deputy Mayor Linda Jackson

successfully entered the political arena and secured the Ward 4 City Councillor position.

In his inaugural year as Ward 4 City Councillor, Chris Ainsworth reflects on a year filled with accomplishments which resonate deeply within the community. His commitment to enhancing the quality of life for residents has been evident through a diverse range of initiatives and engagements.

One notable achievement is the improvement of amenities at the community dog park, of which Chris worked diligently to enhance lighting and water supply. These enhancements not only contribute to the well-being of furry companions but also create a more vibrant communal space.

The commemoration of community members has been another highlight, showcasing Chris's dedication to recognizing the invaluable contributions of individuals within the ward. In the spirit of community bonding, he successfully organized engaging events, with the neighbourhood Dog Costume Contest standing out as a festive and inclusive celebration.

Beyond these accomplishments, Chris's impact extends to several pivotal projects:

- Street Bench on Apple Blossom Road: A thoughtful addition that enhances community gathering spaces.
- Cross Walks for Senior Safety: Addressing the needs of seniors by ensuring safe road crossings.
- Concert in the Park: Fostering a sense of community through cultural and recreational events.
- Rate Payers Associations Involvement: Collaborating with residents to address concerns effectively.
- Support for Senior Clubs and Homes: Advocating for the voices of seniors in local governance.
- Working Closely with Developers: Ensuring responsible development that respects existing neighborhoods.

Furthermore, Chris has taken a proactive stance on community inclusivity. His involvement in addressing Anti-Semitism as the co-chair of the Anti-Hate, Diversity & Inclusion Committee underscores his commitment to fostering a tolerant and diverse community.

Chris's dedication extends to his participation in various committees, including notable roles as the Vice Chair of the Audit Committee, Vice-Chair of the Community Safety



Advisory Committee, Member of the Heritage Vaughan Committee and Vaughan Public Library Board. However, his heartfelt commitment is most evident as a Member of the VMC Sub-Committee, where he takes pride in witnessing the flourishing growth of the Vaughan Metropolitan Centre, a central and integral part of Ward 4 and the City of Vaughan.

As Councillor Ainsworth looks back on his first year in office, the community stands as a testament to his unwavering dedication and impactful contributions. His multifaceted approach to community engagement and development reflects a commitment that goes beyond the political arena, resonating with residents and fostering a sense of pride in Ward 4. The road ahead is filled with aspirations and projects aimed at enhancing the lives of residents. Chris's unwavering commitment to his grassroots approach and collaborative working style with fellow Council members and the mayor ensures that the journey ahead will be one of continued progress, unity, and positive change for the community he proudly serves.





Councillor Chris Ainsworth, at a local community event



Celebrating the first night of Chanukah with Rabbi Deren



Councillor Chris Ainsworth, visiting a garden of Concord West Resident



Councillor Chris Ainsworth, with seniors at Chartwell Valley Vista



Menorah Lighting with Chabad Russian



At the Challah Bake in Thornhill Centre of Thornhill Woods

Happy
NEW YEAR
 2024

Wishing you all abundant joy, happiness, and enduring health in the upcoming year. Looking forward to another year of great accomplishments in Ward 4. As always, I remain dedicated to serving you.



Chris Ainsworth
 Ward 4 - Councillor
 City of Vaughan
 905-832-2281 ext. 8342
 chris.ainsworth@vaughan.ca



With Councillor Rosanna DeFrancesca, Mayor Stephen Del Duca and Councillor Gila Martow



Not Enough Resources in taking Care of Our Elderly. Canadian Institutions must Act Now and Be Thankful to Our Seniors By investing in their Quality of Life.

By Ivan Muller

Are your parents and the elderly being treated with dignity and respect in retirement homes?

Due to our advanced medicine, our population is reaching ages 85 to 95 or more.

The retirement homes are increasing in numbers.

We retirees, who are of many different personalities and also suffering with many medical issues like:

Alzheimer, Dementia, Parkinson, Cancer, heart problems, and other physical ailments, are not easy to look after and all those who are serving us need better training on how to do so with empathy, patience, and loving care. There are some countries, which understand the need and have learned to look after their elderly in a more dignified and respectful manner.

In our Canada there are some retirement homes which are amazing with wonderful facilities, like:

- gym with the latest modern machinery,
- swimming pool with salt water,
- coffee shop, serving 24/7 various types of coffee, tea & cookies,
- pub room for happy hour & many different lectures,
- weekly entertaining of multi cultural music,
- movies, bingo
- spa & hair salon,
- theatre, synagogue.

The care and looking after us, especially in Covid 19 pandemic is at a high level with extreme attention and responsibility.

This being the case, there is still room for improvement on how to treat the elderly in their retirement homes.

I hope we realize, we all are in a learning process. Please remember, that one day sooner than you may wish, you will be in our shoes, in the same situation, hoping to receive the care you deserve.

All health authorities, government, news media, please get together and build a better and pleasant future for our elderly.

Always remember the 'Golden Rule'... "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you" ... no matter our age. Simply said: "TREAT US AS YOU WOULD LIKE TO BE TREATED" - with Dignity and Respect! I am appealing to you, please help us because when you get old you also will benefit from the improvements put into place now. Sincerely yours Ivan

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Margie Singleton, CEO of Vaughan Public Libraries, Named the 2023 Dalhousie Outstanding Alumni Award Recipient

Margie Singleton, CEO of Vaughan Public Libraries, Named the 2023 Dalhousie Outstanding Alumni Award Recipient VAUGHAN, ONTARIO – Vaughan Public Libraries (VPL) is delighted to announce that Margie Singleton has received the 2023 Outstanding Alumni Award (OAA) from Dalhousie University, Department of Information Management. Margie, currently serving as the CEO of VPL, has a remarkable career spanning decades in the field of public libraries, making her a well-deserved honoree.

Throughout Margie’s career, she has worked in various public libraries, including Kingston, Barrie, Toronto Public Library, and Clarington Public Library. In 2000, she joined VPL, marking a significant chapter in her career and becoming a steadfast advocate for local, provincial, and national public libraries.

“I am thrilled to congratulate Margie Singleton, CEO of VPL, for the Dalhousie Outstanding Alumni Award”, says Lisa McDonough, Deputy CEO of Customer Experience. “Margie is a strong advocate and ambassador for public libraries and VPL locally and afar. I have worked directly with Margie for an extended period and can attest to her extraordinary leadership qualities, unprecedented drive, and dedication to the library profession.”

Her leadership qualities, tireless drive, and unwavering dedication have earned her great compliment from colleagues and peers alike. Margie’s remarkable achievements include spearheading an ambitious growth plan for VPL

establishing seven new facilities with more on the horizon. Her commitment to mentoring and nurturing talent within the library profession has empowered countless individuals at all levels to pursue new experiences and advance their careers. Margie’s recognition with the 2023 Outstanding Alumni Award underscores her significant contributions to the library profession, earning her widespread support from colleagues, staff, and the community.

“With great pleasure, I extend my heartfelt congratulations to Margie Singleton for her Dalhousie Outstanding Alumni Award nomination,” says Mayor Steven Del Duca, City of Vaughan. “Margie’s exceptional leadership, steadfast dedication to mentoring, and significant contributions to the library profession undeniably qualify her as a deserving candidate. Her profound impact within our community and beyond perfectly aligns with the qualities this prestigious award aims to honour.”

“Congratulations to Margie Singleton on her well-deserved nomination for the Dalhousie Outstanding Alumni Award,” says Gary Sangha, Vaughan Public Library Board Chair. “Margie’s exceptional leadership, unwavering commitment to mentoring, and remarkable contributions to the library make her a deserving candidate. Her undeniable impact embodies the qualities this award seeks to recognize. I am immensely proud of Margie!”

“I am deeply honoured to receive the 2023 Outstanding Alumni Award from Department of Information Management at Dalhousie University,” says Margie Singleton, CEO of VPL. “Throughout my career, I’ve been fortunate to work with dedicated colleagues and communities across various public libraries, and this recognition highlights the collective effort in advancing our shared mission. Spearheading VPL’s growth and nurturing talent within the library profession has been particularly rewarding. I’m grateful for the support of my colleagues, staff, and the community I’m privileged to serve.”

Historical notes on Italian Emigration the Abruzzese in the World

by Goffredo Palmerini

Let's take a brief focus on the emigration of people from Abruzzo, Italy. According to the recent Report on Italians in the World before the pandemic (2020), reference year (01.01.2019) out of a resident population of 1,311,580 inhabitants, the people of Abruzzo registered with AIRE (Italian registry resident abroad) were 189,720, from the provinces of Chieti (77,304), L'Aquila (41,457), Teramo (36,331), Pescara (34,628). These are the first 10 countries where they live: Argentina, Switzerland, Belgium, Germany, France, Venezuela, Canada, the United States of America, Australia, and Brazil. As we have



already argued at length, this data only concerns those registered in the register of residents abroad of The Italian Consulates, who have retained or reacquired dual citizenship, with the right to vote in national political elections and referendums. They are only a small part of the mass of people origin from the Abruzzo region

in the world of the various migratory generations, reliably estimated at over one million three hundred thousand.

After the great emigration between the 19th century and the first half of the 20th century which saw the emigration of people from Abruzzo, mainly heading towards Argentina, Brazil, and the United States, after the Second World War, the migratory flows from Abruzzo favored the USA, Canada, Venezuela, Australia and Europe (Germany, Switzerland, France, Belgium, and the United Kingdom). If in general the conditions for Italian emigrants to free themselves from the problems suffered by the first migratory generation were harsh, they were even more so for the people of Abruzzo. By redeeming the conditions of dignified poverty that were the basic reasons for their emigration to every continent, leaving the villages with their mountains or the towns of



the plains still subjugated by the latifundium, the people from Abruzzo have contributed, especially in the last half-century, to the growth of the countries that welcomed them, gaining respect and consideration with the generous example of life that they were able to give. In those same lands, from North to South America, from Africa to Australia, in every country of old Europe, they have created a dense associative network which on the one hand has preserved the regional identity, on the other it constitutes an asset on which the very reasons for recognition by those companies are built.



The Associations of Abruzzi in the world - that abroad, but also that in Italy, outside the region - are very lively in initiatives and activities of social, cultural, and mutual nature, intending to preserve and enhance regional culture and traditions, as well as contributing to the development of promotional activities conducted by the Abruzzo Region abroad. Currently, associations are experiencing a moment of important transition, between the first and second generations and subsequent generations, in the search for new motivations that can bring together young people, with different interests and initiatives from those who have until now only cultivated memories and traditions. A fact, observed when meeting Abruzzese communities from every continent, can certainly make one proud.

Contrary to what the ancient isolation of Abruzzo would suggest, the dispersion in small mountain villages which certainly did not favor relations, the people of Abruzzo



abroad and their associations place themselves in conditions of absolute pre-eminence compared to other regional associations, often becoming points of reference for the capacity of social and cultural initiatives and a reason for emulation. To confirm, and to conclude, I want to mention the case directly observed during the visit to Canada a few weeks ago, on the 50th anniversary of the Canadian Abruzzo Center in Ottawa. Among the various recognitions of the value and role played by the Abruzzese community in the capital of the great North American country, there was that of Prime Minister Justin Trudeau expressed in a message of good wishes delivered to the President of the Centro Abruzzese Canadese Inc. Nello Scipioni, truly an extraordinary and exceptional message to be addressed to a regional community.

I have the great pleasure of conveying my warmest greetings on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the Centro Abruzzese Canadese Inc. In a country where the greatest strength is diversity, the contributions that the Abruzzese community has made and continues to make every day are all precious. Thank you for helping make Canada the best place to live in the world.

In an age where voices sow division, organizations like yours, which bring people together and encourage them to celebrate their diversity and take pride in their cultural heritage, are more important than ever. Because you help silence those voices.

Justin Trudeau - Prime Minister of Canada



Our Community In Action



Chin Ottawa celebrates its 20th Anniversary



Our Community In Action



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Rosanna DeFrancesca Ward 3 with seniors



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