



October 24, 2017

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**IN CELEBRATION OF COSTI'S 65TH ANNIVERSARY,
COSTI ANNOUNCES RECIPIENTS OF THE
EXCELLENCE IN ACCELERATING ENGAGEMENT AND DIVERSITY AWARD,
ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND INNOVATION AWARD
AND LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD**

Toronto, October 24, 2017 – COSTI is proud to announce the recipients of the Corvetti Academic Scholarship Fund, Excellence in Accelerating Engagement and Diversity Award, Entrepreneurship and Innovation Award, and Lifetime Achievement Award.

Excellence in Accelerating Engagement and Diversity Award: CIBC

Excellence in Entrepreneurship and Innovation Award: Rex Power Magnetics

Lifetime Achievement Award: The Honourable Ratna Omidvar, Senator

In celebration of COSTI's 65 years of service to the community, a cocktail reception and awards ceremony was held on **Thursday, October 26, 2017 at the Aga Khan Museum.**

For 65 years COSTI has contributed to the social fabric of our great city, province and country. COSTI was founded in 1952 by the Italian community, to help Italian immigrants settle in their new home. Today COSTI is a community-based multicultural agency providing employment, language training, settlement and social services to all immigrant communities, new Canadians and individuals in need of assistance.

"This milestone in COSTI's history, allows us to reflect on our achievements over the years and helps us to look towards the future – at what we want to accomplish and what we strive to become – both as an organization and as a community," commented Mario J. Calla, Executive Director of COSTI.

Ontario Minister of Citizenship and Immigration, Laura Albanese attended the event and participated in the awards ceremony and recognized COSTI's work in the community. *"Congratulations to COSTI Immigrant Services on 65 years of engagement and contribution to our communities. Your laudable innovative goals, have allowed you to evolve and grow. You are a strong and valuable partner of the Province of Ontario. We all share a positive vision committed to equity for everyone. Best wishes on your continued success."*

The evening included a cocktail reception, followed by a video presentation of COSTI's history and awards presentation recognizing individuals and corporations who have made a significant contribution towards accelerating the engagement of newcomers to Canada. The evening also marked the inauguration of the Corvetti Scholarship Award, presented to three immigrant youth.

In addition, guests had the opportunity to tour museum exhibits as well as view a screening of *Clouds Over Sidra*, a virtual reality film that tells the story of life inside a refugee camp in Jordan through the eyes of a twelve-year old girl named Sidra, placing viewers within the centre of the camp through a 360 degree experience.

For more information, please contact:

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COSTI Background Information:

COSTI Immigrant Services is a community-based multicultural agency providing employment, educational, settlement and social services to new Canadians and individuals in need of assistance. Since 1952, COSTI has been helping those in need, assisting newcomer professionals and tradespersons and all individuals looking for employment, providing hope to refugee families, protecting women and children, strengthening families, combating racism and discrimination, and assisting all those who function at a disadvantage in society. With a staff of over 350 people, speaking more than 60 languages, COSTI strives to ensure that all individuals, regardless of language, cultural, or financial barriers, are given the opportunity to use their existing skills, learn new ones, and participate in all aspects of Canadian life. COSTI presently provides support to over 39,000 individuals annually.