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## **COSTI HOLDS FIRST ANNUAL YORK REGION EMPLOYER RECOGNITION EVENT**

**Thursday, June 22, 2006  
Bellagio Event Venue**

**8540 Jane Street      8:00 am**

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**(Toronto) – June 22, 2006** – The Mayor of Vaughan, Michael Di Biase, along with 60 local businesses and community leaders attended COSTI's **1<sup>st</sup> Annual York Region Employer Awards Breakfast on Thursday, June 22, 2006** at **Bellagio Event Venue**. The event was held to recognize leaders in the business community for their outstanding contribution and commitment in providing individuals with the opportunity to become successful and contributing members of our community.

COSTI values its partnership with the business community in serving the residents of York Region to build an economy based on a highly skilled labour force. "We are happy to showcase the many employers who have supported COSTI and our services for many years. Employers contribute significantly to the quality of life of our community" says COSTI's Executive Director, Mario J. Calla. The Employer Recognition Breakfast is an opportunity to come together and celebrate the outstanding efforts and contributions made by individuals and businesses.

"Working with COSTI Vaughan Employment Services in meeting our HR needs, has been very rewarding" comments Bob Bell, owner of Saturn of Woodbridge. "Particularly since Saturn and COSTI share a common motto - people first!" Bob looks forward to working with COSTI in the future. "Vaughan's workforce is highly skilled and adaptable - businesses committed to eliminating employment barriers for youth and adults need to step up and provide leadership to other local businesses. To ensure that our economy will prosper and our community continues to thrive, we need to educate employers and get them involved".

In addition to receiving Certificates of Appreciation, 12 businesses were presented with Awards of Merit recognizing Excellence in Mentoring, Diversity, Commitment to Apprenticeship, Leadership, Opportunities for Students, and the Disabled.

### **Award Recipients**

**Corporate Citations** – Markham Board of Trade and Vaughan Chamber of Commerce; **Spirit of Diversity Award** – MindTech Montessori Schools; **Legacy Award** – L.P. Engineering Inc.; **Leadership Awards** – Legacy Leather International, Saturn of Woodbridge, Loop Enterprise Inc., Leather Treaty; **Excellence in Mentoring** – Carmen Chan; **Commitment to Apprenticeship** – Pine Valley Electric Co. Ltd.; **Student Opportunity Award** – Kelsey's Restaurants; **Benevolent Business Awards** – Canadian Tire, CM Group Inc., and In Touch Mobility Inc.

**COSTI's Employment Services in York Region** have been involved in employment placement services in a broad range of occupations with employers in the Region for over 20 years. More recently, to overcome a shortage of skilled workers in various trades and professions, COSTI has been working with employers to increase apprenticeship participation for youth, as well as securing higher skilled placements for internationally trained individuals.

COSTI Immigrant Services is a community-based agency providing employment, educational, 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. COSTI has been 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 230 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 49,000 individuals annually.

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**For further information, or to arrange  
an interview, please contact:  
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