



Dear Friend:

The Portuguese-Canadian National Congress is a national organization representing nearly 400,000 Canadians of Portuguese heritage. Created in 1993, the Congress addresses issues affecting the Portuguese-Canadian community through its network of over 70 nation-wide Directors, Delegates and local representatives. Issues that the Congress has recently addressed include - among others - the preservation of international languages, support for ethnic minority television programming, anti-racism and anti-discrimination, and support for the public health care system.

At the end of 2002, the Congress launched its *Meeting for Action/ Reunir para Agir* Project, a two-year, national community action project funded by Heritage Canada to build the capacity of Portuguese-Canadian organizations and individuals to undertake projects to assist their local communities. The principal activity of the project is the planning and delivery of 10 regional roundtables to be undertaken in the scattered Portuguese-Canadian communities, bringing community organizations and activists together with representatives of key government and other public-sector stakeholders. The ultimate goal of each roundtable is to develop at least one community action project to address the issue of concern identified as priority for that community, be it related to education, political and civic participation, preservation of Portuguese language and culture, integration into Canadian society, etc.

Among other things, since the project's launch we have:

- Worked with Volunteer Facilitators to plan and deliver 10 Regional Roundtables from coast to coast: Halifax, Montreal, Sudbury, London, Toronto (2), Ottawa, Winnipeg, Edmonton and Vancouver.
- Launched the Congress website (www.congresso.ca) and electronic discussion group, Congresso_list (http://ca.groups.yahoo.com/group/congresso_list/).
- Published and distributed a number of newsletters (also available online).

Presently, we are planning a national policy meeting taking place in 2004, and working with other organizations and numerous volunteers to develop some exciting projects.

To ensure **Meeting for Action** project success, as well as long-term viability of the organization, the Congress is dependent upon the goodwill and support of the community. **Please consider supporting the Congress and Meeting for Action project.** Simply complete and return the donation slip below, or call us today to find out how you or someone you know can sponsor the National Policy Meeting, the website, or our newsletter. Contact us if you'd like to make a donation or discuss other opportunities. We can be reached at 416-532-3233 or by email at apalmeida@congresso.ca.

Thank you very much for your anticipated consideration.

Sincerely,

Ana Paula Almeida
Project Coordinator
Meeting for Action/Reunir para Agir

Please complete and mail to the Congress at 1081 Bloor St. W., Ste. 300, Toronto, ON, M6H 1M5.

Name:

Mailing Address:

- I would like to donate:** \$25 \$50 \$75 \$100 Other \$ _____
- Cheque enclosed payable to Portuguese Canadian National Congress.**
- I wish to make an anonymous donation.**

THE CONGRESS BELONGS TO ALL OF US!

Thanks for your interest and support.

What are people saying about Meeting for Action?

"It was very well organized. Congratulations! Thank you!" ♦ "Very good- we should have more meetings like this." ♦
"Bravo!" ♦ "The discussions around education and youth were insightful and I felt there was a real energy to move forward." ♦
"I am very happy to see action." — Selected feedback from roundtable evaluation forms.