



Suite 203 • 251 Bank Street • Ottawa, Ontario • K2P 1X3
TTY/ATS (613) 565-8882 • Voice/Voix: (613) 565-2882 • Fax/Télécopieur: (613) 565-1207
Web site/ Site web <http://www.cad.ca> • E-mail/Courriel info@cad.ca

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Parlamento Italiano:

The Canadian Association of the Deaf (CAD) strongly supports the recognition of the Italian Sign Language. The CAD stands with the Ente Nazionale per la protezione e l'assistenza dei Sordi and Italian Deaf Communities to support full recognition of the native Sign language of Italy, Lingua dei Segni Italiana.

It would be a great insult and a colossal injustice if the Italian Parliament recognized the Italian Sign Language as nothing more than a "Language of Mime and Gesture". Such an action would violate the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) which mandates that all countries will recognize their respective native Sign language(s) as official languages deserving protection and promotion among the deaf and hard of hearing citizens of the country.

It would also ignore more than half a century of hard, substantiated proof that Sign is indeed a full language, not merely mime and gesture. Those who consider it unsystemic gestures are, at best, ignorant of 60+ years of academic and linguistic confirmation, or at worst, malicious vested interests determined upon the genocide of a distinct language, culture, and people.

Italy remains forever blotted by the vicious anti-Deaf decrees of the 1880 Milan Congress of Educators of the Deaf, decrees that were finally renounced by the world's educators of the Deaf last summer. Do not replace such infamy with the fresh infamy of ignorantly proclaiming Sign language to be nothing but gesture.

Sincerely,

Doug Momotiuk
President