***Honourable Members of the Canadian Turkish Community,***

*A landmark initiative has been launched that aims to elevate the profile of Turkish heritage in Canada.  As our community continues to grow, we will naturally develop and promote our culture, traditions and history among established institutions in Canada in order to lay the foundation for future generations to build upon.*

*The establishment of a Turkish Studies Program in the Department of Near and Middle Eastern Civilizations at the University of Toronto is the essence of this initiative. For this purpose, a collaboration with the UofT, which ranks top 10 in North America and top 20 worldwide and has long a history of education and research in Turkish Civilization, has been initiated.*

*The UofT has generously agreed to match all contributions that the Turkish community raises for this prestigious project which will be developed in three phases:*

*• The first phase will be to establish a permanent endowment to fund a graduate student scholarship in “Turkish Studies” which will be awarded annually to a doctoral student.*

*• The second phase will be to establish a lectureship in Turkish language.*

*• The third phase will be to establish a Chair in Turkish Civilization.*

*It is our desire that the Turkish community will embrace this project as it will be a major investment towards the enhancement of our community's profile within Canada through education and research into our culture and heritage.*

*The headline event for this project will be an exclusive fundraising reception for 250 invitees that will take place at the University of Toronto's Faculty Club (located at 41 Willcocks Street, Toronto) on September 21, 2013 and will feature as the Guest of Honour His Excellency Dr. Tuncay Babali, the Turkish Ambassador to Canada. The event will culminate with an auction of pieces of art donated by Turkish artists living in the Greater Toronto Area.*

*A “Turkish Studies Project” committee has been established consisting of the members in the community who are volunteering their time and efforts to facilitate the fundraising initiatives of this prestigious project.*

*Donations and sponsors from the broader Turkish community are welcome and will significantly contribute to the realization of this project.*

*This success story requires a commitment from all members of Turkish Canadian community and I look forward to working together with all of you.*

***Ali Rıza Güney***

***Consul General of the Republic of Turkey***