

YORK UNIVERSITY MEDIA RELEASE

Photo Opportunity

Leaders in Toronto's Hellenic community to officially sign agreement setting up York U. Chair in Hellenic Studies, sign over 1st \$500,000 to advance Greek language, culture

TORONTO, January 27, 2000 – After choosing York University last May as the Toronto university in which to establish a Hellenic Studies Program and Chair, the **Hellenic Heritage Foundation** and **The Greek Community of Metropolitan Toronto Inc.** will make it official this **Friday, January 28, 2000** during an official signing ceremony and cheque presentation from **3 to 5 p.m., at the Faculty Club, Ross Building, York University, 4700 Keele St.**

York University, whose emphasis on internationalization and commitment to programs relevant to the communities it serves, will conduct an international search for a Chair, who will be a leading scholar with specialized expertise in the study of contemporary Greece. This will enhance the educational opportunities of York students – including the more than 1,000 students of Greek heritage enrolled each year – who want to study the Greek language, literature, history and culture.

“The importance of a knowledge of developments in modern Greece, for students of Greek descent but also for all Canadian students, reflects the strategic importance of modern Greece,” said Vice-President (Academic) Michael Stevenson. “The Greeks recognize the fundamental importance of education in the civilizing process: the process of creating citizens who can think and act critically,” he said.

WHO: York University President **Dr. Lorna Marsden**
York University Vice-President (Academic) **Michael Stevenson**
York University Vice-President (University Advancement) **Gary J. Smith**
Steve Mirkopoulos, President, Hellenic Heritage Foundation
Costas Menegakis, President, Greek Community of Metropolitan Toronto
* **The Consul General of Greece, the Consul General of Cyprus, elected officials, and Bishop Christoforos will also be in attendance.**

WHAT: Ceremony and official signing of agreement establishing Toronto's first permanent endowed Chair of Hellenic Studies, at York University, cheque presentation of the first installment of \$500,000.

WHEN: Friday, January 28, 3 p.m. – 5 p.m.

WHERE: Faculty Club, Ross Building, York University, 4700 Keele St.

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For more information, please contact:

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