

News Release

For Immediate Release

Brampton Man Welcomes the World on July 1st Canada 150 Celebrations

01/07/17– Ottawa, Ontario – With all eyes on Canada 150 Celebration, a local Brampton man, Vahid Saadati, took his Guinness Record holding “World’s Largest Welcome Needle point” from Brampton to Ottawa. The Welcome Mat stands at 25 feet high and 15 feet wide. It depicts the word “Welcome” in over 100 languages including Sign language, Braille, and Morse code.

Along with 650 volunteers, Saadati used 72 colours of wool to stitch the artwork over a span of 2 years. The Welcome Mat was recognized by the Guinness Book of World Records, and has been featured as the backdrop for the Pope’s visit in 2002 in Toronto and President Barack Obama visit in 2009 in Ottawa.

Saadati was motivated to create the Welcome Mat as a means of saying thanks for the warm welcome he received when he first immigrated to Canada 30 years ago. “With the World watching the Canada 150 Celebration, I think it would be nice to say welcome to everyone watching the Party, in whichever language they choose.” said Saadati.

Saadati left Brampton on Friday June 30th at 11am from M.P. Ruby Sahota Office to embark on a journey to Ottawa, where he displayed the Welcome Mat on Parliament Hill.

“Vahid embodies what is great about the Canadian experience,” said MP Sahota. “Canada is recognized internationally as an inclusive country where it is no surprise that new and old Canadians alike want to express their pride in being Canadian just as Vahid has.”

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