Consulate General of Pakistan <u>Toronto</u>

PRESS RELEASE

In collaboration with International Iqbal Society and Pakistan Business Council of Hamilton, the Consulate General hosted a grand event to mark Allama Iqbal's 140th birthday on Sunday, 12 November 2017 at Hamilton. Around 600 members of the community and local Canadians attended the event including Hon Bob Bratina, Member of Parliament (Liberal), Hon David Sweet, Member of Parliament (Progressive Conservative Party), Hon Paul Miller and Hon Monique Taylor, MPPs (both from New Democratic Party).

Dr. Syed Taqi Hasan Abedi, a prominent Iqbal expert, spoke on the philosophy of khudi on the occasion. During their speeches, the Canadian members of Parliament and other politicians expressed solidarity with Pakistan community and lauded Allama Iqbal's contribution for Pakistan movement. Hon David Sweet, MP specifically mentioned Iqbal's role in defining man's relation with God.

The Consul General welcomed the guests and thanked the International Iqbal Society & Pakistan Business Council of Hamilton for collaborating with the Consulate to hold the event. He also threw light on Iqbal's contribution for South Asia's awakening against colonialism and giving the Muslims of South Asia a clear direction. After the speeches, a Mehfil-e-kalam-e-Iqbal was held in which prominent local singer Mr. Tariq Hamid sang Iqbal's poems and ghazals.

Toronto

14 November 2017