



CONFÉRENCE MINISTÉRIELLE  
SUR LA FRANCOPHONIE  
CANADIENNE | MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE  
ON THE CANADIAN  
FRANCOPHONIE

JUNE 2017

# newsletter

## MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE ON THE CANADIAN FRANCOPHONIE

### New Momentum for Francophone Immigration and Considerable Progress on the Conference's Priority Issues

THE MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE on the Canadian Francophonie continues to exercise its leadership by stimulating reflection, discussion, and the development of structuring initiatives in five agreed priority areas.

Improvement of **services in French** remains the absolute priority of the Conference and, in this respect, it has continued its work to develop a *basket of services* model. Provincial and territorial members also completed the evaluation of the *General framework for agreements on French-language services* used for the 2013-2018 cycle of agreements with the Government of Canada, and then recommended adjustments for its renewal.

The **Forum on Francophone Immigration**, organized jointly with the *Forum of Ministers Responsible for Immigration*, helped to establish a fruitful dialogue. A *Joint Committee* of ministers responsible for the Francophonie and for immigration prepared this historic meeting, which was held in Moncton on March 30 and 31, 2017. The ministers discussed demographic issues and lent their support to the development of a concrete action plan targeting the whole continuum of Francophone immigration.

The Conference also continued its role as a catalyst in **early childhood development** by strengthening its ties with the *Provincial and Territorial Directors of Early Childhood Education and Care* committee. A working committee bringing together six provinces met several times to discuss language transmission and cultural appropriation. Several issues were identified and a proposed mandate was written to ensure the

inclusion of Francophone early childhood development as an ongoing consideration of the Directors.

To further pursue the reflection on the major issues related to access to **justice in French**, the ministers wish to determine the issues and challenges encountered in adopting measures to permit and facilitate the use of French in matters related to family law. A major focus will be on continuing education for professionals.

With respect to **Francophone tourism**, the Conference's commitment and the support of nine provinces and territories for the *Francophone Heritage, Cultural and Tourism Corridor* led to a successful result. The project received funding from Canadian Heritage as part of **Canada 150** celebrations. This \$2.4 million investment will help make the route a permanent legacy for the Canadian Francophonie. The Corridor, whose implementation was entrusted to RDÉE Canada, is both an economic development tool and a strategy to highlight Francophone heritage and encourage tourists to incorporate this dimension into their itinerary.



The Ministerial Conference on the Canadian Francophonie, created in 1994, is the only intergovernmental forum that brings together the ministers responsible for the Canadian Francophonie. The Conference works for an open, dynamic, and diverse Francophonie that contributes to, and participates fully in, the growth of Canadian society.



Ontario

Québec



Manitoba



Canada



## The Canadian Francophonie at the Heart of Canada 150

OFFICIAL LANGUAGES are at the heart of who we are as Canadians. This is why the Government of Canada is proud to support projects and activities that highlight the contributions of Francophones and Francophiles to the development of our country. For example:

- The television project *La Grande Traversée* follows the journey of 10 adventure lovers crossing the Atlantic under the same conditions as 18<sup>th</sup> century settlers.
- As part of *Rendez-vous 2017*, a fleet of more than 40 tall ships will assemble in Québec City from July 18 to 23.

- Celebrity chef Ricardo honours the entrepreneurs and creators who shape our culinary heritage in a bilingual series of 52 vignettes broadcast on CBC and Radio-Canada.
- Based on the legend of *La Chasse-Galerie*, the *Flying Canoe Volant* project celebrates the traditions of First Nations, Francophones and Métis with sliding and skill challenges at the Edmonton Ski Club.
- The *B.C. Bilingue* puppet theatre tells the story of three French settlers in British Columbia.
- The travelling exhibition *Édu EXPO* by the Fédération nationale des conseils scolaires francophones highlights the vitality of the Canadian Francophonie, yesterday and today.

In this special year, Canadians are invited to come together in their communities to celebrate our country's cultural and linguistic diversity. From coast to coast to coast, members of the Canadian Francophonie and their friends will have numerous opportunities to proudly celebrate their attachment to the French language.



Patrimoine  
canadien

Canadian  
Heritage

## ONTARIO

### 150 Years... and Projects for a Bright Future

AS ONTARIO, like the Canadian Confederation, proudly celebrates its 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary, several ambitious and structuring projects are emerging or are currently under development.

On November 26, 2016, Ontario became an observing member of the Organisation internationale de la Francophonie (OIF), marking the culmination of a lengthy process and crowning Ontario's efforts and strong commitment not only to its Francophonie, but to protecting and promoting the French language and the Franco-Ontarian identity.

Similarly, and in order to celebrate the role and contribution of Francophones to the province over the past 400 years, the government is planning to build a commemorative monument dedicated to Franco-Ontarians on the grounds of the Legislative Assembly, as part of the festivities for the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Ontario.

In order to also recognize and promote the province's Francophone aspect, a new tourist route, which tracks the original path of Samuel de Champlain's visit to Ontario, will soon be unveiled. Offering a new tourist route to [attract Francophone tourists](#) is a natural legacy for Ontario following Commemorations for the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of French presence in Ontario.



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ONTARIO  
150



## Standing Together for French!

In August 2015, Minister Jean-Marc Fournier began a cross-Canada tour to increase intergovernmental cooperation and to provide a response more in line with the priorities of Francophone and Acadian communities. Since then, the Minister has held talks with all of his provincial and territorial counterparts, and in the process, Québec renewed its cooperation agreements with Manitoba, Yukon, Ontario and Nova Scotia in 2016, as well as with Prince Edward Island and British Columbia since the beginning of 2017. These renewed agreements include a predetermined five-year financial commitment on the part of the governments and a willingness to a stronger involvement by organizations representing Francophone and Acadian communities within the provinces and territories.

Québec has also signed a statement on the Canadian Francophonie with these governments and with New Brunswick.

## Francophone Immigration

Québec participated in the Forum on Francophone Immigration which, for the first time, brought together ministers of immigration and of the Canadian Francophonie. At the conclusion of this meeting, the ministers present expressed their support for a concrete plan of actions to be implemented by the federal, provincial and territorial governments toward the recruitment, reception, integration and retention of French-speaking immigrants. They also supported the holding of a federal-provincial-territorial and community symposium with the goals of setting the groundwork for new collaboration and maintaining the joint committee to provide follow-up to the Forum, to collaborate on holding the symposium and to organize a second forum on Francophone immigration within the next twelve months.

## A Legacy for the Canadian Francophonie

The Gouvernement du Québec is actively collaborating to ensure the development of Québec's portion of the Francophone heritage, cultural and tourism corridor, and intends to promote it.

Québec 

### NOVA SCOTIA

## Culture and Heritage Honoured in Celebrations of Canada's Anniversary

### Peace and Unity Gathering of the Mi'kmaq and Acadian Nations

FROM AUGUST 10 to 13, 2017, Grand-Pré National Historic Site will host a unique [Peace and Unity Gathering of the Mi'kmaq and Acadian Nations](#). The event is meant as a celebration of the relationship between the two nations and will feature a cultural village, a vendor market, culinary demonstrations, entertainment and a dance circle. The Acadian cultural side of the event will be coordinated by Acadian singer-songwriter Ronald Bourgeois.

Additionally, Acadian communities across the province will celebrate local heritage with stage productions and events.

- Chéticamp will host a celebration of 150 years of Acadian song with local performers and an audience sing-along, keeping traditional songs alive (July 28-30, live stream).



- On July 28, a new *Odyssée acadienne* monument commemorating the Deportation of the Acadians will be unveiled in West Pubnico.
- In Clare, a modern-day version of the *Order of Good Cheer* will celebrate Acadians as a founding culture of Nova Scotia and a vibrant part of Canada.
- Weymouth will host a play about the Stehelin family and the multicultural community Electric City they built in Nouvelle France, Digby County.



## Celebrate Where It All Began

AS ONE OF THE FOUNDING PROVINCES, New Brunswick is celebrating the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Confederation. An interdepartmental committee has been working since 2015. Its achievements include a provincial website, [www.canada150nb.ca](http://www.canada150nb.ca), which promotes provincial, regional, and community activities. In addition, the collective approach makes it possible to affirm both official languages and bring all New Brunswickers closer together.

With the commitment of municipalities and community organizations, the Francophone community is preparing various programs. Annual festivals will feature specific components to celebrate the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary, i.e., shows of Pan-Canadian artists, family gatherings, and community events. The official New Brunswick Day Celebration on August 7 will see all New Brunswickers look to the City of Edmundston to celebrate the role and contribution of our province with respect to the cultural and linguistic heritage of our country.



NB•CA 1867-2017

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### MANITOBA

## Canada 150 Plus: Celebrating Our Country and Envisioning Our Future

MANITOBA EDUCATION AND TRAINING has launched **Canada 150 Plus** to encourage Manitoba teachers and students to celebrate the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Confederation by reflecting upon Canada's past and present, and envisioning the country's next 150-plus years.

Teachers and students can use the resources put forward on the [Canada 150 Plus webpage](#) to explore the significance of this celebration, recognize the rich and diverse history of Manitoba and Canada before 1867, and imagine the future of our country beyond 2017.

Furthermore, Manitoba is proud to host the Canada Games 2017.

"We are beyond excited to welcome the summer edition of the Canada Games to Winnipeg for the very first time and back to Manitoba for the second time since 1967," said Rochelle Squires, Manitoba Minister of Sport, Culture and Heritage. "As one of the funding partners, the Government of Manitoba is thrilled to host athletes and spectators from across our country to celebrate the spirit of sport and mark two huge milestones: the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Games and Canada's 150<sup>th</sup>."

The [Société franco-manitobaine's 233-ALLÔ](#) will be the official information centre for the Canada Games this summer.



## Expanding Health Resources

BRITISH COLUMBIA is now offering public access to a collection of 500 French language health and wellness resources, available through an [online catalogue](#). This initiative offers resources free of charge that can be shipped anywhere in the province and is the largest of its kind west of Quebec. The resources cover topics such as child development, healthy eating, illnesses, mental health, child health, pregnancy, family yoga, and much more. Hardcopies are being housed at the Family and Support Resource Centre at the BC Children's Hospital and at the BC Women's Hospital + Health Centre in Vancouver.

This initiative offers resources free of charge that can be shipped anywhere in the province...



British Columbia has also been expanding other health-related information in French. For example, material about breastfeeding were translated and are available through [Healthy Families BC](#). Meanwhile, seniors in BC have benefitted from new information on falls reduction and elder abuse prevention.

These initiatives were made possible thanks to the Canada-British Columbia Official Languages Agreement on French Language services.

### PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

## School and Community Gardens

SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY gardens created for Canada's 150<sup>th</sup> are expected to foster a long-term spirit of engagement, sharing, learning, growth and celebration. This initiative is being carried out by the [Société Saint-Thomas-d'Aquin](#), the organization representing the Acadian and Francophone community of Prince Edward Island, in collaboration with other school-based and community organizations.



The project was launched with support from the Canada 150 Fund. It also integrates previous local initiatives, such as the *Jardins pour la relève* (Gardens for the Future) managed by [RDÉE Î.-P.-É.](#)

By engaging the school and community centres in all six Acadian and Francophone regions of the Island, the gardens will become social spaces that foster cultural and intergenerational exchanges within the Island community.

The project will allow members of the Acadian, Francophone and Francophile community to discover the joys of gardening. Thanks to a partnership with the Mi'kmaq Confederacy of PEI, they will also explore the benefits of medicinal plants by drawing on the knowledge of the Aboriginal communities. A volunteer committee will oversee the development and maintenance of the gardens and facilitate the transfer of knowledge by offering a free summer workshop series. In the long-term, it is hoped that the community gardens will be integrated into the French schools' curriculum.



## Every Child Deserves a Healthy Start!

MAKING SURE all children get a good start in life is a key objective of *Saskatchewan's Early Years Plan* and leads to a better quality of life for all Saskatchewan people. It reduces the risk of poverty and improves school readiness, health and wellness.

Through a common interest in promoting healthy, active children in Saskatchewan, a partnership led by the *Réseau Santé en français de la Saskatchewan*, was created in 2006. Initial funding from the Saskatchewan Community Initiatives Fund allowed the Réseau to conduct pilot projects in both French and English childcare centres.

The bilingual health promotion initiative encourages and enables educators and families to integrate physical activity and healthy eating in the daily lives of young children. Thanks to continued funding through the Public Health Agency of Canada, [Healthy Start/Départ Santé](#) celebrated 10 years in January 2017!



Representatives from the Saskatchewan ministries of Health and Education have worked with Healthy Start to ensure that the information and resources align with provincial childcare regulations and guidelines related to nutrition and menu planning.

To date, more than 200 childcare centres and 41 prekindergarten programs across Saskatchewan are participating! In the last four years, more than 7,900 children have improved both their healthy eating and physical activity. The program has expanded into New Brunswick.

## ALBERTA

### A Historic Year for Alberta's Francophonie

2017 IS SHAPING UP to be a historic one for Alberta's Francophonie. Although the Government of Alberta has participated in Rendez-vous de la Francophonie celebrations for almost two decades, it was the first time that the Franco-Albertan flag was raised and flown for the entire month of March in



The Honourable Ricardo Miranda, Minister responsible for the Francophone Secretariat, raises the Franco-Albertan flag at McDougall Centre in Calgary on March 3, 2017.

front of the Alberta Legislature in Edmonton and McDougall Centre, the Southern Alberta Government Centre, in Calgary. A special ceremony was also held at the Legislature for International Francophonie Day, with numerous statements made in the Legislative Assembly in French.

Meanwhile, Alberta is working on the province's first French Policy, which will help guide government's approach to voluntarily and incrementally enhancing access to services in French and contribute to francophone development and vitality. This initiative is especially timely as Canada celebrates its 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Confederation. The policy is a way for Alberta to recognize the Francophonie's significant contribution to the province's history and to acknowledge that French is one of Canada's two official languages and the most spoken language in Alberta after English.

While the principles articulated in the policy will extend past 2017, it helps set a new benchmark for the Government of Alberta's relationship with the province's thriving and diverse French-speaking population. The policy is also about creating an opportunity for Alberta to be more attractive to immigrants, investors, tourists, and help enhance Alberta's competitive advantage.

## Rendez-vous de la Francophonie 2017

MINISTER PERRY TRIMPER delivered a Ministerial Statement in the House of Assembly, March 6, 2017 to highlight les [Rendez-vous de la Francophonie](#) (RVF) as a time for Canadians to recognize and celebrate French language and culture. The Minister described RVF as an opportunity to bring our English-speaking and French-speaking communities closer together, especially this year as we celebrate Canada's 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary. He mentioned that many activities would take place over the following weeks to mark this occasion and give us all an opportunity to learn more about our province's rich French culture and history. These include community gatherings, film viewings and educational activities, among others. Confederation Building, seat of the provincial legislature, hosted a RVF photo booth event on March 13. The [Office of French Services](#) took part in the *Affichez vos couleurs* (Show Your Colours) contest, which is a celebration of the provincial Francophone Flag on March 7, in which Minister Trimper was an enthusiastic contestant.

Activities include community gatherings, film viewings and educational activities, among others.



### NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

## How Are We Doing? The Government of the Northwest Territories seeks public comment

SINCE 2013, the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) has continued to implement its Strategic Plan on French-language Communications and Services.

The French-language services coordinators of GNWT departments, boards and agencies work with the [Franco-phone Affairs Secretariat](#) to ensure that the GNWT follows up on public feedback. Public comment is important to improve communications and service delivery in French.

Since last May, the Secretariat invites the public to provide informal feedback through a short online questionnaire that asks respondents about their experience with signage, the active offer of information and services in French, and the quality of information and services received. This questionnaire will remain online to ensure feedback is collected in an ongoing fashion.

À votre  
**service** )(  
*en français*

The Francophone Affairs Secretariat also invited respondents who wish to submit formal comments to do so in writing either directly with the Secretariat or by contacting the appropriate department, board or agency. We will respond to all official feedback received. All service points have been actively promoting all ways of presenting feedback.

A separate feedback process is also available through the Office of the Languages Commissioner of the Northwest Territories.

Measuring the public's perception of the Strategic Plan's implementation is crucial to ensure that appropriate programs and services are offered to the Nordic Francophonie.



Doll representing François-Xavier Mercier, who traded fur in the Yukon in 1885.

## French Language Services are Booming

As we enter into the last year of our *2014-2018 Strategic Framework on French Language Services*, it is time to renew our framework for the next four years, in consultation with the leaders of the Yukon Francophone community.

With a new funding agreement now in place with the government of Canada, Yukon is implementing Active Offer at priority points of service, and is developing a three-year bilingual staffing plan. The main focus will continue to be on health and social services, especially in primary, emergency and mental health care. In the last territorial budget, Yukon committed to carry out a feasibility study for a bilingual primary health care clinic.

## Stitches In Time: Yukon History Makers

As part of the Confederation's 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations, the project entitled *De fils en histoires : Les personnages d'un territoire* (Stitches in Time: Yukon History Makers) explores the influence of the French-speaking community in Yukon. In the context of workshops led by Cécile Girard, a French-speaking Yukon artist, participants created handmade dolls inspired by Francophone characters that are part of Yukon's history.

## NUNAVUT

### Nunavut Relaunches the Interdepartmental Working Group on French Services

Francophone Affairs – Affaires francophones of the Department of Culture and Heritage of Nunavut has relaunched the Interdepartmental Working Group on French Services (IWGFS) after a dormant year. The IWGFS has recruited new French-language Services Coordinators from various departments and public agencies and is revising its terms of reference to raise the IWGFS's profile in an officially trilingual territory. The Working Group reviews and assesses the existing administrative framework for the delivery of French-language services and makes recommendations to ensure effective and efficient implementation of legal obligations stemming from Nunavut's *Official Languages Act*. With renewed support on behalf of ministries and public agencies, we look forward to even more concrete results regarding French-language services.



### French Writing Guide for Nunavut

In 2016, Francophone Affairs – Affaires francophones hosted translation and revision workshops with the intent of developing a Nunavut-specific French writing guide. The primary goal is to standardize French language written communications across Nunavut while respecting the reality of the trilingual and Inuit territory.

Members of the Government of Nunavut as well as organizations, agencies and businesses from the Francophone community participated actively in the creation of the French Writing Guide. The Guide will provide answers to key questions, whether they involve French syntax and terminology or Inuit language and culture. The definitive version will be brought forward at the Legislative Assembly for approval. The Guide will be enhanced and updated on a regular basis. We are very proud of this accomplishment.