



Let's celebrate the 20th anniversary of the Rendez-vous de la Francophonie!

OTTAWA, MARCH 1, 2018—Today, the Canadian Foundation for Cross-Cultural Dialogue (CFCCD) is launching the 20th annual Rendez-vous de la Francophonie (RVF). Les RVF 2018 will run from March 1 to 21, under the theme: ***The Francophonie in 3D: Diversity, Duality, Dynamism!***

In the company of the Honorable Mélanie Joly, Minister of Canadian Heritage, the 500-strong student body of École secondaire catholique Béatrice-Desloges, part of the Conseil des écoles catholiques du Centre-Est (CECCE), are being joined by a delegation of students from the Conseil des écoles publiques de l'Est de l'Ontario (CEPEO) to kick off Les Rendez-vous de la Francophonie 2018.

"Having all these young people invite the entire Canadian population to participate is such a great way to begin the festivities surrounding the twentieth annual Rendez-vous de la Francophonie. In 2018, we will also be celebrating the 20-year history of the creation of French-language school boards across the country. This year we want to recognize our achievements and highlight the important role of young people in the growth of our country's Francophone and Acadian communities across all spheres of development," states CFCCD Executive Director Guy Matte.

Les RVF 2018 ambassadors Mariette Mulaire and Eddy King had an opportunity to interact with the hundreds of young people on hand, discussing such important topics as identity building, education, the economy and various facets of Francophone culture.

"I am grateful for all the efforts made over the last 20 years to build the identity of a Francophone Catholic school board in Ontario and to contribute to the vitality of an inclusive, proud and vibrant Franco-Ontarian community that serves the needs of its youth," explains CECCE Chair Johanne Lacombe.

All across the country, Francophone and Acadian communities are recognizing the start of the 20th annual Rendez-vous de la Francophonie with flag raising ceremonies and official proclamations, as well as social and cultural events. Visit RVF.ca to discover hundreds of activities.

"Les Rendez-vous de la Francophonie is a quintessentially Canadian way to promote our Francophonie. Over the next three weeks, these celebrations will showcase our diversity and our strength. Our Francophonie is a source of pride, and we must give future generations the tools they need to continue to live in French. As Minister of Canadian Heritage and Minister responsible for Official Languages, I invite everyone to take part in these activities and celebrate this essential part of the Canadian identity," states the Honourable Mélanie Joly, Minister of Canadian Heritage and Minister responsible for Official Languages.



To wrap up this day of celebrations, the CFCCD is inviting its partners and representatives of the Canadian Francophonie to an RVF launch reception. Guests will then be treated to a comedy show starring Eddy King, Alexandre Bisailon, Jérémie Larouche, Christine Morency and two LOL-Mort de rire contest favourites. It all takes place at MIFO, in Orléans, starting at 5:30 p.m.

Between now and March 21, visit our website to learn about free National Film Board screenings as well as a variety of contests. Les RVF 2018 also include a cross-Canada comedy tour with stops in 18 communities. For the first time, les RVF comedy tour will be visiting all three territories. The tour will wrap up on March 27 in Thunder Bay, Ontario.

For complete details on what is happening in your area, visit rvf.ca/en/calendar. Follow us on social media by subscribing to @RVFrancophonie on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. Let everyone know about your activities during Les Rendez-vous by using the #RVFranco hashtag in your posts.

The Canadian Foundation for Cross-Cultural Dialogue and Les RVF 2018 team would like to thank their major partners: the Department of Canadian Heritage, Air Canada, the Language Portal of Canada, NAV Canada, the Fédération de la jeunesse canadienne-française (FJCF), RDÉE Canada, the Association canadienne d'éducation de langue française (ACELF), the National Film Board, Groupe média TFO, La Cité College, VIA Rail, the Secrétariat du Québec aux relations canadiennes, Canada Post, the Fédération des communautés francophones et acadienne du Canada (FCFA), the Association de la presse francophone, the Government of Manitoba, UNIS TV, the Conseil scolaire francophone de la Colombie-Britannique, the Conseil des écoles catholiques du Centre-Est (CECCE), the Conseil des écoles publiques de l'Est de l'Ontario (CEPEO), the Conseil scolaire acadien provincial (CSAP), the University of Ottawa, the Centre franco-ontarien de ressources pédagogiques (CFORP) and the Mouvement d'implication francophone d'Orléans (MIFO).

Les RVF is organized in conjunction with the Journée internationale de la Francophonie (March 20), an annual event that celebrates the French language and diverse Francophone cultures. Made possible by the financial support of Canadian Heritage, the RVF are coordinated by [the Canadian Foundation for Cross-Cultural Dialogue](#).

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