



**NEWS RELEASE  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Announcing the 20<sup>th</sup> annual Rendez-vous de la Francophonie!**

**Ottawa, January 17, 2018** — As Les Rendez-vous de la Francophonie (RVF) enter their 20<sup>th</sup> year, the Canadian Foundation for Cross-Cultural Dialogue is proud to announce the key features of this year’s national initiative, which will run from March 1–21, 2018.

Whether in the community or at [RVF.ca](http://RVF.ca), the RVF 2018 will showcase a dynamic Canadian Francophonie through more than 3,000 activities, national contests, a comedy tour, a National Film Board series and blogs.

After twenty years of celebrations and gatherings, the RVF have become a key moment for Francophone and Acadian communities to highlight their contributions to our country’s development. The RVF 2018 will emphasize these communities’ perseverance and vitality.

*“We will be capping off the 2016–2018 three-year plan for Les Rendez-vous de la Francophonie by showcasing the achievements of Canada’s Francophone and Acadian communities (FAC). Whether in the fields of education, economic development or culture, the FACs are sure to shine through their celebrations and their openness to the majority culture,”* explains Guy Matte, Executive Director of the Canadian Foundation for Cross-Cultural Dialogue.

The 20<sup>th</sup> annual Rendez-vous de la Francophonie are proud to be represented by two well-known ambassadors:

**Mariette Mulaire** had served as President and CEO of the World Trade Centre Winnipeg since 2013. This will be her second year as an RVF ambassador, and she is eager to continue sharing her passion for the Francophone economy.

**Eddy King** is a comedian of Congolese origin. Part of the RVF Comedy Tour since 2015, he has discovered Francophone minority communities across the country and truly appreciates their vitality.

The design concept for the RVF 2018 maintains an aesthetic link with last year’s visuals, while seeking to promote Francophone entrepreneurs by showcasing their contributions to Canada’s economic growth. The concept of the archer embodies the highly focused vision required of entrepreneurs, as well as their determination to reach their objectives. In this way, the archer evokes the familiar positive messages of “aim high”, “achieve your goals” and “target success”.

As part of Les Rendez-vous de la Francophonie, Canadians of all ages can participate in a range of contests and activities. Don’t miss the *Write It Right* spelling challenge; the *Great Pan-Canadian Entrepreneurial Challenge*, presented by the Fédération de la jeunesse canadienne-française (FJCF);

the *On the Tip of My Tongue* contest, presented by the Language Portal of Canada and Air Canada; or the *Build Your Own Custom Heritage, Cultural and Sightseeing Tour* contest, presented by the Réseau de développement économique et d'employabilité (RDÉE Canada).

Visit [RVF.ca](http://RVF.ca) today to discover the various sections of the website and to participate in some contests that are already online. Follow us on social media—Facebook, Twitter and Instagram—using the #RVFranco hashtag.

The Canadian Foundation for Cross-Cultural Dialogue and the 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 Collège, VIA Rail, the Secrétariat du Québec aux relations canadiennes, Canada Post, the Fédération des communautés francophones et acadienne (FCFA) du Canada, 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 des ressources pédagogiques (CFORP) and the Mouvement d'implication francophone d'Orléans (MIFO).

*The RVF are 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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**SOURCE**

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