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Canada



# OFFICIAL LANGUAGES

Implementation of Sections 41 and 42 of the *Official Languages Act*  
Community Development and Linguistic Duality

BULLETIN  
**41-42**



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We will be pleased to receive your comments and observations.

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The *Bulletin 41-42* is published by the Interdepartmental Coordination Directorate of the Department of Canadian Heritage. It takes its name from sections 41 and 42 of the *Official Languages Act* (OLA). Section 41 commits the federal government to enhancing the vitality of official-language minority communities (OLMCs), as well as fostering the full recognition and use of both English and French in Canadian society. Section 42 mandates the Department of Canadian Heritage, through interdepartmental coordination, to promote and encourage a coordinated approach to this commitment.

The *Bulletin 41-42* aims to promote measures taken by federal institutions to support the development of OLMCs and promote linguistic duality, and to reflect concrete results stemming from interdepartmental coordination.

# Young English-speakers in Quebec look to the future

In collaboration with Philippe Doyon, Canadian Heritage

In September 2008, at the invitation of the Quebec Community Groups Network (QCGN), some 100 delegates aged 16 to 29 from across Quebec converged on Concordia University in Montreal to participate in the *Génération* youth forum. The objective of this provincial youth forum - funded by Canadian Heritage - was to identify solutions to the challenges faced by English-speaking youth in Quebec. The forum gave the participants a chance to discuss particular issues affecting young English-speakers in Quebec, to network and to launch the development of a five-year strategic plan based on their ideas and experiences. The youth forum represented the final stage in a consultation process organized by QCGN and many of its member organizations and involving nearly 300 young people in eight regions of Quebec.

The event included interactive workshops, plenary discussions and a validation session leading to the formulation of strategic recommendations. The subjects covered included access to quality education services, particularly adequate instruction in French as a second language (since young English-speakers in Quebec have proclaimed loud and strong their desire to be and become bilingual), and the need to forge a sense of identity and strengthen their sense of belonging.

The forum also offered the opportunity to inaugurate a new information portal ([www.cbc.ca/youngquebec](http://www.cbc.ca/youngquebec)) developed by QCGN in collaboration with the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (CBC). This new tool for Quebec's English-speaking youth provides a reliable source of information and resources on employment, education, arts and other services for young people.

The forum's networking opportunities also promoted ties between the communities. Representatives of young Francophones in Quebec as well as other provinces, including members of the *Fédération des jeunes francophones du Nouveau-Brunswick* (FJFNB), also attended the forum. Pierre-André Doucet of the FJFNB spoke at the plenary session and explained that, based on his organization's experience with Acadian youth, the primary reason for which young people return to their region and their community is not money or work, but rather a sense of pride and belonging. It is all a matter of respect. Once mutual respect is established, it is possible to set aside the language barrier, engage in a dialogue and exchange with young people and others belonging to the majority community.

For Shawna Dunbar and Brent Platt, co-chairs of the QCGN Youth Standing Committee, the forum

was "an excellent opportunity for young English-speakers from across Quebec to come together and not only discuss the challenges we face, but also develop practical long-term solutions for our communities." The 2009-2014 strategic orientations, which stemmed from the forum's findings and consultations, were adopted in January 2009. They focus on the following five themes: bilingualism, identity and isolation, education, employment and entrepreneurship, and community life. The objective is to meet the aspirations of young English-speakers who wish to be full-fledged members of Quebec society.

"... the primary reason for which young people return to their region and their community is not money or work, but rather a sense of pride and belonging."

**BULLETIN  
41-42  
ONLINE**

[www.pch.gc.ca/bulletin41-42](http://www.pch.gc.ca/bulletin41-42)





# A forum for sharing and reflection

In collaboration with Renaud Marcotte, Treasury Board of Canada Secretariat

Year after year, the Official Languages Best Practices Forum is guaranteed to be a success. On December 4, 2008, more than 300 participants attended the fourth Forum, with the theme “Beyond obligations, values to share.” This year, in addition to kiosks and presentations on best practices, the program included a presentation by a community organizer and a round table with three notable speakers.

Nicole Jauvin, President of the Canada Public Service Agency, and Judith A. LaRocque, Deputy Minister of Canadian Heritage, gave the opening remarks. They set the tone by inviting the participants to pool their know-how, creativity and innovation to help official languages flourish in their institutions. Representatives of Air Canada, Health Canada, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, Farm Credit Canada and the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation described best practices in turn.

To mark the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the coming into force of Part VII of the *Official Languages Act* (OLA), Ronald Bisson, a management consultant and community organizer, offered a personal view of the implementation of section 41 of the OLA since it was passed. He showed how projects that benefit minority communities also benefit the majority. In his opinion, the future belongs to those federal institutions that expand their joint efforts to contribute to the development of official-language minority communities and the promotion of official languages in Canadian society.

In the round table discussion, the three speakers, Daniel J. Caron, Senior Assistant Deputy Minister of Library and Archives Canada and Chair of the Council of the Network of Official Languages Champions, Chad Gaffield, President of the Social

Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada, and Kevin Saville, President of KSAR and Associates, shared their knowledge and experience in the area of official languages and linguistic duality in Canada.

Mr. Caron discussed a number of themes, including globalization and multiculturalism. He also pointed out the advantages of bilingualism for the individual, the institution and society, demonstrating that language is linked to the economic and cultural well-being of the country. In the context of public service renewal, he spoke of the opportunity to hire employees who share public service values.

Mr. Gaffield, an eminent Canadian historian, spoke about Canada’s prosperity in the 20<sup>th</sup> century and how our country’s history is that of a complex, diverse and creative people. He explained how the census has changed over the years with regard to mother tongue, reflecting the evolution from uniqueness to diversity.

Mr. Saville pointed out the importance of recognizing new trends to ensure that discourse on official languages remains pertinent for young people and new Canadians.

Susan Jessop of Canadian Heritage gave the participants a foretaste of the Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games to be held in Vancouver in 2010. This event represents an ideal opportunity to showcase Canada on the international stage.

Luna Bengio, Director General, Official Languages, Canada Public Service Agency, and Hubert Lussier, Director General, Official Languages Support Programs, Canadian Heritage, closed the event by noting the record participation in this fourth Forum.

“...the future belongs to those federal institutions that expand their joint efforts to contribute to the development of official-language minority communities...”



# Lebanon welcomes the Games of La Francophonie 2009

*In collaboration with Nicole (Niki) Saunders, Canadian Heritage*

The VI Games of La Francophonie will be held from September 27 to October 6, 2009. After Morocco in 1989, France in 1994, Madagascar in 1997, Canada in 2001 and Niger in 2005, it is the turn of Lebanon and its capital, Beirut, to host this important celebration for youth from the countries of La Francophonie. Canada and the governments of Quebec and New Brunswick are among the 55 States and governments belonging to the *Organisation internationale de la Francophonie*. As such, the Canadian delegation to the Games of La Francophonie consists of three teams: Canada, Canada-Quebec and Canada-New Brunswick.

The Games of La Francophonie are the only major international games to combine sport and cultural competitions in a single event. The Games represent a unique opportunity to showcase the originality of Francophone culture and the excellence of athletes from across the international Francophonie. The disciplines selected

for the cultural events in the 2009 Games are: song, storytelling, traditionally inspired original dance, literature (short story), painting, photography and sculpture. Artists are selected to take part in the cultural competitions of the Games of La Francophonie based on excellence, not linguistic affiliation. However, some disciplines require a work or performance that is partly or entirely in French.

The recruitment campaign for the cultural competitions closed on November 24, 2008. Canadian applicants were assessed by a jury of peers, composed of professional Canadian artists known in their respective disciplines. The selected applicants will then be assessed by an international jury appointed by the *Comité international des Jeux de la Francophonie* on the basis of critical criteria for each of the disciplines. The artists chosen to represent Team Canada at the Games will be announced in March 2009. For

more information on Canada's participation in the VI Games of La Francophonie, visit [www.pch.gc.ca/special/francophonie](http://www.pch.gc.ca/special/francophonie).



## Winterlude honours New Brunswick

*In collaboration with Tatiana Avoce, National Capital Commission*

In February 2009, the National Capital Commission, in collaboration with the Government of New Brunswick, showcased "New Brunswick Weekend" at Winterlude 2009. This initiative is in line with the organization's mission to create pride and unity through Canada's Capital Region and its mandate to organize and promote activities that enrich the cultural and social fabric of Canada. The year marks the 225<sup>th</sup> anniversary

of New Brunswick and this Winterlude event promoted the linguistic duality of the province, its cultural heritage and provided national visibility for a variety of New Brunswick artists. The program contained indoor and outdoor activities, which took place all over Canada's Capital Region. These included family and sports activities, meetings with sports figures, political personalities and artists.

# The Interdepartmental Coordination Network at Canadian Heritage

In collaboration with Philippe Doyon, Canadian Heritage

The fourth annual meeting of the Interdepartmental Coordination Network at Canadian Heritage was held in Gatineau in December 2008. Established in 2005, the Network takes its raison d'être from section 42 of the *Official Languages Act* (OLA), which mandates Canadian Heritage to assist federal institutions in supporting the development of official-language minority communities and promoting English and French.

Working together for common results: interdepartmental official languages networks were created and are active in almost every province and territory in Canada.

The Network consists of an officer responsible for interdepartmental coordination from each provincial and territorial office and staff from the Interdepartmental Coordination Directorate. Its role is to provide a support network between headquarters and the regional offices of Canadian Heritage as well as between the Department and its partner federal institutions at the national and regional levels.

At the December 5 meeting, the Network took the opportunity to develop its second work plan. Among other things, the Network intends to:

- pursue a common vision of interdepartmental coordination;
- improve the flow of information between headquarters and the regions, both within the Department and among the federal partners; and
- promote better understanding of Part VII of the OLA and increased integration of the tools available to Canadian Heritage and the other federal institutions with a view to enhancing the development of the official-language communities in general.

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# Rendez-vous de la Francophonie 2009 celebrates diversity

*In collaboration with Canadian Heritage*

The 11<sup>th</sup> edition of the *Rendez-vous de la Francophonie* (RVF) took place nationwide from March 6 to 22, 2009.

With the theme “Celebrate Canada’s Francophonie Today – Rich in its Diversity!”, the *Rendez-vous* are part of celebrations surrounding the *Journée internationale de la francophonie* (March 20) organized annually across the globe. Francophones and Francophiles across Canada got together to organize activities that foster celebration, exchanges and the joy of discovering our Canadian Francophonie.

This 15-day event was also a unique opportunity to promote the Government of Canada’s commitment to the French language and to celebrate today’s Francophonie in Canada. Various federal departments and agencies, including Canadian Heritage, the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, Via Rail Canada, the National Film Board, Canada Post, Air Canada as well as provincial and territorial governments contributed

actively to the RVF and celebrated the event with a diverse range of activities.



Among the activities that took place across Canada:

- The National Film Board (NFB) offered a selection of documentaries and short films with the theme of immigration into the Francophonie (150 showings from one end of the country to the other).
- Canada Post sponsored a nation-wide French spelling contest.
- The Air Canada theatre tour *Terre d'accueil* was held from March 3 to 24, in which four immigrant actors visited nearly 100 schools and community centres across Canada.

For more information on the RVF, please visit [www.rvf.ca](http://www.rvf.ca).



## Launch of the *Rendez-vous de la Francophonie* within the federal Public Service

On March 6, 2009, the Public Service of Canada launched the *Rendez-vous de la Francophonie* (RVF) at the Canadian Museum of Civilization in Gatineau. The launch was an opportunity for employees of Canada's public service to experience first-hand the rich diversity that immigration has brought to Canada's Francophonie.

Participants were welcomed by an agent at a Citizenship and Immigration Canada kiosk and presented with a passport to the world of Canada's Francophonie, containing a quiz and interesting Francophonie trivia from Canada and around the world. After having their passports stamped by Canada Border Services Agency officers, participants visited kiosks representing diverse Canadian Francophone communities, originally from countries such as Morocco, Mauritius, Cameroon and Bulgaria. The kiosks displayed a colourful array of cultural artefacts from these countries as well as information and statistics on their local communities.

Once the participants had had an opportunity to visit the kiosks, master of ceremonies Hugues Beaudoin-Dumouchel

opened the program with presentations by fellow Franco-Ontarians Marc O'Sullivan, Acting Senior Vice-President of the Canada Public Service Agency, and Nicole Bourget, Assistant Deputy Minister and Official Languages Champion at Canadian Heritage. A stage show followed, featuring a wide array of artists representing the diversity of Canada's Francophonie, including popular Francophone singer and spokesperson for the RVF Jean-François Breau. Other performers included the spectacular Burundian Remesha Drums, Haitian slam poet ONI and Brazilian singer Bia, to name a few.

This event within the Public Service, involving some 500 participants, aims to renew the pride of Francophones in expressing themselves in their mother tongue and encourages Francophiles to use French more often in their workplace. In creating awareness among federal employees, this annual activity also complements the federal commitment to promote both official languages and enhance the vitality of the Francophone minority communities across Canada.



Djaka Blais-Amare,  
Program Officer,  
Canadian Heritage  
in Calgary

## InterAction celebrates 10 years of coordination

*In collaboration with Marie Gaudet, Canadian Heritage*

**I**nterdepartmental coordination is alive and well in Alberta! For the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of this annual meeting, 87 participants gathered in Calgary on October 17, 2008, an increase of 29 per cent over 2007. The turn-out demonstrates a firm commitment by federal and community stakeholders. The event brought together 41 representatives of the federal government and 46 from the community sector.

The purpose of this meeting was to promote networking among the representatives of various federal departments and the Francophone community who work to implement section 41 of the *Official Languages Act*. The 2008 meeting was led by Vincent Dureault, a Radio-Canada announcer from Winnipeg, with a combination of wit and professionalism.

Speakers included Denis Perreux, Director General of the Provincial Secretariat of the *Association canadienne-française de l'Alberta*, Loretta Beaudet of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, France Caissy of the Interdepartmental Coordination Directorate at Canadian Heritage, Josée Martel of the *Secrétariat aux affaires intergouvernementales canadiennes*, Denis Tardif and Cindie LeBlanc of Alberta's Francophone Secretariat, and Djaka Blais-Amare of Canadian Heritage.

The meeting gave the participants a chance to get to know each other and develop effective strategies to meet the commitment to enhancing the vitality of Alberta's Francophone community.

## For the 2010 Games, two's company

*In collaboration with Marjorie Rémy, 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games Federal Secretariat, and Robert Cousin, Vancouver Organizing Committee for the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games*

**W**ith less than a year to go before the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games in Vancouver, the Vancouver Organizing Committee for the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games (VANOC) and the 2010 Winter Games Federal Secretariat are working hard to ensure that the two official languages are showcased at the Games. Recognizing the unique opportunity to promote linguistic duality at these Games, the Government of Canada is committed to ensuring that both official languages are fully integrated in the organization and operation of the Games. We can now give a positive report on the steps taken thus far.

### Concrete and positive measures

The 2010 Winter Games are the first Games in the history of the Olympic Games to have included an official languages clause in the Multi-Party Agreement between VANOC and its partners. This appendix clearly identifies VANOC's responsibilities with regard to the implementation of an offer of service in English and French. VANOC has exceeded its obligations by

establishing an internal language policy to enhance the use of both official languages in the workplace.

VANOC has also reworked [www.vancouver2010.com](http://www.vancouver2010.com), its Web site. This bilingual site includes a section on official languages, which explains the story behind the integration of official languages into the organization of the Games, presents the history of the Canadian Francophone community from its beginnings, and outlines the collaboration between VANOC, the 2010 Winter Games Federal Secretariat and the Francophone communities of Canada, through the Canadian Foundation for Cross-Cultural Dialogue and the *Fédération des francophones de la Colombie-Britannique*.

These initiatives undoubtedly offer an opportunity to leave a legacy not only for Canada, but also for future Olympic Games around the world. Linguistic duality is a fundamental characteristic of the Canadian identity and VANOC is committed to reflecting its wealth in a concrete and positive manner.

For more information about the activities of the 2010 Winter Games Federal Secretariat, consult the following Web site: [www.canada2010.gc.ca](http://www.canada2010.gc.ca).



From left to right: Jenifer Soper, Co-chair, Official Languages Committee, NLFRC; Gilbert Taylor, Commissioner's representative for the Atlantic Region; Graham Fraser, Commissioner of Official Languages; Glen Hynes, Co-chair, Official Languages Committee and Official Languages Champion, NLFRC; and Virginia Adamson, Assistant Commissioner.

## Graham Fraser pays a visit to Newfoundland and Labrador

*In collaboration with Rebecca Moyes and James Prowse, Canadian Heritage*

**I**n October 2008, Commissioner of Official Languages Graham Fraser made his first visit to Newfoundland and Labrador since his appointment in 2006 after cancelling a planned trip in 2007 because of fog! He met with Francophone community groups, including the *Fédération des francophones de Terre-Neuve et du Labrador*, the Newfoundland and Labrador Federal Regional Council (NLFRC), and federal public servants who are engaged in language training. Despite the relatively small number of Francophones in the province, Mr. Fraser invited Francophone groups to continue to focus on the importance of building goodwill and encouraging more French-language training.

The Commissioner met with the *Comité d'orientation aux affaires francophones*, a tripartite government/community group that meets every eight weeks to develop best practices that address the priorities of the Francophone community in the province. Mr. Fraser was impressed with the creativity and innovation of Francophone communities and federal departments in Newfoundland and Labrador. He said that often, through necessity, smaller populations encourage creative ways to promote and advance the French language.

Mr. Fraser's session on October 17 drew more than 100 federal public servants, indicating the high level of interest in French training in Newfoundland and Labrador. Along with Mr. Fraser's inspiring speech, this session also featured musical and theatrical performances in French. In his address to public servants, Mr. Fraser compared French-language learning to that of an immigrant experience. Language learners must adapt to the nuances and culture of a new language, much the same way a new immigrant does. Both experiences can be frustrating and difficult, and ultimately rewarding.

Mr. Fraser was also guest of honour at the banquet opening the annual general meeting of the *Fédération des francophones de Terre-Neuve et du Labrador*. The meeting, where the priorities for its 2009-2014 global development plan were discussed, was attended by members of Francophone communities in St. John's, the Port-au-Port peninsula and Labrador City, as well as representatives of federal and provincial departments, including Canadian Heritage, Service Canada, Industry Canada and the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency.



Chantal Lunardi, *Association des francophones des Kootenay Ouest*, and Pascale Knoglinger, *Société de développement économique de la Colombie-Britannique*.

## Forum on the future of rural Francophone development in British Columbia

*In collaboration with Christine Raffaelli, Canadian Heritage*

On October 29 and 30, 2008, the first forum on the future of rural Francophone development in British Columbia was held in Victoria. Organized by the *Société de développement économique de la Colombie-Britannique*, this event was funded by Canadian Heritage, Western Economic Diversification Canada and Industry Canada. Some thirty participants attended, including members of nine associations, business leaders, officers from federal departments and representatives of the community and tourism and economic development sectors in British Columbia. Through an exchange of ideas and the definition of a common vision, the participants created an action plan to meet the challenges facing Francophones in the region. This exercise highlighted the difficulties associated with very large geographic areas, problems recruiting and keeping human resources, funding for associations, and the exodus of young

people attracted by urban centres. The following objectives were defined:

- obtaining government recognition as a participant in regional development and preservation of the minority language in the region;
- seeking partnerships to increase funding;
- creating an inclusive rural network that incorporates young people and English-language partners while preserving Francophone pride; and
- establishing a network for exchange and assistance among associations.

The challenges are significant, but the participants showed their desire to meet them by exploring the possibility of establishing a specific, long-term development project. This forum was the first step.

## IPOLC: an initiative that has lived up to its objectives

*In collaboration with Canadian Heritage*

On March 31, 2009, the Interdepartmental Partnership with the Official-Language Communities (IPOLC) came to an end. Launched in 2000 to provide start-up support, IPOLC encouraged federal institutions to support the development of official-language minority communities (OLMCs). The aim of IPOLC was to make federal institutions aware of their responsibility to contribute to the implementation of Part VII of the *Official Languages Act*. Overall, IPOLC has generated investments of more than 100 million dollars in the communities. Over the past ten years, direct and productive ties have been established between federal institutions and OLMCs in such priority areas as health, economic development and employability, justice, culture and immigration. Examples include the work of the *Société Santé en français* and the Community Health and Social Services Network, the *Réseaux*

*de développement économique et d'employabilité* (RDÉEs) and the Community Economic Development and Employability Committees (CEDECs), *Vision économique* plans in rural areas, and reception and settlement services for Francophone immigrants in minority communities.

Within the federal public service, networks that coordinate efforts to support the communities have been strengthened. Furthermore, thanks to the Roadmap for Canada's Linguistic Duality, 14 federal institutions will invest \$1.1 billion, from 2008 to 2013, in community development and official languages coordination. Moreover, the 2005 amendments to the *Official Languages Act* have heightened the obligation of federal institutions to support the vitality of OLMCs and to foster the full recognition and use of both English and French.



## A hub for Francophone immigrants in British Columbia

*In collaboration with Kyle Sundstrom, Citizenship and Immigration Canada*

October 28, 2008, marked the official launch of the Connection Centre for Francophone Immigrants (*Agence francophone pour l'accueil des immigrants*) located at the *Centre culturel francophone de Vancouver*. The Connection Centre is a pilot project run by the *Fédération des francophones de la Colombie-Britannique* (FFCB).

The launch was well attended by Francophone community members, as well as representatives from federal and provincial government departments. In their presentations, Joan McIntyre, provincial Minister of State for Intergovernmental Affairs, Tanniar Leba, Director General of *La Boussole*, Padminee Chundusing and Stéphane Audet of the FFCB recognized the efforts of everyone involved in the project while underscoring the importance of enhancing services for Francophones settling in British Columbia.

Citizenship and Immigration Canada and the Province collaborated to design recommendations to improve services,

which included the development of a central location. A collaborative model was created to develop this pilot project in consultation with key stakeholders and community members.

The Connection Centre aims at meeting the needs of B.C.'s French-speaking immigrants and refugee population. This central hub connects newcomers to the larger Francophone cultural community and various settlement organizations. It represents a giant step forward in supporting and developing the Francophone minority community in B.C.

Government support to open the Connection Centre for Francophone Immigrants is made possible under the Canada-B.C. Agreement for Co-operation on Immigration, in which Citizenship and Immigration Canada transfers \$109 million every year to the B.C. government for settlement services for new immigrants.

## Literacy changes lives

*In collaboration with Robert Gauthier, Canada Post Corporation*

A mother of five who did not finish high school, Lisa Forest of Île-des-Chênes, Manitoba, had to work overtime to keep her house. In 2005, with an uncertain future, she finally resumed her studies. With the help of the not-for-profit agency *Pluri-elles* and motivated by her daughters, Lisa plans to obtain her high school diploma and then her diploma in office management. In this way, she is providing motivation for her teenagers. Her dream: for everyone to have the opportunity to develop through education. Lisa is one of the 2008 winners of the Canada Post Community Literacy Awards.

The Canada Post Community Literacy Awards were established 16 years ago to discover and acknowledge the achievements of Canadians who - like Lisa Forest - have made a special effort or an important contribution to literacy. Today, the awards

have become Canada's only national program dedicated to celebrating local literacy initiatives and the achievements of both learners and those who have helped them learn to read and write. By acknowledging their efforts, the Community Literacy Awards encourage thousands of people wishing to improve their reading and writing skills, and inspire them to reach their personal literacy goals. Canada Post is pleased to note that more than 30 per cent of the prize winners at the 2008 awards ceremony came from official-language minority communities. This is an important indicator of Canada Post's commitment to fully recognizing Canada's linguistic duality.

Nominations for the 2009 Canada Post Community Literacy Awards will be accepted until May 22 at: [www.canadapost.ca/AboutUs/Community/Literacy/Awards/](http://www.canadapost.ca/AboutUs/Community/Literacy/Awards/).



Hon. James Moore, Minister of Canadian Heritage and Official Languages, Hon. Stockwell Day, Minister of International Trade, and Peter Herrndorf, President and CEO of the National Arts Centre, attending BC Scene activities.

## A celebration of British Columbia artists

In collaboration with Anne Tanguay, National Arts Centre



From April 21 to May 3, 2009, the National Arts Centre (NAC) presented BC Scene, the fourth in a series of biennial festivals honouring artists from a particular region of Canada. Some 600 artists from various disciplines were featured in what is undoubtedly the largest gathering of British Columbia artists ever presented outside of the province. Here is a taste of the festival's Francophone programming. Two plays were performed at the *Nouvelle Scène* in Ottawa:

- *La Vue d'en haut*, a production by Vancouver's *Théâtre La Seizième*; and
- *Rage* by British Columbia playwright Michele Riml, directed by Joël Beddows and co-presented by BC Scene and Ottawa's *Théâtre La Catapulte*.

Renowned clarinetist François Houle, who has lived in Vancouver since 1990, gave a recital in the Rideau Chapel of the National Gallery of Canada and singer-songwriter Josée Allard shared the stage of *Mouvement d'implication francophone*

*d'Orléans* with fellow B.C. Francophones Saint-Pierre and Danielle Hébert.

The NAC consulted with the *Fédération culturelle canadienne-française* in planning the Francophone component of the festival. Eager to make a special place for official-language minority artists in each of its Scene festivals, the NAC is pleased to have been able to offer in 2009, with the support of Canadian Heritage, a national showcase of Francophone artists from British Columbia. As with all of the NAC's Scene festivals, the event attracted considerable media attention in the National Capital Region and throughout the country. Introducing all Canadians to the wide range of talents and vitality of official-language minority artists, as well as providing opportunities to these artists are two of the objectives that the NAC pursues with its Scene festivals.

Details on BC Scene at [www.bcscene.ca](http://www.bcscene.ca).

## Telefilm supports five English-speaking screenwriters from Quebec

In collaboration with Telefilm Canada

In November 2008, Telefilm Canada announced the five English-speaking screenwriters selected to participate in the *Feature It!* initiative. A key aim of this initiative, which is in its second year, is to expand the pool of English talent in Quebec. The selected writers received a predevelopment advance budget and participated in a four-day writing workshop in Montreal. In addition, they were given access to a script advisor as they rewrote their feature-length projects over the following eight weeks. The screenwriters selected were: Cynthia Knight for *Vacationship*, Shane Simmons for *Sex Tape*,

Joel Newman for *Backtrack*, Anna Fuerstenburg for *Krakovian Nose*, and Alana Cymerman for *Good Enough Mother*. Telefilm Canada introduced *Feature It!* in 2006 with financial support from Canadian Heritage.

In February 2009, two winning projects were selected to receive a development advance of \$20,000. Congratulations to the winners: Cynthia Knight, for *Vacationship*, produced by Periphoria Productions Inc., and Shane Simmons, for *Sex Tape*, produced by Muse Entertainment Enterprises Inc.



## Telefilm's OLA program is a hit!

*In collaboration with Ginette Pépin and Jill Varley, Téléfilm Canada*

**A**s part of Telefilm Canada's *Écrire au long* initiative, eleven Francophone writers, writer-directors and producers from outside Quebec came together in Montreal in October 2008 for intensive training workshops. The five participating writers were from Ontario, Prince Edward Island, Manitoba and New Brunswick. The training offered script techniques workshops, practical exercises and individual consultations. The six producers, representing British Columbia, Ontario, New Brunswick, Manitoba and Alberta, participated in an immersion program that covered topics like the filmmaker-producer relationship and the art of delivering a pitch.

A similar training initiative for Quebec Anglophone creators took place in Montreal in November 2008 as part of Telefilm's *Feature it!* initiative. Both of these initiatives are part of Telefilm's Official Languages Activities (OLA) Program. Telefilm

also announced a brand new OLA Production Component on October 29. Its objective is to provide eligible producers and directors from official-language minority communities with the opportunity to produce feature film projects. Through strategic events and initiatives like these, Telefilm is developing long-lasting relationships between industry decision-makers and minority-language creators. The OLA Program also aims to expand the pool of talented creators from the minority Francophone and Anglophone communities. In the long term, these efforts are expected to result in more of these skilled creators having better access to Telefilm's main funds.

Jocelyn Forgues, one of the participants in the October producers' immersion in Montreal, is the producer of Telefilm's short film *Embargo*. The film recently won first prize at Cornwall's Seaway Festival 2008. It was also part of the official selection of the PEI International Film Festival in Charlottetown.



## *La petite séduction* broadens its scope

*In collaboration with Diane Laflamme, Canadian Broadcasting Corporation*

**B**eginning its third season, the Radio-Canada program *La petite séduction* broadened its scope in 2008. After receiving a proposal from a resident of Saint-Georges, Manitoba, and with the support of the show's host, Dany Turcotte, *La Presse Télé* Executive Producer, Benoit Léger, found the means to go and meet other Francophones in Canada. With assistance from Travel Manitoba, Tourism Saskatchewan, the Canadian Tourism Commission and additional support from Radio-Canada, the *Petite séduction* crew was able to feature two Francophone villages in Western Canada.

The first stop on this 12-day adventure was Saint-Georges, in the company of singer Marie-Élaine Thibert. The crew continued on to Gravelbourg, Saskatchewan, where they met Mario Pelchat. Crossing the prairies was a memorable experience, but the crew was most amazed to discover these vital Francophone communities in English-speaking areas. It was also a revelation for Marie-Élaine Thibert, who hoped to return as a performer. For Mario Pelchat, it was a return to his roots and brought back moving and happy memories of his youth.

Everywhere it goes, *La petite séduction* leaves an impression, both while the show is in town and long after. Each Francophone community visited is filled with excitement and pride, the half-million viewers who faithfully watch the show each week get to know a variety of Francophone communities and the villages soon become tourist destinations. One of the activities carried out in Saint-Georges made it possible to fill a brand-new French library with books.

After last summer's travels to Saskatchewan, Manitoba, New Brunswick with Michel Louvain, and to various parts of Quebec (Caplan in the Gaspé, Natashquan and Havre-Saint-Pierre on the North Shore), *La petite séduction* has more surprises in store for the fourth season, to be broadcast in the spring of 2009.

If your community would like a visit from *La petite séduction*, you are invited to submit a proposal by visiting the program's Web site at [www.radio-canada.ca/television](http://www.radio-canada.ca/television).



Hon. James Moore, Minister of Canadian Heritage and Official Languages, accompanied by community representatives at the Cultural Development Fund launch.

## Cultural Development Fund off and running!

*In collaboration with Lise Toupin, Canadian Heritage*

**O**n March 20, 2009, in Vancouver, the Honourable James Moore, Minister of Canadian Heritage and Official Languages, announced the implementation of the new Cultural Development Fund, intended to contribute to the development and the cultural and artistic enrichment of Francophone and Anglophone minority communities. As a result, Canadian Heritage made good on a commitment set forth in the Roadmap for Canada's Linguistic Duality 2008-2013: Acting for the Future. This Fund was implemented following consultations with both official-language minority communities in November 2008 in Gatineau. Representatives of the cultural sector's Francophone and Anglophone minority communities met with Canadian Heritage to discuss the Fund's orientation, priority actions for each language group and ways to implement the Fund. The Roadmap provides for a \$3.5 million annual budget for this Fund, totaling \$14 million over four years (beginning in 2009-2010).

This consultation brought together representatives of the English-Language Arts Network (ELAN), the Quebec Anglophone Heritage Network, the *Fédération culturelle canadienne-française* (FCCF), the *Fédération des communautés francophones et acadienne du Canada* (FCFA) and the Quebec Community Groups Network (QCGN).

By supporting cultural actions, the Cultural Development Fund is intended to foster the vitality of official-language minority communities, promote the contribution of these communities to the cultural and artistic enrichment of Canada, help young people develop their identity and sense of belonging, and encourage cooperation between various partners by funding initiatives that will complement those already funded by Canadian Heritage and its portfolio agencies. Community cultural action leads to dynamic living environments and contributes to a stronger economy. It also strengthens cultural diversity by promoting Canada's official languages.

## World Youth Congress, the scene of cross-cultural exchange

*In collaboration with Vincent Marimbu, Canadian International Development Agency*

**I**n August 2008, the 4<sup>th</sup> World Youth Congress was held in Quebec City, with the theme of youth-led development. Supported partly by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), among others, this congress was part of the youth program for Quebec City's 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Among the 500 delegates from 110 countries, the 100 Canadian delegates reflected Canada's multicultural make-up and linguistic duality,

and 12 of those delegates represented official-language minority communities. Equality between men and women, education and environmental sustainability were among the themes discussed in workshops, symposiums and training sessions. The event's co-organizer and CIDA partner, TakingItGlobal, connects youth around the world through information technologies so that they can take action to improve their local communities.



## The National Arts Centre's 2008 Good Ambassador Award

On November 26, 2008, Anne Tanguay, Manager of Translation Services and Official Languages Champion at the National Arts Centre (NAC), received the NAC Good Ambassador Award. Each year, this award is given to a staff member who seizes every opportunity to highlight the role of the Centre and the contribution of the performing arts in Canadian society. Anne has transformed the way the NAC presents itself in French in its written material, particularly programs and promotional and advertising tools. In a federal institution with a strong focus

on service to the public, she has succeeded in heightening the staff's enthusiasm and pride with regard to active offer in both official languages. She has also made the NAC's artistic management more aware of Part VII of the *Official Languages Act* by promoting a series of positive measures under section 41 of the Act. Some examples include showcasing artists from official-language minority communities (OLMCs), increasing French-language content in family concerts, and organizing bilingual programs and educational material for OLMC schools.

## Cultural Olympiad: Where the world's best come to play!

In collaboration with Marjorie Rémy, 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games Federal Secretariat, and Robert Cousin, Vancouver Organizing Committee for the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games

October 28, 2008, marked the launch of the complete program for the 2009 Cultural Olympiad, held from February 1 to March 21, 2009. With some 400 performances and exhibitions, the Olympiad featured music, dance, theatre, visual arts, film, outdoor shows and digital media experiences, with events held at more than 70 venues in the Greater Vancouver region. One of the objectives of the Cultural Olympiad is to showcase the vitality and breadth of Canada's creative French-language community by incorporating performances by its artists. Highlights of the French-language program include:

- *Les Rencontres qui chantent* - a creative project that offers support to emerging singers and features 14 young artists from Canada's Francophone community;
- *Lentement la beauté* - a play that offers a reflection on the meaning of everyday life, artistic awakening and homage to the imagination and the beauty of the world. This is a production of Vancouver's *Théâtre la Seizième* and Edmonton's *L'Unithéâtre*; and

- 15<sup>th</sup> *Rendez-vous du cinéma québécois et francophone: Matinées scolaires* - this part of *Les Rendez-vous* devoted to promoting Quebec film in Canada extends an invitation to French-speaking children to discover and celebrate the diversity and talent of Francophone artists through films.

This is the first time that the Olympic Winter Games have included a multi-year cultural Olympiad before the Games. Vancouver's Cultural Olympiad will showcase Canadian and international culture and arts in a series of three festivals. The 2010 Cultural Olympiad will run for 60 days, from January 22, 2010, to March 21, 2010.

For further information, consult the 2009 Cultural Olympiad program at: [www.vancouver2010.com](http://www.vancouver2010.com).