

Commemorating 400 Years of Francophone Presence in Ontario

Ontario Announces Funding to Celebrate Francophone Culture

September 25, 2014 11:15 A.M.

The Ontario government will provide \$5.9 million to support cultural celebrations marking the 400th anniversary of Francophone presence in Ontario next year.

Premier Kathleen Wynne made the announcement at a ceremony today in Sudbury, where she took part in the raising of the Franco-Ontarian flag.

The funding will support a wide range of local and regional events that celebrate Franco-Ontarian culture. Commemorative events will take place from June to September 2015, and are expected to yield long-term economic benefits for Ontario. The events will help to boost tourism and create jobs in Ontario communities as visitors from across the province, Canada and the world join in the celebrations.

A number of community and agency partners are also planning tourism, cultural, educational and legacy projects for the 400th anniversary celebrations. Many of these projects will dovetail with the Pan American and Parapan American Games, so the province can showcase Franco-Ontarian culture to an international audience.

Celebrating Franco-Ontarian culture is part of the government's plan to build Ontario up by investing in people, building modern infrastructure and supporting a dynamic and innovative business climate.

QUOTES

" The Francophone community is an integral part of Ontario's history, achievements and our future. My government is proud to support the 400th anniversary celebrations, and I look forward to showcasing

Ontario's rich Francophone culture to the world next year during the Pan and Parapan American Games."

- Kathleen Wynne

Premier of Ontario

" Today's announcement will help to energize this milestone 400th Commemoration, and reflects our government's ongoing commitment toward a prosperous and vibrant Francophone community."

- Madeleine Meilleur

Minister Responsible for Francophone Affairs

QUICK FACTS

- More than 600,000 Francophones live in Ontario, the largest French-speaking community in Canada outside of Quebec.
- Approximately 14 percent of Franco-Ontarians were born outside of Canada.

LEARN MORE

- [Read about the Francophone community in Ontario](#)
- [Learn more about the Pan Am and Parapan Am Games, TORONTO 2015](#)

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