



Statement on Canadian Francophonie between the Government of Québec and the Government of New Brunswick

We take this historic moment of the 150th anniversary of Confederation in 2017 to recognize:

- ♦ **the key role played by the Acadian and Quebec peoples and the Francophone communities across the country in the founding and building of the Canada of today as well as their importance to the Canada of tomorrow;**
- ♦ **that the Francophonie is one of the fundamental characteristics of the Canadian identity.**

We are committed to working, in collaboration with the other governments in Canada, towards the promotion, protection, longevity, and vitality of the French fact.

Quebec and New Brunswick share 400 years of common French history since Samuel de Champlain first explored, in 1604, the coasts of what would become Acadie and since the founding of Quebec City, in 1608.

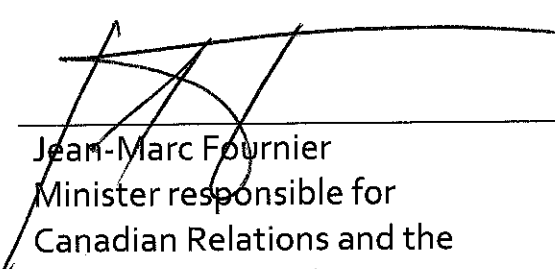
Since Confederation in 1867, Quebec and New Brunswick have developed solid ties and exercise important leadership within the Canadian Federation. More specifically, since 1969, the governments of Quebec and New Brunswick have agreed to facilitate exchanges and expand relations between their respective civil society.

Quebec and New Brunswick have a common vision rooted in history, which looks to the future, because they believe that the growth of the French language across Canada and on the continent is essential to the country's political, economic, social and cultural prosperity.


Given the importance of government commitment and leadership with respect to the Canadian Francophonie, particularly with the approaching 150th anniversary of Confederation in 2017, and while taking the different provincial and territorial realities into account, and in a spirit of solidarity and openness, we undertake to work closely together with respect to the Canadian Francophonie, notably by:

- ♦ Promoting the French language and the Canadian Francophonie as an identifying value of Canada and an asset to be drawn upon, through the presence of a national broadcaster that reflects the regional realities and contributes to their development;
- ♦ Taking concrete action to ensure that the demographic weight of Francophones is maintained all across Canada, particularly through Francophone immigration;
- ♦ Encouraging the active offer of services in French in order to increase the *espace francophone* across the country;
- ♦ Increasing intergovernmental cooperation through dialogue and collaboration between our governments in order to support initiatives that meet the needs of Francophone communities and that have significant impacts on their vitality, growth and development.

This Statement, signed at Edmundston, on this 19th day of August 2016, constitutes unwavering support and a pledge for the future vitality and sustainability of the Canadian Francophonie.



Jean-Marc Fournier
Minister responsible for
Canadian Relations and the
Canadian Francophonie



Francine Landry
Minister of Economic Development
and Minister responsible for La
Francophonie