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## **NOTES D'ALLOCUTION – JEAN JOHNSON**

Cérémonie en reconnaissance des « Rendez-vous de la Francophonie »  
Le lundi 10 mars 2014 à 11h  
Rotonde de la Législature albertaine

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Ministre Dave Hancock,  
Honorable Gene Zwozdeski,  
Ms. Danielle Smith,  
Dr. Raj Sherman,  
Mr. Deron Bilous,  
Distingués invités,  
*Distinguished guests,*  
Membres de la communauté et amis de la francophonie,

Bonjour,

Je suis très heureux d'avoir l'occasion de prendre la parole à titre de président de l'ACFA dans le cadre de cette cérémonie en reconnaissance des Rendez-vous de la Francophonie 2014.

*Alberta's French-speaking community is growing and more diverse than ever. Did you know that the French-speaking population in Alberta has increased by 40 % over the last 20 years? Alberta's French-speaking community is a reflection of the growth of our province and is facing the same realities, issues and challenges.*

*"La francophonie" is and has always been an integral part of the social fabric of Alberta. We can trace the history of the French presence on this territory for over 200 years. As our ancestors did before us, we want to help build a strong and prosperous Alberta. And, this Alberta includes a place for "la francophonie" because our community has always played a vital role in the province and we will continue to do so.*

*Alberta's French-speaking community gives Alberta its rightful place within the Canadian confederation. Alberta has the highest level of participation in French immersion programs and has done so for more than 40 years. Alberta was also the first province to promote Canadian values of diversity when we passed a Bill on multiculturalism in the early 70's. Alberta welcomes a growing number of French-speaking citizens from other provinces and territories, as well as from many parts of the world: Sub-Saharan Africa, Maghreb, Europe and Asia. Our French-speaking community plays a key role in welcoming and integrating them to Alberta. However, we must ensure that we work together to do better at integrating our new Albertans.*

*To this end, our community has always been proud to contribute to the betterment of our province and we want to continue. We, Albertans, have a champion of Campus Alberta in Minister Hancock. As we work towards a better integration of newcomers, our community wants to work with you Minister Hancock in further enhancing the vision of Campus Alberta. Along with the University of Alberta, we want to offer options the postsecondary sector to the benefit of all Albertans.*

Chaque année, c'est avec beaucoup d'anticipation que nous attendons cette invitation à célébrer Les Rendez-vous de la Francophonie à la rotonde de la Législature albertaine. Je tiens donc à remercier très chaleureusement le président de l'Assemblée législative albertaine et grand Ami de la Francophonie, M. Gene Zwozdesky.

*This year, we are thrilled to see that more than 130 activities are held in French in various communities across the province during the two weeks of Les Rendez-vous de la Francophonie. Many of them allow the participation of all Albertans whether they speak French or not. Therefore, I invite you to join us in experiencing our vibrant French cultures and our well-known "joie de vivre"! Together, let's celebrate the vitality of Alberta's Francophonie!*

À vous tous, je lance l'invitation de participer en grand nombre aux activités qui se déroulent en Alberta pendant Les Rendez-vous de la Francophonie! Soyez des nôtres du 7 au 23 mars! Merci et bon Rendez-vous!