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## Press Release

### **March 6, 2009, the Albertan sky will be blue, white and pink!**

**Edmonton, February 11, 2009** – The ACFA invites you to an event that this year unlike any other is of provincial magnitude. *Les Rendez-vous de la francophonie* (National French Canadian Heritage Week) will take place from March 6<sup>th</sup> to March 22<sup>nd</sup>. Francophone communities from across the province have joined together to synchronize the launching of Les Rendez-vous with the symbolic raising of the Franco-Albertan flag. Therefore, March 6, 2009, the Albertan sky will be blue, white and pink!

In each region, the event program includes the National Anthem, the raising of the Franco-Albertan flag, special guest speakers, as well as some local surprises. The ceremony aims to recognize past and present contributions of a vibrant French-speaking society, far and wide from all across Alberta.

Mr. Jean Johnson, ACFA president, invites all to participate: « Students and dignitaries will attend these different events that will be hosted in 16 towns of our province. I would like to invite all Albertans to participate. Write down this date in your agenda and come express your gratitude with us! March 6, 2009, I'll be there, will you join us? ».

According to Statistics Canada's census of June 2006, 68,000 Albertans indicated French as their mother tongue. If we were to add those students graduating from French immersion schools and those who learned French as a second language, the census estimates that more than 222,000 people were able to speak, live, and work in French. This ranks Alberta with the third largest minority French population in Canada after Ontario and New Brunswick.

The ACFA thinks that this is a strength we should all be proud of. March 6, 2009, wherever you are in the province, joins us: experience French life in Alberta and celebrate an important Canadian value, that of Linguistic Duality.

## Regional Schedule – Franco-Albertan Flag Raising

March, 6, 2009

**BONNYVILLE** at 12 :00 PM  
ACFA régionale de Bonnyville / Cold Lake  
4904B – 50 Street

**CALGARY** at 6:00 PM  
SCSCC – La Cité des Rocheuses  
4800, Richard Road S.W.

**CANMORE** at 12:30 PM  
École Notre-Dame des Monts  
3100-B Stewart Creek Dr.

**COLD LAKE** at 11:30 AM  
École Voyageur  
4719 – 69 Avenue

**EDMONTON** at 11:15 AM  
École Ste-Jeanne-d’Arc  
8505 – 68A Street

**FALHER** at 8:50 AM  
École Héritage  
110 Charbonneau Street

**FORT McMURRAY** at 11:00 AM  
Centre communautaire scolaire Boréal  
312 Abasand Drive

**GRANDE PRAIRIE** at 2:00 PM  
City Hall  
10205 – 98 Street

**JASPER** at 11:00 AM  
Royal Canadian Legion Branch 31 (parking)  
Geikie Street & Cedar Avenue

**LEGAL** at 11:00 AM  
City Hall (outside)  
5021 – 50 Street

**LETHBRIDGE** at 5:00 PM  
École La Vérendrye  
2104 – 5 Avenue

**PLAMONDON** at 12:30 PM  
École Beauséjour /  
Centre culturel Philip-Ménard  
9735 – 99 Street

**RED DEER** at 12:45 PM  
City Hall (park)  
4914 – 48 Avenue

**ST-ALBERT** at 10:40 AM  
École la Mission  
46 Heritage Drive

**ST-PAUL** at 11:20 AM  
École du Sommet /  
ACFA régionale de St-Paul  
4537 – 50 Avenue

**WAINWRIGHT** at 1:00 PM  
École Saint-Christophe  
214 – 8 Street

*Founded in 1926, the ACFA (French Canadian Association of Alberta) is the official voice of the Francophone community in Alberta. As such, the ACFA is committed to ensure the continued development of the Alberta’s French-speaking multicultural society. The ACFA’s Provincial Office is located in Edmonton along with 14 Regional Chapters across Alberta.*

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