

Participation Guide



Celebrating 50 Years Shaping the Future Together!

www.franco50.ca

An initiative led by the Office of the Lieutenant Governor of Ontario,
in partnership with the Alliance culturelle de l'Ontario.



with the support of:



ONTARIO ARTS COUNCIL
CONSEIL DES ARTS DE L'ONTARIO
an Ontario government agency
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In this document, you'll find an overview of the **Celebrating 50 Years. Shaping the Future Together!** initiative, who is eligible, how to take part, along with the conditions and steps for participation.

This guide is here to help you imagine and propose a project that reflects your vision, grounded in the values of co-creation, diversity, local engagement, and intercultural and intergenerational dialogue that guide the entire process.

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About the Initiative

Celebrating 50 Years. Shaping the Future Together! is part of the 50th anniversary of the Franco-Ontarian flag. It is an artistic and community initiative that celebrates Ontario's Francophonie in all its diversity, by bringing together stories of the past, the voices of today, and the imaginations of tomorrow.

Led by the Office of the Lieutenant Governor of Ontario, in collaboration with the Alliance culturelle de l'Ontario and a network of partners across the province, the initiative invites Ontarians from all walks of life to imagine and co-create a collective work.

Each project will highlight the vitality, creativity, and human connections that shape the daily life of Francophone communities in Ontario. Through artistic and community co-creation activities, participants will be invited to express what Ontario's Francophonie means to them, to their communities, and to future generations.

These creations will circulate across Ontario and be featured in a digital showcase, before reaching a global stage at the 2026 Francophonie Summit, where this living memory will shine in full.



Why Participate?

What the initiative offers participants

By taking part in **Celebrating 50 Years. Shaping the Future Together!**, individuals, organizations, and communities join a collective and inspiring initiative, supported by a professional and caring team. Each participant benefits from:

- personalized support from the regional coordination team
- artistic mentorship from a professional artist (if needed)
- practical tools to help carry out a project (guides, templates, planning support)
- local, provincial, and international visibility
- a creation grant or logistical support, depending on the nature of the project

This is a unique opportunity to contribute to a collective artistic process without having to carry a project alone or be deeply familiar with the cultural sector.

What the initiative allows us to create, experience, and share

The initiative makes it possible to:

- bring out stories, gestures, and symbols rooted in today's franco-ontarian reality in all its diversity
- build connections across generations, cultures, regions, and language groups
- transform a local idea or lived experience into a collective work within a province-wide effort
- experience a process of co-creation that is engaging, accessible, supportive, and guided
- showcase ontario's francophonie in a festive, respectful, and inspiring way

It is a space to listen, share, collaborate, and express ourselves in new ways.

Potential Impact (local, artistic, community, digital)

Every project, no matter how modest, contributes to:

- strengthening the sense of belonging to a diverse francophone community
- mobilizing people around a shared creative goal
- increasing the visibility of local realities at the provincial and international levels
- leaving a tangible and lasting artistic legacy, both physical and digital
- enriching a collective story where the plurality of francophone voices is recognized and celebrated

Who Can Participate?

Celebrating 50 Years. Shaping the Future Together! is open to a wide range of participants—whether individuals, groups, or organizations—from every corner of Ontario, including minority, Indigenous, and newcomer communities. Any initiative that is locally grounded and highlights the French language, Francophone culture, or Francophone heritage is eligible.

Eligible Profiles

Eligible projects may be proposed by:

- **Individuals:** professional or emerging artists, Knowledge Keepers/Cultural Custodians (such as Elders or historians), engaged citizens, writers, students, or young creators.
- **Groups (formal or informal):** student collectives, improv groups, reading circles, citizen groups, or any other non-incorporated gathering.
- **Artistic, cultural, or community organizations:** cultural centres, libraries, local associations, support or recreational groups, festivals, galleries, theatre or dance companies, or non-profit orchestras.
- **Educational or social organizations:** school boards, schools, literacy centres, youth groups, newcomer services, or adult learning centres.
- **Institutional or media organizations:** municipalities, community radio stations, or community newspapers.

A collaborative approach is encouraged, but not required. Projects may be carried out individually or collectively, depending on local realities.

A detailed table of eligible profiles and their specificities is provided in Annex 4.

Eligibility Criteria

To be eligible, participants must:

- reside in Ontario or carry out a significant activity in Ontario related to the initiative, while maintaining a connection to a francophone community or being rooted in one
- have a connection to a francophone community or be rooted in one, with the French language and/or franco-Ontarian heritage at the heart of the project or work

- engage in a process of creation or co-creation (artistic, cultural, and community-based)
- uphold the principles of inclusion, respect, and intercultural and intergenerational dialogue

Eligible Projects (examples)

Example 1: Community photo mini-exhibit

A community organization, working with a photographer, presents an exhibit in a community centre or library. The project features portraits of local residents sharing their connection to the flag or to Francophonie, accompanied by short collaboratively written texts. The artistic value lies in the composition, lighting, and storytelling. A selection of photos and stories will be included in the final collective exhibition.



Example 2: Collective textile installation

A group of artisans, in collaboration with a cultural organization, proposes the creation of a large woven or embroidered flag made from repurposed materials in a community space or mobile workshop. Each participant contributes a section of the work, showcasing craftsmanship, material choices, and visual design. The textile piece, or its photo documentation, will be integrated into the final collective exhibition.



Example 3: Recorded dance or poetry performance

An emerging artist, with the support of an organization, creates and films a performance presented outdoors or on a local stage, inspired by the theme "*Celebrating 50 Years. Shaping the Future Together!*". The artistic value comes from the choreography or original writing and the visual quality of the production. The video will be presented as a standalone work in the final collective exhibition.



For more examples, see Annex 3 – *Inspiring Ideas*.

Ineligible Projects

- projects with no connection to ontario's francophonie or territory (e.g., linguistic, cultural, historical, or symbolic links)
- projects that reproduce stereotypes or lack intercultural and intergenerational sensitivity
- purely commercial or promotional initiatives, where the final work primarily serves to promote a private entity
- projects completed before the official launch, meaning those already finished and publicly presented, without including a new co-creation process or community engagement for the initiative
- projects that are not locally led or lack community grounding

How to Participate – The Process

Here are the main steps to take part in the initiative:

Date	Step	Detail
September 25, 2025	Official launch of the initiative	Start of communications and outreach
September 25 – November 21, 2025	Expression of Interest period	Online form open to submit an idea
November 3 – December 19, 2025	Official project submissions	Formal submission of project proposals for evaluation
Mid-January 2026	First selection phase	Project evaluation
Early February 2026	Announcement of results	Communication of selected projects
February – June 26, 2026	Project implementation	Creation with support from regional coordination
July – December 2026	Exhibition and final showcase	Presentation in the collective exhibition and at the Francophonie Summit

Participation takes place step by step, guiding the evolution of an idea through to its final presentation. This progressive process is designed to welcome projects at different stages of development and provide tailored support throughout.

1. Expression of Interest Form

The Expression of Interest form is the first step to show your interest in participating. It will be available starting September 25, 2025, on the official initiative website (www.franco50.ca) for *Celebrating 50 Years. Shaping the Future Together!*.

The Expression of Interest form is designed to better understand the intentions and needs of interested individuals or groups. It collects information on:

- the profile of the project lead (individual, artist, organization, school, collective)
- the general project idea, even if it is still at an early stage
- the connection to ontario's francophone community (community, culture, language, history, etc.)
- any support or clarification needs identified at this stage

This form is not an official project submission.

It also serves as a way to start a personalized conversation with the regional team, who will answer your questions, help clarify your idea, and guide you toward the next steps.

A second, more detailed form will then be made available for the official official project submission, with support if needed.

This progressive process is designed to support ideas at different stages of development, in a spirit of listening, collaboration, and equitable access.

2. Project Selection

Selected projects will be evaluated according to the established criteria, taking into account the diversity of regions and participant profiles. The first round of selections will be announced in early February 2026.

3. Local Support

Tailored support will be offered to selected projects, including:

- regional coordination (planning, follow-up, logistics)

- artistic mentorship (advice, inspiration, exchange)
- practical tools (templates, guides, resources)

4. Project Implementation and Documentation (February – June 2026)

Participants will carry out their projects with the support of the regional team. They will also be expected to:

- document their process (photos, videos, texts, recordings)
- respect deadlines and commitments made

5. Showcasing the Projects (July – December 2026)

A selection of works or representative excerpts will be presented in a collective exhibition that will travel across Ontario starting in summer/fall 2026. This exhibition may take different forms and be held in various venues, such as museums, cultural centres, libraries, or other community spaces.

The exhibition will culminate in a major moment of celebration at the 2026 Francophonie Summit in Cambodia. Selected works will be chosen based on their artistic value, local grounding, and potential for presentation in these different contexts.

Evaluation Criteria

Projects will be assessed based on criteria that take into account both artistic value and community grounding. The goal is to recognize creativity and diversity while ensuring tangible impact within communities.

Evaluation Grid (guiding principles)

Artistic and cultural value

- Quality of the creative process, originality, and relevance of the chosen form of expression
- Contribution to Ontario's Francophone cultural heritage
- Relevance of the medium or discipline to the project's objectives

Local grounding and community engagement

- Clear connection to a Francophone or Francophile community in Ontario
- Level of citizen participation or local involvement
- Expected benefits for the community (visibility, sense of belonging, memory, continuity)

Diversity and inclusion

- Contribution to the plurality of Franco-Ontarian voices (cultural, generational, regional, identity-based)
- Promotion of intercultural and intergenerational dialogue
- Accessibility and openness to different audiences

Feasibility and resources

- Realism of the budget, timeline, and organization
- Capacity of the project lead to carry out the project with available support

Documentation and showcasing

- Potential to be showcased in the travelling exhibition and digital platform
- Ability to provide clear documentation (text, image, audio/video)

Importance of local grounding and citizen participation

Projects rooted in a community, involving residents, and creating opportunities for dialogue or transmission will be highly valued. Participation may take different forms: collective creation, public consultation, inter-organizational collaboration, etc.

Regional balance and representation

In the final selection, the committee will aim to ensure:

- Balanced representation across Ontario (North, East, South, Central)
- Participation of historically underrepresented communities (rural, immigrant, youth, Elders, Indigenous, people with disabilities, 2SLGBTQI+, etc.)

- Explicit recognition of the diversity of Francophone identities, histories, and expressions (heritage Francophones, newcomers, African descent communities, Francophiles, and others)
- Diversity of approaches, artistic disciplines, participant profiles, and formats

Support Offered

Each selected project will benefit from personalized support and practical tools to facilitate creation, showcasing, and dissemination.

Regional liaison and local support

Each project will receive guidance from a regional liaison officer, who will serve as a local point of contact throughout the process. Their role is to support project leads in a flexible way, tailored to local realities.

This support may include, depending on needs:

- Helping clarify the idea and assess feasibility
- Supporting the preparation of the official project submission
- Identifying local partners or complementary resources
- Offering an external perspective to cover blind spots (budget, logistics, timeline)
- Facilitating connections with artistic mentorship and community networks

This accompaniment is personalized and adaptable, since projects may take very diverse forms. The goal is for each project to benefit from close support, artistic mentorship, and a strong link with its community.

Financial support

A creation grant of up to \$10,000 will be provided for each selected project, depending on its scope, community grounding, and number of participants. This grant may be used to:

- Remunerate the artist(s) involved
- Cover copyright or other legal aspects related to the use of the work in the final exhibition

- Offset certain production costs (materials, space rental, travel, etc.)
- Provide accessibility measures if included in the original budget (e.g., LSQ interpretation, adapted transportation)

Technical equipment (e.g., camera, microphone, computer) will not be supplied, but projects may rely on resources already available locally or through partners.

Payment terms

The creation grant will be paid directly to the individual or organization serving as the official project lead.

This person or organization will be the only one authorized to receive funds and must ensure they are used exclusively for project implementation. The project lead will also be responsible for managing expenses and submitting a short report at the end of the project.

The coordination team will remain available to answer any questions related to this process.

Artistic mentorship

Depending on the nature of the project, a match with an experienced artist may be proposed to enrich artistic or community reflection. This support is offered as needed, since some projects may already be initiated or led by artists. The mentor's role is to provide caring guidance, constructive external feedback, and inspiring perspectives—without taking over the project.

Practical tools

Depending on expressed needs, participants will have access to a resource kit that may include:

- Planning, budget, or reporting templates
- Sample project timelines
- Guides for leading participatory processes
- A tip sheet on artistic and community co-creation
- Communication templates (press releases, posters, invitations, social media posts)
- Answers to frequently asked questions (FAQ)
- Advice on common issues (access to venues, insurance, equipment, etc.)

These tools will be developed based on participant needs and available resources. The goal is to simplify the process without making it heavier.

Technical support and documentation

Ideas and tools will be shared to help document projects (e.g., photo or video capture, audio testimonials, visual or sound traces). Depending on needs, the team may suggest simple and accessible approaches adapted to local capacities.

Advice will also be offered on how to make the most of resources available in your community (people, venues, equipment). If needed, the team may help connect you with partners or explore opportunities for regional collaboration.

Expected Deliverables

Each project must conclude with a shared work, accompanied by brief documentation. The goal is to ensure that creations can be highlighted at the local, regional, and provincial levels, while respecting the diversity of artistic approaches.

Description of the work

Art forms accepted

All art forms are eligible (visual arts, performing arts, installations, digital storytelling, sound creations, etc.), as long as they can be shared publicly in an accessible format.

Interdisciplinary or experimental approaches are encouraged.

Minimum requirements

- The work must result from a co-creation process with a collective, community, or participatory component.
- It must be able to be shared or presented in a digital or documented format for circulation.
- It must include a short explanatory or poetic text (max. 300 words) to accompany its presentation.

Required documentation

To enable the showcasing and sharing of works, each project must provide:

- High-quality photos suitable for web and print use (at least 3, including 1 in context)

- A short video (optional but encouraged): interview, testimonial, or footage of participants actively co-creating
- A presentation text (see above)
- A technical sheet, if applicable (dimensions, materials, installation requirements, etc.)

A complete documentation guide will be provided.

Languages, formats, and quality standards

- *Languages*: French or bilingual (French + partner language), with language review support available
- *Formats*: standard digital formats (PDF, high-resolution JPEG, MP4, etc.)
- *Standards*: no rigid technical requirements, but a concern for quality, clarity, and accessibility is expected. The coordination team can support the preparation of deliverables.

Visibility and Legacy

Each contribution will become part of a collective legacy to mark the 50th anniversary of the Franco-Ontarian flag, while enhancing the visibility and reach of Ontario's Francophonie.

Integration into the collective exhibition and the Francophonie Summit

- A selection of works or representative excerpts will be showcased in a collective exhibition that will travel across Ontario starting in summer/fall 2026.
- The exhibition will culminate in a major celebration at the 2026 Francophonie Summit in Cambodia.
- Selected works will be chosen based on their artistic value, local grounding, and potential to be presented in different spaces.

Presence on the interactive web platform

- All eligible works will be listed on a bilingual interactive online platform.

- This digital showcase will allow navigation by region, theme, or medium.
- Project sheets, video testimonials, interactive maps, and mediation tools will also be featured.

Opportunities for dissemination after the project

- Some content may be integrated into educational tools for schools, libraries, or cultural organizations.
- Partnerships with festivals, community media, or cultural venues may extend the life of the works.
- Project leads will retain full rights to their works, but will be invited to authorize their non-commercial reuse for promotional, dissemination, or heritage archiving purposes.



Annex 1— Frequently Asked Questions / Resources

Participation and Francophonie

Who can participate?

Everyone is welcome—individuals, informal groups, organizations, schools, and institutions. Projects must be connected to Ontario’s Francophone community and include an artistic and community component.

Do I need to be affiliated with an organization?

No. You can apply as an individual, as a collective, or in partnership. What matters is the connection with a Francophone community and the involvement of an artist.

Can Anglophones, Francophiles, or newcomers take part?

Yes. The initiative values diversity and intercultural dialogue. Projects must still keep Ontario’s Francophone community at the core.

Does my project have to focus on the Franco-Ontarian flag?

No. The flag’s 50th anniversary is the symbolic starting point, but projects do not need to be about the flag directly. The goal is to create a living portrait of today’s Franco-Ontarian community—its realities, cultures, and aspirations.

Does my project need to be in French?

Not necessarily. Projects must primarily highlight Ontario’s Francophonie. French or bilingual projects are encouraged. Projects in English or another language may also be eligible if they show a meaningful link to Ontario’s Francophonie (e.g., an Anglophone ally, a mixed-language family, a multicultural group).

Projects and Support

What types of projects are eligible?

All art forms are welcome: visual arts, poetry, music, dance, theatre, installations, digital creations, interactive works, and more.

Examples:

- Community photo exhibit
- Collective textile installation

- Recorded dance, theatre, poetry, or music performance
- Audio storytelling project or podcast
- Interdisciplinary project (video and poetry, visual arts and music)
- Video clips, multimedia works, or virtual exhibitions

Not eligible:

- projects with no connection to ontario's francophonie
- purely commercial or promotional projects
- projects completed before september 25, 2025
- projects with no community grounding

How much funding and support is available?

Each project may receive up to \$10,000, depending on its scope and needs.

Examples:

- Small project: school workshop, mini-exhibit, local video clip
- Medium project: community creation with an artist, public installation
- Large project: intergenerational, intercultural, or interdisciplinary work

Projects may also receive:

- support from a regional liaison officer
- mentorship from an experienced artist
- practical tools (guides, templates, communication models)
- local, provincial, national, and international visibility

Can I include equipment or accessibility expenses?

Yes, if directly linked to the creative process (e.g., paint, canvas, textiles, creative software, installation materials).

Yes, for accessibility measures essential to community participation or the artistic outcome (e.g., LSQ interpretation during workshops, adapted materials, accessible transportation).

No, for documentation equipment (e.g., cameras, microphones, computers) or to cover an organization's regular programming (e.g., making an already scheduled performance accessible).

Project Steps

Why fill out an Expression of Interest form?

It's a simple and inclusive entry point that allows you to:

- share your ideas, even if they're still in development
- connect with a regional liaison officer
- receive guidance, documentation, and support
- explore different ways to get involved

What are the project's key steps?

- Sept. 25 – Nov. 21, 2025: Expression of Interest form
- Oct. 14, 2025: Information webinar (French)
- Oct. 15, 2025: Information webinar (English)
- Nov. 2025 (date TBC): Third bilingual thematic webinar
- Nov. 3 – Dec. 19, 2025: Official project submission
- Jan. 2026: Selection by an independent jury
- Early Feb. 2026: Announcement of selected projects
- Feb. – June 2026: Project implementation with support
- July – Dec. 2026: Collective exhibition and digital showcase, followed by presentation at the Francophonie Summit (Cambodia)

Can I submit more than one idea?

Yes, but each project will be evaluated separately.

How will projects be selected?

The jury will consider:

- Clarity of vision
- Local grounding
- Community participation
- Artistic, cultural, or social value
- Feasibility
- Diversity of backgrounds, regions, and disciplines
- Innovation and originality
- Alignment with values of inclusion and co-creation

Showcasing the Works**How will my project be showcased?**

Selected projects will be presented:

- in a collective exhibition in ontario and beyond
- on a bilingual online platform
- at the 2026 francophonie summit in cambodia

After 2026, works or excerpts may be integrated into educational tools, shared at festivals, and preserved in a lasting digital showcase.

Who owns the rights to the works produced?

Creators retain full ownership of their works.

To allow for exhibition, distribution (including online), promotion, and archiving, a non-exclusive authorization will be requested from project leads and rights holders.

This authorization applies only to the *Celebrating 50 Years. Shaping the Future Together!* initiative. It does not transfer rights—creators remain free to use and share their works elsewhere.

What if I don't have technical skills to document my project?

A practical guide will be provided (photos, videos, simple testimonials). Regional liaison officers will also offer advice and connect you with local partners.

Annex 2 — Project Glossary

Term	Definition	Notes (optional)
Accompaniment	Support offered to participants (advice, mentorship, logistical or artistic support).	Provided by the regional team and artist-mentors.
Artist-Mentor	A professional artist who guides, inspires, or collaborates with participants.	May also initiate or lead a project.
Co-creation	A collective creative process involving several participants.	Encourages community mobilization and intergenerational and intercultural collaboration.
Project Lead	The individual or organization responsible for carrying out the project.	May be an individual or a collective.
Creation Grant / Stipend	Funding provided to remunerate artists and cover certain expenses.	Varies depending on the scope and needs of the project.
Digital Showcase / Bilingual Online Platform	An online platform to share and preserve the works.	Accessible to everyone, beyond the physical exhibition.
Inclusion	A principle of respectful integration of all identities and realities.	Fundamental to the project's approach.
Participatory Approach	An approach that actively involves participants at every stage of the project.	Values collective expression.
Collective Exhibition	Presentation of works in different venues across the province.	Reaches a broad audience.
Expression of Interest Form	First step to signal willingness to participate.	Followed by personalized support.
Projects	Creative proposals carried by an individual or a group, in response to the initiative's call.	Each project must include both an artistic and a community component and align with the initiative's values.
Initiative	The overall framework that brings together, supports, and highlights all projects.	<i>"Celebrating 50 Years. Shaping the Future Together"</i> is led by the Office of the Lieutenant Governor of Ontario in partnership with the Alliance culturelle de l'Ontario.

Annex 3 — Inspiring Ideas

This list of ideas is provided as inspiration only. It is meant to illustrate the diversity of eligible artistic disciplines and possible formats within the ***Celebrating 50 Years. Shaping the Future Together!*** initiative.

They are not models to be reproduced, nor expectations to be met. Each project is free to explore its own creative language, based on the strengths, interests, and realities of its community.

The key is to propose a collective and meaningful creation, rooted in Ontario's Francophonie.

Project Idea	Format / Discipline	Why it is artistically strong and realistic to produce
Visual video-poem	Media arts	Short piece, original text, simple recording, and light editing
Original musical creation	Music	Home recording of an original Francophone song by a local songwriter-composer
Collective photo mini-exhibit	Visual arts	Series of small-format printed photos, easy to transport or display in different community spaces
Collective artist's book	Print art	Collective or individual creation with a few printed copies + PDF/digital version
Comic book or illustrated zine	Comics / Graphic arts	Participatory self-publishing, original illustrations, distributed locally or online
Collective textile tapestry	Textile art	Community project with a textile artist, using accessible materials

Filmed poetry performance	Performing arts / Video	Simple staging, captured with a mobile device or local camera
Sound portraits	Audio / Documentary	Short audio clips, testimonials + musical background, easy to produce
Artistic micro-residency	Multi	Hosting an artist to co-create with a school or centre, without accommodation
Outdoor ephemeral installation	Public art	Use of repurposed or natural materials, presented temporarily in a symbolic location
Animated digital exhibition	Web / Animation	Digitized illustrations with animation, available online, low-cost production
Creative video journal	Creative vlog / Process-based art	An artist documents their creative process (journal or making-of style)
Poetic parade	Performing arts / Literature	Citizen participation, creation of texts and visuals to animate a public space
Illustrated card game	Design / Illustration	Small playful object, illustrated locally, printable in small runs
Mini projection mapping on a building facade	Digital arts	Projection of images created by local youth or artists onto a wall for an evening

Collective mural in a community centre	Visual arts / Muralism	Creation of a mural with a mural artist, collective painting on a panel or interior wall
Participatory dance	Dance / Performing arts	Workshop or collective creation involving the community, simple presentation that is easy to produce
Community theatre	Theatre / Performing arts	Staging of short plays or scenes created collectively, highlighting local stories

Annex 4 — Eligible Profiles Tables

Profile	Examples	Particularities
Individuals	Citizens, knowledge keepers, Cultural Custodians Elders, students, seniors	May propose a personal project, but a connection with the community is required.
Professional or emerging artists	Established artists, young creators, former arts students	May serve as project leads or contributors. Each project must involve at least one recognized artist.
Community organizations	Libraries, cultural centres, local associations	May propose a project, host a project, or integrate one into their regular activities.
Educational or social organizations	Schools, literacy centres, youth groups	May propose projects or collaborate with artists to co-create them.
Cultural or event-based organizations	Festivals, municipalities, community media	May create a larger-scale project or include a component within an existing event.
Informal groups	Groups of friends, neighbours, members of the same neighbourhood or community of interest, 2SLGBTQI+ groups, immigrant communities	May submit a collective idea, in partnership with an artist or recognized organization.
Francophile citizens and organizations	Individuals and organizations whose main language is English or another language, but who value Francophone culture	May participate as project leads or partners, in collaboration with Francophone artists or organizations.
Anglophones and allies	Non-Francophone individuals and organizations who support, engage with, or wish to express themselves in connection with Ontario's Francophonie	May propose or contribute to a project. Their participation is an opportunity to strengthen intercultural dialogue and highlight ties between Francophone and non-Francophone communities in Ontario.