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Building Nunavut Together
Nunavuliuqatigiingniq
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News Release

For Immediate Release

Nunavummiut Invited to Celebrate French Language, Culture and Arts

IQALUIT, Nunavut (March 8, 2013) – Today marks the beginning of the 15th edition of Les Rendez-vous de la Francophonie, a 17-day celebration of French language and culture across Canada. This year's theme – Joie de vivre, or Joy of Living – celebrates the enthusiasm and delight of Canada's francophone communities.

"The Department of Culture and Heritage strongly supports the development and vitality of Nunavut's francophone community," said James Arreak, Minister of Languages. "Culture and Heritage is proud to contribute towards the programming of Les Rendez-vous de la Francophonie 2013."

Under the Francophone Cultural and Artistic Productions Program, the department awarded $49,958 to the *Association des francophones du Nunavut* to host, from March 8 to 24, a series of community artistic events and workshops celebrating French language and culture in Nunavut.

About 9.5 million people have the ability to speak French in Canada, as a first or second language. In Nunavut, about 1,205 people have the ability to speak French, and the majority of those reside in Iqaluit, where they represent about 12% of the city's population.

Les Rendez-vous de la Francophonie is an extraordinary opportunity to come together in celebration of French language and culture!

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