



# NEWS RELEASE

The Honourable Senator Claudette Tardif, Ph.D.

## International Day of La Francophonie 2012

**Ottawa, March 15, 2012** — The Honourable Claudette Tardif, Senator for Alberta, spoke in honour of the International Day of La Francophonie, which will be celebrated on March 20<sup>th</sup> by francophones and francophiles in more than 50 countries.

“The French-speaking community in Canada is a tremendous asset that sets us apart in the world. We must work diligently to strengthen and enrich the relationships among our French-speaking communities to ensure that the French language continues to be prominent in the world of business, in the digital universe and in our international affairs,” said Senator Tardif.

There are more than 220 million francophones around the world. In this country, 9 million Canadians from coast to coast to coast speak French. The International Day of La Francophonie is an opportunity for francophones to assert their shared identity and to strengthen the ties that bring them together.

“In my role as Senator, I will keep working to ensure that the government heeds its responsibilities toward francophone communities, and develops and implements policies that respect our language rights,” added Senator Tardif.

Official celebrations for La Francophonie will be held in London, England, where a series of performances showcasing francophone artists has been organized. This major event will form part of the Olympic and Paralympic Games taking place in London this summer. The Right Honourable Michaëlle Jean, former governor general of Canada, appointed “Grand Témoin de la Francophonie” for the 2012 London Games, will be in attendance.

A host of celebrations, events and contests are taking place across Canada as part of the 14<sup>th</sup> *Rendez-vous de la Francophonie*, which continues through March 25<sup>th</sup>. Canadians are invited to visit the *Rendez-vous* website, [www.rvf.ca](http://www.rvf.ca), for information.

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