

Thursday, September 24, 2020

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**



**WELLAND EMBRACES FRANCO-ONTARIO DAY ON SEPT. 25**

**Welland, ON** – The City of Welland is sending best wishes to Niagara’s Francophone community on Sept. 25, in celebration of Franco-Ontarian Day. With more than 620,000 Franco-Ontarians living in the province, Welland is proud to be one of Ontario’s 26 designated Francophone communities and boasts an 11% French-speaking community.

In celebration of Franco-Ontarian Day, the City of Welland and Niagara’s Franco-community will raise the Franco-Ontarian flag at 11:30 a.m. on Sept. 25 at Welland Civic Square. Later in the evening, Bridge 13 will light up green and white to commemorate the day.

City of Welland Mayor Frank Champion, Council, and staff are working with the Minister of Francophone Affairs, The Honourable Caroline Mulroney, and staying current with Ontario’s Francophone policies and opportunities.

The City of Welland continues to enrich tourism and Francophone culture through a partnership with the Francophone and Francophile Cities Network (FFCN). The Francophone and Francophile Cities Network brings cities together by linking them with a trail of associated Franco-cities throughout Canada, the U.S., and the Caribbean.



The city’s website also offers visitors a French-language section that provides information on the best places to see and visit in the city. The Francophone section highlights Welland’s attractions, provides a history of Welland’s Francophone culture, showcases Welland’s sister city Sorel-Tracy in Quebec, and provides relevant links to related news and resources.

“We’re fortunate to have such a significant Francophone presence in Welland,” said Mayor Frank Champion. “We look forward to strengthening relationships with local Francophone support networks and upper-tier governments in 2021.”

For more information on the City of Welland and connections to the Francophone community, visit [www.welland.ca](http://www.welland.ca).

Letter from the Honourable Caroline Mulroney, Minister of Francophone Affairs

<https://www.welland.ca/Council/Mayorpdf/LettreWelland-20200917.pdf>

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