

State of Maine



WHEREAS, the French language is spoken by 274 million people in more than 80 countries and on five continents; and

WHEREAS, March 20th is the International Day of La Francophonie, celebrating the bond between francophone regions around the world and their shared values of democracy, human rights, cultural diversity, and solidarity; and

WHEREAS, the speaking of French is an expression and affirmation of a people's cultural identity; and

WHEREAS, the State of Maine was established by its Constitution in 1820 to promote our common welfare, and secure to our posterity including the blessings of liberty, acknowledging the goodness of the elected leadership in affording us an opportunity to design, and, implore and direct its accomplishments; and

WHEREAS, between 1840 and 1930 there was a large immigration of French Canadians who came to the state of Maine; and

WHEREAS, the French language is the second-most spoken language in the State of Maine; and

WHEREAS, Maine is the first-most Franco-American state in the Union, with at least 25 percent of Maine's citizens claiming French ancestry; and

WHEREAS, many institutions and places in the state of Maine, including the town of Calais, bear French names and reflect this continuing Francophone presence; and

WHEREAS, La Mois de la Francophonie is taking place during the month of March, 2019, offering Maine residents the opportunity to celebrate and discover the French language;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Janet T. Mills, Governor of the State of Maine, do hereby declare March 2019 as **FRANCOPHONIE MONTH** in the State of Maine.



In testimony whereof, I have caused
the Great Seal of the State to be
hereunto affixed GIVEN under my
hand at Augusta this twelfth day of
March Two Thousand Nineteen

Janet T. Mills
Governor

Matthew Dunlap
Secretary of State
TRUE ATTESTED COPY