

*State of Maine*



**WHEREAS**, the French language is spoken by 300 million people in more than 90 countries and on five continents; and

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

**WHEREAS**, the State of Maine is named after the Province of Maine in France, and the towns of Paris and Calais owe their names to the capital city of France and the French port city of Calais, respectively; and

**WHEREAS**, more than one third of the population of Maine is of French and Canadian descent and Franco-Americans in Maine have contributed much to the beauty and quality of this State; and

**WHEREAS**, French is the primary language of thousands of Maine citizens and there has been a resurgence in the use of the French language and a heightened appreciation of the Franco-American heritage throughout the State; and

**WHEREAS**, clubs and organizations to promote French culture and language have sprung up across the State, including the Franco-American Caucus at the Capitol; and

**WHEREAS**, the first Franco-American Day was celebrated at the State Capitol on March 6, 2002; 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;

**WHEREAS**, La Mois de la Francophonie is celebrated during the month of March providing 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 2022 as **FRANCOPHONIE MONTH** in the State of Maine and I urge all citizens to mark this observation with appropriate ceremony and activity.



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

Janet T. Mills  
Governor

Shenna Bellows  
Secretary of State