

Model speech for a Franco-Ontarian flag-raising ceremony

- Francophones and Francophiles,

Bonjour à toutes et à tous,

Greetings to all,

(Adjust the salutation as needed)
- I am very pleased to be here with you today to

celebrate Franco-Ontarian Day. We are gathered

here today to celebrate the vitality of the Franco-

Ontarian community and its vast contribution to

the province of Ontario. For over 400 years,

Ontario's Francophones have played a huge role in

the development of our country and our province

- September 25th is an important day for all of us.
On this date, the first-ever Franco-Ontarian flag-raising ceremony was held at Laurentian University in 1975. This special day also gives us an opportunity to come together across all of Ontario to celebrate the Franco-Ontarian community and its accomplishments. Politically, culturally, economically, and in many other sectors, Franco-Ontarians have made their mark on the history of our province.
- In our travels across Ontario, it is always a pleasure to hear the beautiful French language in many areas of the province. There are Francophones everywhere in Ontario, from

(choose) Kapuskasing / Timmins / Thunder Bay /
Hearst / Sudbury / Sault-Ste-Marie to *(choose)*
Hamilton / London / Sarnia / Penetanguishene /
Welland / Toronto, or *(choose)* Hawkesbury /
Cornwall / Pembroke / Ottawa. Throughout
Ontario, the French language is a source of pride
for us all.

- 611,500 Franco-Ontarians and almost 1.5 million Francophiles celebrate Franco-Ontarian Day on September 25th. Some were born here, some have come to live here, and all are united by their common language. French is a strength we all share.

- Be proud of our French heritage and pass on your appreciation of the French language and culture to the generations of tomorrow.
- In closing, I would like to express my best wishes for a joyful day of celebration to the entire Franco-Ontarian community and to everyone gathered here today. May we all continue to fully embrace our French heritage, today and every day.