SOCIÉTÉ SAINT-THOMAS-D'AQUIN
Société acadienne de l'Î.-P.-É.

Press release for immediate publication

Les Rendez-vous de la Francophonie Scheduled from March 2 to 22

SUMMERSIDE, PEI - February 17, 2017 – *Les Rendez-vous de la Francophonie* (RVF) 2017 will be held this year from March 2 to 22. La Société Saint-Thomas-d'Aquin (SSTA), la Fédération culturelle de l'Î.-P.-É. (FCÎPÉ), The Confederation Centre of the Arts and their community and government partners are preparing a wide range of activities in French for all Islanders. These activities are all centered on the national theme *La Francophonie in 3D: Diversity, Duality and Dynamism!*

Based on a historic agreement, the country's official languages strengthen the concept of diversity and acceptance. Support for linguistic duality is a demonstration of what makes Canada different, stronger and more attractive. The RVF wants to help enhance this support. Francophone communities across the country, integrated into their environments, have helped drive the local economy and culture through their innovativeness and imagination. This is the added value that Francophones, Acadians and Francophiles want to spread to all Canadians. The RVF would like to demonstrate this vitality.

Les Rendez-vous will get under way on March 2 at 10:30 a.m. with the official opening ceremony at Government House attended by the Lieutenant Governor, the Honourable H. Frank Lewis, and spokespeople from the SSTA and the FCÎPÉ. The ceremony will be followed by a small reception.

To celebrate the opening of the RVF, there will be a Circus Show on March 5 at 2:30 p.m., at the Centre acadien Grand Rustico in Rustico. Performers from the Circus Stella company will enchant the audience with their hoop and aerial acts. Young local Acadian, Jérémie Buote will perform a magic show, and Island Acadian artists will play traditional music.

People are invited to consult the SSTA website at www.ssta.org for a complete list of daily activities, as well as the RVF website at www.rvf.ca to participate in "Flashmob at your school!" and other contests for a chance to win $3,000.

La Société Saint-Thomas-d'Aquin *is the official spokesperson of Acadians and Francophones on Prince Edward Island. It is their mandate to assure that all Acadians and Francophones can live and thrive individually and collectively in French on Prince Edward Island.*

For more information:

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