



**Press release
For immediate release**

From the Mackenzie River to Lake Ontario

Toronto, June 29, 2022. The Collège nordique francophone (CNF) in Yellowknife and the Université de l'Ontario français (UOF) in Toronto sign their first collaboration agreement. As Canada celebrates National Aboriginal History Month, the two institutions have agreed to share their expertise around academic interests, including reciprocity in offering credit courses, one of which is in Tłıchʔ culture and language.

The CNF and the UOF have developed this partnership in the spirit of openness, recognition and sharing that is unique to the national movement for reconciliation with Indigenous peoples. Both institutions want to demonstrate the importance of diversity and respect for the cultures of diverse populations.

As a result of this partnership, the UOF will offer its “Leadership and Diversity Management” course to staff and members of the CNF francophone community. For its part, two CNF faculty members will offer an elective course on Tłıchʔ culture and language. This course will be available to students of UOF programs as well as to all members of the University’s francophone community who wish to learn more about this language.

A Win-Win Agreement

Both institutions face similar challenges and realities in terms of postsecondary education in a minority situation; this unique partnership allows them to tackle the issues head on. With their respective programs, the CNF and the UOF enrich the

postsecondary educational landscape and contribute to a better access to French-language postsecondary studies in Canada.

“This agreement is an accelerator — it will combine our forces and expand fair access to French-language postsecondary studies across the country. We wanted the Francophonie and its diversity to be an integral part of the learning experience for our university community, whilst including values such as truth and reconciliation in relation to the experience and history of Canada’s First Peoples,” said Pierre Ouellette, President, Université de l’Ontario français.

“Our goal is to help revitalize Indigenous languages, especially Tłıchǰ, and showcase Indigenous languages and cultures from the Northwest and Northern Territories among new audiences, including university students across French-speaking Canada. This agreement is a tangible action to promote truth and reconciliation values, as well as the history and experience of Northwest Territories Indigenous peoples in Toronto,” said Patrick Arsenault, Director general, Collège nordique francophone.

“As leaders in the French-language community, we want to offer our community the best possible experience — both in terms of university education and in terms of knowledge gathering and enrichment, all with a lens of diversity. These new synergies formed with institutions and partners like CNF encourage French-language knowledge and expertise being mobilized within a network ‘by and for’ the community, and this will have positive repercussions for the Francophonie at large.”

Edith Dumont, Vice-President, Partnerships, Collectives, and International Relations, Université de l’Ontario français.

About the Collège nordique francophone

The Collège nordique francophone is a not-for-profit organization offering professional, linguistic and continued education programs to prepare students for the job market, with a view to lifelong learning. Its clientele is made up of learners from diverse communities in the Northwest Territories. It is the only organization in the world offering this type of training in French north of the 60th Parallel.

About the Université de l’Ontario français

The Université de l’Ontario français Ce lien s'ouvrira dans une nouvelle fenêtre is a brand-new postsecondary institution and an innovative space focused on creating and mobilizing knowledge in French. It opened on 9, Lower Jarvis Street in Toronto in September 2021. With the goal of creating a university tradition in the Centre-Southwest of the province, the university’s activities are continually guided by

the values of excellence, plurality, inclusion and collaboration. The university advocates inductive, transdisciplinary, experience-based learning and research approaches. Governed by and for Ontario's Francophones, it offers an education that is firmly connected to the world and fosters eco-friendly citizenship.

Land Recognition of the CNF

We acknowledge that the Collège nordique francophone is located in Chief Drygeese's territory in the Akaitcho region, the traditional territory of the Yellowknives Dene First Nation. We are grateful to the First Peoples for the opportunity to meet and work in this territory.

Land Recognition of the UOF

We acknowledge that the Université de l'Ontario français is located on a vast territory governed by the one-bowl, or one-plate, Wampum belt, which seals an agreement for coexistence, protection and use of resources around the Great Lakes. Witness to thousands of years of human activity and coexistence, our territory, Toronto, is still a meeting place frequented and adopted by many Indigenous peoples from all over Turtle Island. We are grateful to these First Peoples for the opportunity to meet and work in this territory.

-30-

Source and Information

Claire Francoeur
Director of Strategy
Communications and Marketing
Université de l'Ontario français
416 459-4993

Natacha St Vignes
Communications and Marketing Manager
Community Engagement
Collège nordique francophone
communications@college-nordique.com