



Dear partner,

The Province of Ontario is currently celebrating the 400th anniversary of the Francophone presence in Ontario.

Celebrations and activities are organized throughout the province by municipalities, communities and the private sector. Here, in Northwestern Ontario, we are pleased to prepare a program of activities that will take place between January 2014 and September 2015.

During this period the promotion of the rich heritage of the Franco-Ontarian people will be celebrated by various activities and events centered on heritage, tourism, education, the arts and culture.

This event is coordinated by the Réseau du patrimoine franco-ontarien (RPFO) at the provincial level and by the Association des Francophones du Nord-Ouest de l'Ontario (AFNOO) at the regional level, to celebrate and commemorate this event in recognition of the merits of the Franco-Ontarian community.

Many activities are already in the planning stages for the Northwest such as a visual exhibition of 10 bilingual banners entitled "Francophones of the Northwest: History and Heritage" depicting the history of the French presence in Ontario, another visual Mosaic display, the Franco Festival of Thunder Bay, as well as other exciting events.

AFNOO invites you to participate in the festivities by organizing your own event. AFNOO will be responsible for publicizing and promoting events at the regional and provincial level.

To send us your activities and be accredited in the program, or for more information, please contact Jean-Marie Yameogo, Community Development Officer, at [relais@afnoo.org](mailto:relais@afnoo.org) before **August 30, 2013** so that they can be included in the official program of the 400th Anniversary of the Francophone Presence in the Northwest.

Sincerely,  
Élodie Bedouet  
Executive Director

July 29, 2013

**Re: The 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the French presence in Ontario**

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