



July 26, 2018

Honourable Mayor Avis and Members of Council
Town of Fort Frances
320 Portage Avenue
Fort Frances, ON P9A 3P9

Re: Raising of the Franco-Ontarian flag

Dear Mayor Avis and Members of Council,

This has been a great year for the Francophone community. At the provincial level, the promise of a Franco-Ontarian university is moving forward while at the federal level, the community was promised a modernization of the *Official Languages Act of Canada* and the *Action Plan for Official Languages – 2018-2023: Investing in Our Future* will be boosting the official languages budget for the next five years.

In Northwestern Ontario, celebrations last September were a great success in our region thanks to the official raising of the Franco-Ontarian flag in 16 municipalities including Fort Frances. On September 25th, both Francophone and Anglophone communities gathered together to observe the occasion and to raise our flag. This success would not have been possible without the support of Fort Frances and AFNOO genuinely appreciates your involvement in our festivities.

The Francophone community wishes to continue the tradition and to celebrate its successes this year. This is a unique occasion to share the important Francophone cultural heritage of your town. In Fort Frances, the presence of Francophone organizations is growing, French immersion school enrollment is on the rise and more than 275 residents of Fort Frances self-identified as Francophone in the last Canadian census. 287 years after Fort St. Pierre was founded in 1731, on what is currently Fort Frances, the Francophone community is still a vibrant and vital part of your community.

Regarding this year's celebrations, we ask the municipality:

1. to symbolically raise the Franco-Ontarian flag at Fort Frances' Town Hall at 9:00 am, September 25th and that it remains raised for one month, and;
2. to republish the official proclamation of the "Franco-Ontarian Day" published last year to emphasize the importance of this day (Legislative Assembly of Ontario, *Franco-Ontarian Day Act, 2010*).

We wish to, once again, extend our appreciation for your ongoing support, and we look forward to your participation in commemorating such an exceptional day.

For further information, and to confirm the name of the representative who will participate in this year's flag raising, please contact: **Ms. Laïla Faivre, Development and Communication Officer** at 1 888-248-1712 or by email: innovation@afnoo.org

Veuillez agréer, Monsieur le Maire et membres du Conseil, nos salutations les plus distinguées.

CC: St. Michaels School


Donald Pelletier, President