



FOR IMMEDIATE DISTRIBUTION

MEDIA RELEASE

A strong voice for post-secondary education in French! First Annual General Meeting and Forum of the Association des collèges et universités de la francophonie canadienne

Ottawa, June 23, 2016. The first Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Association des collèges et universités de la francophonie canadienne (ACUFC), held at the Delta Ottawa City Centre, brought together a hundred directors, stakeholders and partners to hear about our first year of activities and collaborations. It should be noted that, although the ACUFC has only existed for one year, it was created by the merger of two well-known organizations that already had fifteen years' experience in post-secondary education in French: the Consortium national de formation en santé (CNFS) and the Association des universités de la francophonie canadienne (AUFUC).

All AGM participants were also invited to a Forum with the theme *A strong voice for post-secondary education in French*. Featuring speeches by renowned guests including John Ralston Saul, Senator Claudette Tardif and Alexis Couture, the forum enabled us to share an innovative vision of post-secondary education in French in Canada, and to promote dialogue, reflection and engagement among our members and partners in an inclusive, dynamic and stimulating environment in support of strong, high-quality post-secondary education in French.

The ACUFC works to increase access to post-secondary education in French throughout the country and thus to contribute to the vitality and growth of Francophone minority communities and Canadian society in general. As part of our mission, we work to promote and enhance the continuum of French-language education up to the post-secondary level for all students, including native Francophones, students from immersion or French-as-a-second-language programs, new arrivals, and international students. To achieve this goal, we worked closely with national agencies over the last year to advance this file. At the AGM, we also signed a collaboration agreement with the Association canadienne des professeurs d'immersion and Canadian Parents for French. The agreement confirms all three partners' commitment to improving the post-secondary education network's capacity and to facilitating the recruitment and integration of French-speaking students.

The AGM also saw the awarding of thirteen \$1000 scholarships: [eleven to students registered in post-secondary health programs supported by the CNFS and offered by member institutions](#) and two, in collaboration with the Fédération de la jeunesse canadienne-française (FJCF), to students involved with their communities who demonstrated superior academic performance.

The day was a success for the ACUFC: "Our record for our first year is extremely positive and includes many innovative and diversified achievements and initiatives, which have enabled the ACUFC and our stakeholders to achieve excellent results throughout the year," said ACUFC co-chairs Lise Bourgeois, President of Collège La Cité, and Allister Surette, President and Vice-Chancellor of Université Sainte-Anne. "Following such a successful first year, we have great hopes for the future." Read the [Rapport annuel 2015-2016 de l'ACUFC](#) (in French only) to learn more.

The ACUFC is a group of Francophone and bilingual post-secondary educational institutions outside Quebec. We work to increase access to high-quality post-secondary education in French throughout the country, and in this way contribute to the growth and vitality of Francophone communities and Canadian Francophonie in general. We facilitate collaboration among our members, represent their common interests, and boost their visibility, both in Canada and internationally. ACUFC initiatives are made possible thanks to the financial support of the Government of Canada. To learn more, visit www.acufc.ca (French only).

-30-

Information:

Caroline Gagnon, Director, Communications, ACUFC

Tel.: 613-244-7837 / Toll-free: 1-866-551-2637 ext. 105 / Cell.: 613-222-6076 / Email: cgagnon@acufc.ca