



## Press Release

For immediate release

### **Review of the 2011 edition of the *Université d'été sur la francophonie des Amériques* and confirmation of a third edition in 2013**

**Québec City, June 15, 2011** – Some thirty participants and twenty guest speakers from across the continent came together at the *Université d'été sur la francophonie des Amériques*, held at Université Laval in Québec City from May 29 to June 4, 2011. For the second consecutive year, the Centre de la francophonie des Amériques (the Centre) and the Institut québécois des hautes études internationales (HEI) organized this academic learning activity with the goal of taking a renewed scientific look at the French-speaking community of the Americas. At the end of this second edition, Denis Desgagné, President and Director General of the Centre, and Prof. Pierre Lemieux, Director of the HEI, joined with Mathieu Trépanier of the Campus Saint-Jean, University of Alberta, to announce that the third *Université d'été sur la francophonie des Amériques* will take place in Edmonton in 2013.

Under the theme “*The diversity of the French-speaking community of the Americas – migrations, standards and institutions, cultural representations*”, the *Université d'été* brought together experts from Louisiana, Western Canada, Latin America, Acadia and the First Nations. The program was designed so as to enable the participants to address various issues faced by the French-speaking community of the Americas.

Various viewpoints were put forward during the learning activity. Among the guest speakers, Prof. Delia Blanco (*Universidad Madre Maestra PUCMM*), presented a portrait of the French-language cultures in the Caribbean. In her words, “the French-speaking community in the Caribbean is a gaining of awareness, a point of integration and an instrument that rallies people.”

Also, Dr. Jean-Claude Redonnet, Professor Emeritus of the Sorbonne, now residing in New England, presented his conception of the French-speaking community in the United States. “French is a language of the Americas, and of the United States, but apparently it is becoming increasingly marginalized. This is why French-speakers must feel integrated,” he stated in his presentation. For his part, Dustin McNichol (Campus St-Jean), an English-speaker from Alberta who came through the French immersion programs, sees the French-speaking community as “perhaps a way of seeing the world, an alternative to the English-language view. People do not (unfortunately) associate the French language with the culture of the Americas. This *Université d'été* is a good start”, he said to reporter Jean-Benoît Nadeau.

Mr. Nadeau, a journalist for the magazine *L'Actualité* and author of various works on the French-speaking community, was invited by the Centre to act as a regular reporter. He penned a series of articles in connection with the *Université d'été*, which may be read on the Centre's website at:

[www.francophoniedesameriques.com/universitedete/chroniques.html](http://www.francophoniedesameriques.com/universitedete/chroniques.html)

#### **About the Centre**

The Centre de la francophonie des Amériques has as its mission to contribute to the promotion and development of a promising future for the French-language community in the context of the cultural diversity of the Americas. It receives financial support from the Secrétariat aux affaires intergouvernementales canadiennes du Québec. For further information on the Centre's activities, please consult [www.francophoniedesameriques.com](http://www.francophoniedesameriques.com).

– 30 –

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