

**State of Vermont**  
**Executive Department**  
**A Proclamation**

**WHEREAS,** the French language is spoken by 274 million people in more than 80 countries and on five continents; and

**WHEREAS,** March 20th is the International Day of La Francophonie, celebrating the bond between francophone regions around the world and their shared values of democracy, human rights, cultural diversity, and solidarity; and

**WHEREAS,** the speaking of French is an expression and affirmation of a people's cultural identity; and

**WHEREAS,** a strong francophone presence has existed for centuries in Vermont, from the first French explorers along the coasts of North America, the strong 19th and 20th century French-Canadian immigrant community, to today's thriving francophone immigrant population from around the world; and

**WHEREAS,** the name of our great state, Vermont, "Green Mountain", and many of our towns and places bear French names, such as Montpelier, Lake Champlain and Vergennes; and

**WHEREAS,** many Vermont towns, institutions and organizations recognize la Francophonie as a vector for economic development by joining or developing initiatives such as the North American Network of Francophone and Francophile Cities, French Heritage Days and the town of Burlington's "French Friendliness Resolution"; and

**WHEREAS,** Vermont is home to French speakers who contribute positively on a daily basis to the lives and livelihood of all citizens; and

**WHEREAS,** Vermont values its strong historical, cultural and economic relationship with the francophone world; a relationship driven by common goals and values; and

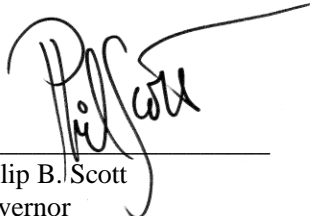
**WHEREAS,** the Month of La Francophonie will take place during the month of March 2019, offering Vermont residents the opportunity to celebrate and discover the French language.

**NOW, THEREFORE,** I, Philip B. Scott, Governor, hereby proclaim March 2019 as

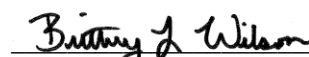
**FRANCOPHONIE MONTH**

in Vermont.

Given under my hand and the Great Seal of the State of Vermont on this 29th day of March, A.D. 2019.

  
Philip B. Scott  
Governor



  
Brittney L. Wilson  
Secretary of Civil and Military Affairs