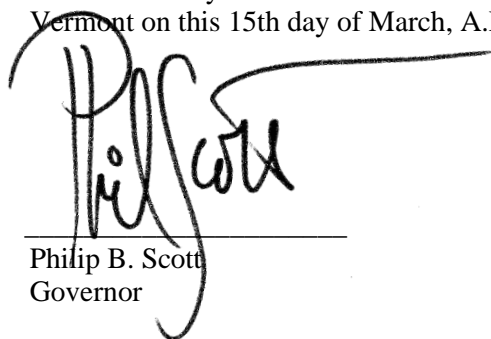


**State of Vermont
Executive Department
A Proclamation**

- WHEREAS,** the French language is the official language of 29 countries, and 444 million people come from countries where French is the official language and 98 million people come from a country where French is commonly used; 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 to the strong 19th and 20th century French-Canadian immigrant community; 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,** a number of Vermont towns, institutions and organizations recognize la Francophonie as a vector for economic development by joining or developing initiatives such as 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 shared values; and
- WHEREAS,** the Month of La Francophonie will take place during the month of March, 2023, offering Vermont residents the opportunity to celebrate and discover the French language.
- NOW, THEREFORE,** I, Philip B. Scott, Governor, hereby proclaim March 2023 as

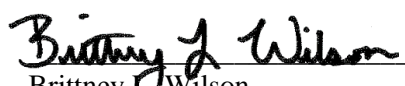
**FRANOPHONIE MONTH
in Vermont.**

Given under my hand and the Great Seal of the State of Vermont on this 15th day of March, A.D. 2023.



Philip B. Scott
Governor




Brittney J. Wilson
Secretary of Civil and Military Affairs