



New Hampshire State Senate **NEWS RELEASE**

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State Celebrates Francophonie Day

Governor and Sen. DeBlois welcome int'l delegation to honor French language

(Concord) Acknowledging the strong influence that French culture has in New Hampshire, Gov. John Lynch and Sen. Tom DeBlois (R-Manchester) welcomed a delegation including representatives from Canada and France to the State House today in honor of *International Day of La Francophonie*. Some of the dignitaries included: Christophe Guihou, Consul General of France, and Aaron Annable representing the Consul General of Canada and Jean-Stephane Bernard, Quebec's Delegate to Boston.

Lynch and DeBlois spoke to the crowd gathered in the Executive Council Chamber in front of a huge Francophonie flag unfurled on the council table. Following their remarks, the flag was raised on the front lawn of the State House. It will travel to several other New England states during the month of March.

The governor noted the French language is spoken by over 200 million people in 60 different countries and that "New Hampshire is home to thousands of French-speakers who contribute positively on a daily basis to the lives and livelihood of all citizens." DeBlois, who also serves as the President of the Board of Trustees of the Franco-American Centre in Manchester, thanked the delegates for traveling so far to help celebrate this annual event because it "reminds us all of the values and respect for democracy that Granite Staters share with French-speaking people all over the world."

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Note: The attached photo does not need a credit. It features from left to right: Sen. Lou D'Allesandro, Gov. John Lynch, Adele Baker of the Franco-American Centre in Manchester and Sen. Tom DeBlois.