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Press Release

A Trilingual Interpretive Panel Celebrates the Yukon's Linguistic Diversity

Whitehorse, November 18, 2026 — The Association franco-yukonnaise (AFY) and the Société des immeubles franco-yukonnais (SIFY) are proud to announce the installation of an interpretive panel for the new mural at the Centre de la francophonie, unveiled on May 15 to mark Yukon Francophonie Day.

Created by Yukon artists Maya Chartier and Aurore Favier, with support from the Government of Yukon's Community Development Fund, the mural depicts the written history and evolving story of the Yukon French-Speaking community, carried along a river that flows through all four seasons.

The colourful houses illustrate the diversity and cultural richness of our community. They were painted in collaboration with students from CSSC Mercier, while the ideas that inspired the mural were developed during a workshop with students from École Émilie-Tremblay.

The interpretive panel is presented in both of Canada's official languages, French and English, as well as Southern Tutchone. This trilingual approach makes the artwork accessible to a wider audience and reflects the linguistic richness of the territory.

The Centre de la francophonie is located on the traditional territory of the Kwanlin Dün First Nation and the Ta'an Kwäch'än Council. For the AFY, recognizing this reality and contributing, in our own way, to the recognition and promotion of the languages and cultures that enrich the Yukon is essential.

"Our mandate is to promote the French language and contribute to the vitality of the French-speaking community. We are also deeply committed to acknowledging the territory we live on and the languages and cultures of the First Nations who are its stewards. This trilingual panel is a wonderful expression of our commitment to allowing our languages to thrive side by side, with respect and recognition for each," says Edwine Veniat, President of the AFY.

French is one of Canada's two official languages and a vibrant part of Yukon society. The French-speaking community continues to grow and make meaningful contributions to the territory's cultural, social and economic life.

Through this initiative, the AFY also wishes to remind public institutions and organizations of the importance of maintaining a visible presence for French in public spaces while continuing significant efforts to promote and revitalize First Nations languages. Linguistic diversity is an asset. In the Yukon, it deserves to be celebrated, protected and made visible.

Together, the mural and its interpretive panel reflect a French-speaking community that takes pride in its history, looks to the future and is committed to helping build a Yukon where all languages and cultures have a place.

About the Association franco-yukonnaise
Since 1982, the Association franco-yukonnaise (AFY) has been the official leader in the development of the French-speaking community and aims to improve the quality of life in French, in Yukon.

About the Société des immeubles franco-yukonnais
The Société des immeubles franco-yukonnais is a non-profit organization responsible for the Centre de la francophonie in Whitehorse, Yukon. In addition to housing the Association franco-yukonnaise, L'*Aurore boréale* and Partenariat communauté en santé (PCS), the building offers a multipurpose room, a commercial kitchen and office spaces for rent to the wider community.

- 30 -

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