

Media release
For immediate release

Solidarité Ukraine: The Francophone community extends a helping hand to Manitoba's Ukrainian community

Saint-Boniface, April 19, 2022 – The Société de la francophonie manitobaine (SFM), in collaboration with Réseau Compassion Network and Francofonds, is launching an emergency fundraising campaign to support the Ukrainian community in response to the invasion of Ukraine by Russian forces. There is a special friendship between the Francophone and Ukrainian communities, especially since the language crisis of the 1980s, when the Ukrainian community showed great support for Francophones in Manitoba.

[Réseau Compassion Network](#) (RCN) is announcing a donation of \$50,000 to kick off the Solidarité Ukraine campaign and to encourage community donations. RCN will make an initial donation of \$25,000 and challenges the community to raise the same amount, after which it will make an additional donation of \$25,000. We invite the community to give generously as they have done so often in the past.

"Réseau Compassion Network is joining the solidarity movement initiated by Manitoba's Francophone community to help Ukrainians fleeing war who will find refuge here," says Daniel Lussier, Executive Director. "This donation is a gesture that is in line with our values of social justice and charity. With this contribution, Compassion Network hopes to inspire and encourage others to be agents of compassion, love and service in this broken world."

Francofonds will collect and distribute donations locally in coordination with the [Ukrainian Canadian Congress](#) Manitoba Council for the reception and settlement of Ukrainian Nationals in Manitoba. Funds will go towards childcare, access to Ukrainian language programs, housing or other important needs.

"The SFM and the Francophone community in Manitoba are horrified by Putin's aggression against Ukraine and the Ukrainian people. Our hearts go out to those displaced by war and suffering from this conflict," says Angela Cassie, President of the SFM. "We hope, with the generosity of the Francophone community, to be able to provide emergency assistance to those in need who come to Manitoba."

Pauline Charrière, President of Francofonds, says, "The Francophonie in Manitoba has been able to continue to flourish because of the support it received from the Ukrainian community during the language crisis of the 1980s. The Francophone community is now able to return the favour by helping Manitoba's Ukrainian community welcome and support the settlement of Ukrainian nationals and their families in Manitoba. Francofonds is a charitable community foundation, and its raison d'être is the well-being of the community. We have a duty to help each other to enhance the Francophone community and the province. Francofonds is proud to support the Francophone community in its support of the Ukrainian community in Manitoba."

You can make a donation through Francofonds in the following ways:

- Online at www.francofonds.org

- By phone at 204-237-5852 or toll free at 1-866-237-5852
- By mail to the attention of Francofonds at 205 Provencher Boulevard, Unit 101
- In person at the above address (please note that Francofonds receives visitors by appointment only)
- Deposit your cheque made payable to Francofonds in an envelope to the attention of Francofonds at the Caisse Financial Group reception desk on the first floor of the Provencher Boulevard Branch.
- By INTERAC transfer or from your bank account (please contact Francofonds at info@francofonds.org to confirm the required details).

An official donation receipt for income tax purposes will be automatically issued by Francofonds for donations of \$25 or more.

The Société de la francophonie manitobaine (SFM) is the advocate for the Francophone community in Manitoba, and as such, looks after the community's well-being and lobbies for full respect of its rights.

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