

**Media Release**  
For immediate release

## **SFM is Deeply Disappointed with new Federal Targets on Francophone Immigration**

**Saint-Boniface, November 2, 2023** – Société de la francophonie manitobaine (SFM), along with its national umbrella organization, the Fédération des communautés francophones et acadienne (FCFA) du Canada, is expressing its disappointment regarding the new targets on Francophone immigration announced yesterday by minister Marc Miller. These targets – 6 percent for 2024, 7 percent for 2025, and 8 percent for 2026 – are light years from what is needed here in Manitoba.

“Our community is facing major challenges in terms of population and labour shortage. Immigration is a critical element of the vitality of French here and this announcement is far from being the boost we needed. It’s especially disappointing when you think that the *Official Languages Act*, modernized only a few months ago, includes a commitment to restore the demographic weight of Francophone minority communities,” says Angela Cassie, SFM president.

SFM wishes to emphasize that the Franco-Manitoban community has invested a lot of effort into creating French-language settlement services for immigrants. In particular, the [Accueil francophone du Manitoba](#) and the [Réseau en Immigration Francophone](#) are two organizations that work relentlessly to welcome, settle and integrate immigrants to Manitoba.

“The government could focus on strengthening these services and creating a specific Francophone immigration program. In so doing, it would give itself more means to achieve ambitious goals regarding Francophone immigration. Instead, it chose a form of status quo justified by present capacities at Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada,” laments Angela Cassie.

SFM remains committed to acting in solidarity with the FCFA, as well as Francophone organizations from other provinces and territories, and will participate in discussions in coming weeks to identify the next steps on this issue.

*The Société de la francophonie manitobaine (SFM) is the advocate for the Franco-Manitoban community, and as such, looks after the community’s well-being and lobbies for full respect of its rights.*

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