

Media release

For immediate release

Solidarité Ukraine: The Francophone community donates \$100,000 to the Manitoba Provincial Council of the Ukrainian Canadian Congress

Saint-Boniface, September 27, 2022 – The Société de la francophonie manitobaine (SFM), Réseau Compassion Network and Francofonds are proud to announce that they have reached their goal of raising \$100,000 for Solidarité Ukraine, the emergency fundraiser for Ukraine.

The SFM and its partners will present the funds to Joanne Lewandoski, President of the Manitoba Provincial Council of the Ukrainian Canadian Congress (UCC) this evening, Tuesday, September 27, in the basement of the St. Boniface Cathedral prior to the screening of the documentary *REFUGE* by La Liberté. The documentary will subsequently be available on the [La Liberté web site](#).

"The Francophone community has always been able to come together in times of adversity, and the ongoing humanitarian crisis in Ukraine demands that we all stand together," said Angela Cassie, President of the SFM. "The Francophone community in Manitoba is deeply concerned about the worsening situation in Ukraine, which is why it has mobilized to raise funds to help those displaced by the invasion of Russian forces. We sincerely thank you for your generosity and add our voice to welcoming these refugees."

The total amount will be donated to the UCC, which will distribute the funds locally for the reception and settlement of Ukrainian nationals in Manitoba. The UCC said it is grateful to the Francophone community in Manitoba for continuing to support its efforts to help Ukrainian refugees by organizing this fundraiser.

The SFM would like to thank its partners in the campaign: Francofonds, for collecting the funds, and Réseau Compassion Network, for its donation of \$50,000, including a \$25,000 matching program.

"We thank you for your generosity and solidarity with the Ukrainian community in Manitoba in support of Ukrainian nationals arriving in the province who are experiencing extremely difficult times," said Diane Leclercq, President of Francofonds. "The community has truly stepped up and with their support will provide a welcome respite for newcomers by helping them access childcare, Ukrainian language programs, housing and other important needs."

"We are proud to see that Manitoba's Francophone community has rallied together and shown generosity in offering support and comfort to these people who are suffering the atrocities of war, as well as to their compatriots here at home who have opened their arms and homes to them with kindness," says Daniel Lussier, Executive Director of Réseau Compassion Network. "Through its contribution, Réseau Compassion Network hopes to have inspired and encouraged others to be agents of compassion in a world that is in great need of it. Together, we can do our part to put solutions in place to support people where the need is greatest."

The SFM would also like to thank all the donors for their contributions, as well as Caisse Financial Group for the last donation that allowed us to reach our goal of \$100,000.

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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