



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **A NEW PARTNERSHIP THAT WILL STRENGTHEN VICTORIA'S FRANCOPHONE COMMUNITY**

**Victoria, June 9th, 2020** – The boards of Victoria's Francophone Society, *la Société francophone de Victoria (SFV)* and the Canadian Francophone Games, *les Jeux de la francophonie canadienne Victoria 2020 (JeuxFC Victoria)* met this week to discuss the future of both associations. COVID-19, the postponement of the Games to Summer 2021 and the upcoming departure of the current Executive Director of the Society generated serious discussions about how to best proceed. It was at this meeting that board members heard of a new transition plan that would give space for a more cohesive partnership between the Society and the Games. This partnership would help strengthen Victoria's francophone community, maintain the Society's diverse programming all while ensuring the success of the Games next summer, a major project for Victoria's French-speaking population.

"The last few months have given us the time to reflect on our operations and start planning an important transition in the Society's history. I am confident this plan will ensure the Society's success through a fluid transition" says Isabelle Le Boulh, president of Victoria's Francophone Society.

The plan will see a new position added to the Society's team, one that will be held by Casey Edmunds, the Executive Director of the Games. Casey has been working alongside the Society since 2018, when he arrived to plan the 2020 Games. He is familiar with the Society's programming, staff and daily operations. Many collaborations already existed between the two associations. From July 1<sup>st</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2020, Casey will act as Assistant Director for the Society, helping with overall administration and operations. This will come at the same time as Pauline Gobeil, its current Executive Director will officially retire. Starting January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021, M. Edmunds will act as Interim Director of the Francophone Society while maintaining his position as Executive Director of the Games. Both associations will agree on performance indicators to oversee the success of the different projects that will be led by Casey and the Society.

Marie-Pierre Lavoie, president of the Games mentions "we are pleased the Society has agreed to enter into this new partnership. This marriage, so to speak, will allow us to successfully present the Games with as much support from the community and collectively work towards an impactful moment for French-speaking youth in Canada. The Games will hopefully ignite a flame in our community and we hope it will continue to burn for many years."

"The coming months will bring many uncertainties and changes post COVID-19, so we are taking the time to go over our operations and reinforce our organizational capacities. This type of project inspires me. The Society inspires me" adds Casey Edmunds.



As for Pauline Gobeil, she offers these words: “The Society’s future is very important to me. I hope the Games will inspire our community and give it the burst of energy it needs for the future. I am inspired by Casey and his dynamic team and I will leave in peace knowing the Society is in good hands.

La Société francophone de Victoria will hold its 80th Annual General Meeting this summer. Members will be invited to a community forum with Casey and Pauline. Several activities will be organized this summer, while respecting provincial and federal guidelines to stop the spread of COVID-19. The office remains closed to the public for the time being.

*The [Société francophone de Victoria](#) is Victoria’s Francophone Society. Its mission aims to promote, represent and defend the interests of Greater Victoria’s Francophone community by offering culturally diverse and linguistic opportunities to its members.*

*The Games are among the largest gatherings of Canada’s French-speaking youth. In addition to encouraging hundreds of young people to exercise their talents in one of three sectors (arts, leadership and sports), the Games showcase cultural pride, self-confidence and leadership abilities in a friendly, competitive setting. The CFGames are a [Fédération de la jeunesse canadienne-française](#) (FJCF) initiative, financed in part by the [Government of Canada](#).*

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