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Dartmouth, March 31st, 2025

Subject: Invitation to Complete the Survey for the Acadian Community

Dear Sir/Madam.

I am writing to you in the context of your campaign for the upcoming federal elections. As a member of the Acadian community in Nova Scotia, I would like to draw your attention to the issues affecting our community and invite you to engage with us for the development and preservation of the French language and culture in Nova Scotia.

It is with this in mind that we invite you to respond to the attached survey, which aims to gather your position on the important issues facing the Acadian community in Nova Scotia. We believe that your responses will be an excellent way for voters to better understand the importance you place on the Francophonie and its development at the federal level.

The Acadian community in the province is proud of its roots and its language. Today, there are 35 000 Acadians and Francophones in Nova Scotia and 100 000 people who can speak French. We have 23 Acadian schools under the administration of the Conseil scolaire acadien provincial (CSAP), which provide French-language education to Acadian and Francophone children and youth throughout the province. Furthermore, our territory is divided into 12 Acadian regions, each with its own unique characteristics and challenges. The teaching of French and the preservation of our culture are at the heart of the concerns of Acadians in the region.

The Fédération acadienne de la Nouvelle-Écosse (FANE) works closely with both the provincial and federal governments to ensure the sustainable development of the Francophonie in our province. This includes advocating for the rights of the Acadians and Francophones, ensuring access to French-language services, and supporting cultural and community initiatives that strengthen Acadian identity.

We thank you for taking the time to consider the concerns of our community and for responding to them constructively. Your positions on these issues will be an important factor for Acadian voters in this election. We encourage all candidates to complete this survey, which we will publish on our various communication channels.

We look forward to receiving your responses by <u>April 10th</u> and to your commitment to working with us for the well-being and prosperity of our community.

Yours sincerely,

Denise Comeau-Desautels

President