How Cities Can Join the Network

Future member cities must provide a resolution by their municipal council or a letter from their mayor stating they want to join the Network.

This letter may be addressed to either the City of Québec or to the Network's Director Dominique Sarny. Contact information:

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About the Network

History

In 2008 the mayor of Québec City suggested creating a continental network for municipalities to share their history, heritage, experiences, and expertise. The mayors of Moncton, New Brunswick (Canada), and Lafayette, Louisiana (US) welcomed the idea. In 2015, after an initiative by the three founding cities and an agreement with Centre de la francophonie des Amériques (the Centre), the Francophone and Francophile Cities Network (the Network) was created. Since then, the Network has met at two Rendez-vous (Québec City in 2017 and Moncton in 2019) and two interim working meetings (Lafayette in 2016 and Grande Prairie in 2018).

Since July 2018, the Centre de la francophonie des Amériques manage the Francophone and Francophile Cities Network throught an agreement with the City of Quebec.

The Network boasts more than 150 member cities and the support of over 200 organizations in its mission of strengthening the vitality of Francophone and Francophile communities while preserving and promoting their common heritage.

About the Network

Given the growing interest in cultural tourism here and around the world[1], the Francophone and Francophile Cities Network is an innovative vector for tourism, economic, linguistic, cultural, and heritage development that focuses on implementing unique tourist routes and circuits aimed at boosting the profile and development of La Francophonie.

It is an important development lever for municipalities in a context where Francophone heritage represents an added value for promoting the vitality and well-being of communities and their environments, creating jobs, retaining young people, fostering a sense of community pride, and improving economic diversification[2]. With its focus on Francophone heritage and culture, the Network recognizes the importance of getting local communities involved and engaged in promoting the benefits, diversity, and vitality of the Francophone community that the member cities represent throughout the hemisphere.

The Network allows members to work together and collaborate to create links that generate tourism, economic, and cultural benefits for cities and their communities. It views La Francophonie as a unique development model based on productive ties and solid partnerships that benefit Francophone cities and communities, where the development of some hinges on the vitality of others.

The Francophone and Francophile Cities Network provides members with innovative development tools to support their projects to create tourist attractions that inspire Francophones and the general public alike. Through its participatory and inclusive approach, the Network wants to exact change using cultural tourism to boost development of the local communities that are part of La Francophone. The economy* this creates will leave a cultural and social footprint with a view to sustainable development. With its focus on innovation, the Network will engage young people and educators and spark a dialogue on "living together" aimed at bringing together all community stakeholders in the spirit of intercultural and intergenerational respect.

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[1] "According to UNESCO, cultural and heritage travel is one of the fastest growing international tourism segments." http://veilletourisme.ca/2011/01/05/tourisme-culturel-et-patrimonial-un-produit-en-croissance-a-travers-le-monde/ (in French)

[2] "Tourism, key to development, prosperity, and well-being" WTO, https://www.e-unwto.org/doi/pdf/10.18111/9789284419050 (in French)

Commitments and Responsibilities

Network responsibilities

The <u>Network</u>, via Centre de la francophonie des Amériques, undertakes to:

- Support working groups (liaison organizations and city committees) in the development of tourist routes
- Develop tools and services to support members in the creation of tourist routes
- Foster the creation of networks between cities in fields such as tourism, economic development, and cultural exchange
- Serve as a platform for exchange and dialogue
- Support projects by seeking funding and resources
- Give members access to a partner directory (by sector of interest)
- Help organize Rendez-vous and working meetings
- Facilitate member participation
- Promote cities to target audiences (in the tourism, business, and cultural arenas)
- Update its website and highlight the Network member cities and their tourist routes

Member responsibilities

Each <u>member</u> must individually undertake to:

- Forge ties with their local and regional community partners
- Forge ties with the other cities in the Network
- Participate, as resources allow, in the implementation of the Network's 2019–2022 Strategic Plan (pending approval)
- Participate in the creation of tourist routes and promote the Network, its products, and tourist routes, as resources allow
- Enhance visitor attractions associated with la Francophonie
- Support the mission of the Francophone and Francophile Cities Network
- Participate from time to time in joint governance activities (Rendez-vous, working meetings, surveys, reports, etc.)
- Encourage alliances with the business and cultural communities
- Share new tools and products
- Provide relevant information about their city (history, heritage, genealogy, sites, attractions)
- Encourage agencies and community partners to actively participate in the Network, related networks, and theme-specific working groups