

## **Speaking Notes**

**for the Honourable Shelly Glover**

**Member of Parliament for Saint Boniface (Manitoba) and  
Minister of Canadian Heritage and Official Languages**

**to address RDÉE Canada**

**June 19, 2015  
Winnipeg, Manitoba**

Good afternoon everyone. It's an absolute pleasure to be back in my home province. I am happy to be here with representatives from Official Language Minority Communities from across the country.

I am here to speak to you as Minister of Canadian Heritage and Official Languages but I am also here today as a very proud Canadian.

Canada was built through its history of tolerance, diversity and collaboration. Our two official languages were the foundation for that culture.

In 2017 Canada will celebrate the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Canadian Confederation. This important milestone provides us with a unique opportunity to celebrate our linguistic duality and what makes Canada unique.

Our linguistic duality has given us a competitive advantage and allows us to take part in many international dialogues.

The ongoing vitality of Official Language Minority Communities is critical to the success of our country.

That is why in 2013 our government renewed its unprecedented investment of \$1.1 Billion over 2013-2018 in the Roadmap for Official Languages.

The Roadmap gives the Government of Canada the means to contribute in tangible ways in areas that are important to Canadians.

The Roadmap has three pillars: Education; Immigration; and Communities. A key component of the Communities pillar is economic and human resource development.

Through the Roadmap, the Government of Canada invests in initiatives to strengthen official language minority communities' economic vitality.

(...) The [Economic Development] initiative promotes the development of new business expertise through innovation, entrepreneurship, partnerships and diversifying economic activities.

We have also sustained our investment in the Enabling Fund for Official Language Minority Communities. The Enabling Fund represents an investment of more than \$60 Million over the 5 years of the Roadmap.

This investment is a cornerstone to the Roadmap because it gives communities the means to plan for and implement economic and human resource development initiatives that have a real impact in communities.

In renewing the Roadmap my predecessor the Honourable James Moore spoke to communities and individuals across the country. He was told about the importance of the work you and your organizations do in your communities.

I thank you for your dedicated work. The RDEE Canada network has made a real difference in communities across Canada.

Thank you.

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