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University of Maine News

UMaine Franco-American Center to Host Meetings with Council for French Life in America

October 3, 2002

Media contact: Yvon Labbé, Franco-American Center, 581-3764; Nick Houtman, Dept. of Public Affairs, 581-3777

ORONO-- The University of Maine's Franco-American Center will host meetings October 4 to promote ties between the Conseil de la Vie Française en Amérique (Council for French Life in America), or CVFA, and Franco-Americans in Maine. At 2 p.m., the center's community council will meet at Crossland Hall with the CVFA administrative board, and Franco-Americans from throughout the state will meet with the board during a reception from 4 to 7 p.m.

Located in Quebec, the CVFA supports the language and culture of French communities in North America. It was established in 1936 and has provided scholarships, grants and literary prizes in Canada and the United States.

Yvon Labbé, the director of the Franco-American Center, is a member of the CVFA administrative board and the only representative from the United States. "The CVFA board wants to meet with Francos in Maine. They want to learn about us and to reach out to other Franco communities throughout the country. They have asked the Franco-American Center to help them do that," says Labbé.

Judy Paradis, former state senator from Frenchville, will welcome CVFA board members at 2 p.m. and preside over the meeting of the center's community council with the board. Paradis and Mark LeDuc, an Augusta lawyer, are co-presidents of the council.

Among the subjects that will be discussed are UMaine Franco-American programs and research projects on the French language and on Franco-American culture and history. Participants will also discuss plans to establish a virtual Franco-American community via an Internet site hosted by the Hermon school system.

The reception will include a display of Nos Histoires de l'Île, an oral history project of French Island by Amy Morin and Harold Lacadie; music played by Joël Morneault of Bangor; and a new film about Franco-Americans by Ben Levine.