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Vanier College celebrates la Semaine de la francophonie 2017

Montreal, February 21, 2017. ACTION! That's the theme of la *Semaine de la francophonie* 2017 that will run from February 27th to March 3rd at Vanier College. It is an ideal time for students to step outside the classroom and discover how much French can be dynamic, living and entertaining and give rise to cultural diversity and creativity.

On Monday, February 27th at 8:30 AM, the Minister responsible for Canadian Relations and the Canadian Francophonie, Mr. Jean-Marc Fournier, will give an overview of Francophonie in Canada. At 10 AM, author Akos Verboczy will describe how over time he came to embrace Quebec culture. The day will end with a screening of *Prank* (2016) nominated for *le Prix collégial du cinéma québécois*.

On Tuesday, February 28th, the day will begin with author Miriam Fahmy who will give a talk on commitment, followed by animal rights activist and author Élise Desautlery who will explore women's voices and animals. The afternoon will feature a screening of the documentary *Québécoisie* (2014).

On Wednesday, March 1st at 8:30 AM, David Dufour alias rapper, slammer and record producer, D-Track will make a presentation describing his own journey as an artist intercut with performances and explanations of his artistic vision. The same day, journalist and human rights activist Will Prosper, will give an account of his activism sharing his own intriguing story with students.

During Universal Break at noon, well-known rapper Koriass will give a concert in the Vanier Auditorium and share his views about rape culture and feminism.

On Thursday, March 2nd writer Marie-Célie Agnant will lead a presentation entitled "*Écrire avec les yeux ouverts*" and HEC Montréal professor Claude Francoeur, who holds the Stephen A. Jarislowsky Chair in Governance and Forensic Accounting, will present a talk on company governance and social responsibility.

Finally, four presentations will take place on Friday, March 3rd. *La Presse Affaires* journalist, André Dubuc, will discuss the 2017 Quebec economy; Afro-Haitian multidisciplinary artist, Kay Thellot, will lead a workshop on roots and poetry; Mélanie Dumaine, from the Raymond-Dewar Institute and Lynda Lelièvre, a teacher of Quebec Sign Language (LSQ- Langue des Signes du Québec) will introduce students to deafness and the LSQ; and Érika Duchesne, city councillor for the district of Vieux-Rosemont, will lead a discussion on diversity, parity and politics.

A writing competition is also open to all college students, employees and teachers. For more information on the contest and for details on the week's events check out: www.facebook.com/VanierFrancophonie or contact French Department teacher and principal organizer of la *Semaine de la francophonie*, Catherine Duranleau, duanlec@vaniercollege.qc.ca

Open to the public.