



CP/COM/VA/1512

PRESS RELEASE

The Right Honourable Ms. Michaëlle Jean, Grand Témoin de la Francophonie (High Commissioner for the French Language) at the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games will be in London from 27 July to 2 August and from 29 August to 1 September to ensure that French, which, with English, is an official language of the Olympic Movement, is used correctly during all Olympic events, and also to co-ordinate the activities of the international francophone community at the Games.

Highlights of the francophone programme

After the opening ceremony, Michaëlle Jean will pay a visit to some of the francophone athletes at their training grounds and also to the French translators who have been provided to the London Organising Committee for the Olympic Games (LOCOG) by the Organisation internationale de la Francophonie (OIF), France, Quebec and Switzerland under the terms of the agreement signed by Michaëlle Jean and Sebastian Coe, Chairman of LOCOG, in Quebec on 24 May 2012.

Michaëlle Jean will also visit the press centre, the broadcasting centre and some of the francophone countries' Olympic Houses (Africa House, Canada Olympic House, Club France and the House of Switzerland) and she will also be among the spectators at several sporting events. She will also be present at the official opening of Africa House (along with several African heads of state), the international evening at Club France and the lunch at the House of Switzerland for the francophone members of the International Olympic Committee. She will also be meeting the Chairmen of the organising committees for the next Winter and Summer Olympic Games, and the members of the Association of Francophone National Olympic Committees at Canada Olympic House.

Latest news on the activities of the francophone athletes and Michaëlle Jean on the website "Le français j'adore"

The "Le français j'adore" campaign was launched on 17 March 2012 at a concert featuring young francophone artists held in Trafalgar Square, sponsored by several embassies of francophone countries in London. Michaëlle Jean aims to continue to promote the cultural diversity and talents of international francophone young people during the Olympic and Paralympic Games. She has invited the Quebecoise-Algerian singer Lynda Thalie to give a public open-air concert on Exhibition Road in Kensington on 28 July at 3.30pm, followed by a private concert the next day at 4pm for the guests at a reception hosted by Ms Jean at the Institut Français in London.

For the latest news on the activities of Michaëlle Jean and the francophone athletes at the Olympic and Paralympic Games, **please visit www.lefrancaisjadore.com**. You can also follow **#lefrancaisjadore** and **#michaellejean** on Twitter and join the Facebook groups "Le Français j'adore" and "Michaëlle Jean".

PRESS CONTACTS

Virginie Aubin-Dubille, Press Officer at the OIF in Paris - Tel. (+33) 1 44 37 33 27 - virginie.aubin-dubille@francophonie.org

Grand Témoin de la Francophonie - Audrey Delacroix, Commissioner for the French Language at the Olympic and Paralympic Games at the OIF in Paris - adelacroix@hotmail.fr