

# A MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF ALBERTA

Alberta's government would like to extend a warm welcome to all attendees of the Southern Alberta Heritage Language Association's 2024 Languages Education Symposium, "Languages Learning for Culture, Communications and Careers."

The Government of Alberta recognizes the benefits of bilingualism and the need for intercultural understanding and competency to promote pluralism in our increasingly diverse society.

Studying another language and participating in international language programs, like the ones supported by SAHLA, builds cross-cultural skills and helps students adapt to new situations. In an increasingly connected world, these skills are beneficial for students and will help them navigate their studies and work locally, nationally, and internationally.

Today's symposium highlights the many ways that language education benefits our province and its citizens by encouraging academic success, easing cross-cultural communication, and boosting economic potential.

Best wishes for a successful and inspiring day of learning, connection, and community.

