

Message from Demetrios Nicolaides Minister of Education

On behalf of Alberta's government, I would like to welcome all attendees to the Southern Alberta Heritage Language Association's 2025 Symposium.

I want to extend a heartfelt congratulations on the association's 40th anniversary. This milestone shows the invaluable contributions of the association in preserving and promoting the linguistic and cultural heritages of so many Albertans.

The symposium's theme, "Languages Learning for Life: Social, Cultural and Economic/Career Development," highlights the many benefits of language and cultural education. Heritage language learning fosters community connections, strengthens family bonds and is a vital means of learning and preserving our history, culture and identity, and celebrating our province's rich linguistic and cultural diversity.

Being skilled in several languages is also an important skill in today's global economy, opening career opportunities and fostering connections and partnerships with people across Canada and around the world.

As we celebrate this significant anniversary, let us also celebrate our continued commitment to the lifelong journey of language learning. Together, we can nurture the social, cultural and economic benefits that heritage languages bring to our lives.

Thank you for your dedication and support to teaching and preserving heritage languages. Wishing you a productive and uplifting day filled with learning, networking and community spirit.

Demetrios Nicolaides ECA PhD
Minister of Education