

A MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF ALBERTA

For thousands of Albertans, heritage languages are a vital part of identity and culture, fostering deep connections to family, community and personal history. For more than 40 years, the Southern Alberta Heritage Language Association has been a leader in promoting and supporting heritage languages and cultures, helping students develop and sustain language proficiency while strengthening meaningful cultural connections.

Alberta's government is sincerely grateful to SAHLA's current and past board members, school principals, teachers, students, parents and volunteers whose dedication makes this work possible. We share SAHLA's commitment to empowering Albertans through language learning and to supporting the cultural richness it brings to communities across the province.

The SAHLA Languages Symposium makes an important contribution to Alberta's education system. This year's timely focus on topics such as artificial intelligence and gamification in teaching and learning reflects the evolving world our children will one day lead. By exploring innovative tools and approaches together, participants are helping ensure Alberta's youth are well prepared with the skills and knowledge they need to thrive in a globally connected and rapidly changing environment.

Thank you for organizing this symposium and for your ongoing commitment to Alberta students.

Demetrios Nicolaides ECA PhD

