



November 19, 2019

Mr. Édouard Philippe
Premier ministre
Hôtel Matignon
57, rue de Varenne
75007 Paris
ephilippe@assemblee-nationale.fr & e.philippe@lehavre.fr

Dear Mr. le Premier ministre,

We extend best wishes from the region of Greater Moncton, the heart of the Acadian people who have a long and close relationship with your country.

We write this letter to add our name to the list of individuals and organizations concerned with the news that France intends to close its Consulat Général for Atlantic Canada in 2022. The consulate has provided a vital link between France and our region for more than 50 years. We believe closing that link would be detrimental to the interests of both France and Atlantic Canada.

The relationship between France and l'Acadie is a long and enduring one. Over the last three centuries, our countries have fostered deep connections and we fear the closure of the consulate will put those connections at risk.

We believe the consulate needs to be remain open to foster cultural exchanges, to assist in all matters of immigration, and to provide a bridge to the many economic opportunities that exist between your country and our region. With the completion of the CETA trade agreement, the opportunities for both French companies and businesses located in our region who want to do business with France are numerous. Now is not the time for France to end its physical presence in our region.



We hope you will reconsider this decision. We propose a meeting with individuals on both sides of this issue to fully explore the potential risks and opportunities behind this decision.

The Chamber of Commerce for Greater Moncton and 3+ Corporation appreciate the French presence in our community and look forward to continuing a long and fruitful relationship.

Sincerely,

John Wishart
CEO
Chamber of Commerce
for Greater Moncton

Susy Campos
CEO
3+ Corporation

CC:

Mr Jean-Yves Le Drian, ministre français de l'Europe et des Affaires étrangères
Mr. Johan Schitterer, Consul général de France en Atlantique
Mrs Kareen Rispal, Ambassadrice de France au Canada
Honorable Percy Mockler, Senator
The Honorable Blaine Higgs, Premier of New Brunswick, MLA (Quispamsis)
Honorable Robert Gauvin, MLA (Shippagan-Lamèque-Miscou)
Mrs Dawn Arnold, Mayor, City of Moncton
Mr. Yvon Lapierre, Mayor, City of Dieppe
Mrs Louise Imbeault, présidente de la Société Nationale de l'Acadie