



**MOTION 12 DES MEMBRES DE L'ASSEMBLÉE LÉGISLATIVE
DE L'ÎLE-DU-PRINCE ÉDOUARD
LE VENDREDI 2 MAI 2008
EN COMMÉMORATION DE LA DÉPORTATION DE L'ÎLE SAINT-JEAN**

WHEREAS French and Acadian settlers came here in 1720, to Isle-Saint-Jean, and established the first permanent European settlement on the Island, living side-by-side with the Mi'kmaq;

AND WHEREAS 250 years ago, in 1758, the British order of Deportation of Island Acadians sentenced entire communities to exile and deprived them of their peaceful way of life;

AND WHEREAS two-thirds of the settlers were forcibly expelled, 1,700 of whom perished, while others fled, sparing only a couple of hundred individuals by mid-1759;

AND WHEREAS the Deportation inflicted suffering and hardships that shaped the indomitable spirit of the Acadian people, spirit that is alive and well today;

AND WHEREAS the Acadian and francophone community is an integral part of the social fabric of our province and actively contributes to all aspects of Island society;

AND WHEREAS the Acadian and francophone community has built a dynamic network of institutions, like the Société Saint-Thomas-d'Aquin and the Collège Acadie Î.-P.-É., that ensure both its growth and its vitality;

AND WHEREAS institutions such as schools and community centres, French public libraries, the Acadian Museum, among others, ensure that the Acadian culture and French language are not only preserved, but continue to flourish;

AND WHEREAS all Islanders would benefit from gaining better understanding of the Deportation and of the significance of the province's rich Acadian heritage;

AND WHEREAS governments have paved the way over the last 30 years for the present members of the Legislative Assembly to support linguistic duality in Prince Edward Island now, and for future generations;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly encourage all Islanders to participate in the various activities which will take place throughout the year to commemorate the Deportation and celebrate the vitality of the Acadian and francophone community, notably the unveiling of a monument this summer at Port-la-Joye-Fort-Amherst National Historic Site, the location of the original French settlement;

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Government of Prince Edward Island actively pursue its commitment to the development and enhancement of the Acadian and francophone community.

Robert Ghiz

Sonny Gallant