



## **PRESS RELEASE**

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For immediate release

### **LANGUAGE CREATORS DAVID J. PETERSON (*GAME OF THRONES*) AND MARC OKRAND (*STAR TREK*) ANNOUNCED AS SPEAKERS AT MONTREAL LANGFEST IN 2019**

**MONTREAL, QC** - The fourth edition of LangFest, a language festival for all language lovers, will take place in Montreal from August 23rd to August 25th, 2019. After three first editions held at Concordia University, the event will for the first time take place on the campus of University of Montreal.

Keynote speakers this year will be linguists David J. Peterson, creator among other things of the fictional languages used in the popular TV series, *Game of Thrones*, and Marc Okrand, known in particular for being the creator of the Klingon language of the famous *Star Trek* franchise, who will present together during a special night on Friday, August 23rd. They will each present a workshop of the languages they have created over the weekend also.

LangFest will also be welcoming a number of other renowned speakers who will share their knowledge and experience with an audience from Quebec and the rest of Canada, and from around the world as well, such as Vancouver-based polyglot Steve Kaufmann, who learned a dozen languages past the age of 60. "People from all walks of life come to speak at LangFest", says Tetsu Yung, co-organizer of the event he started with Joey Perugino in 2016. "We have consistently widened the range of topics covered, year after year", he adds. "There will really be something for all tastes!"

Discussed topics will range from minority Francophone communities in Canada to languages in video games, and many topics in between, including developing a language course to sign languages. Language workshops, highly popular during previous instalments, will also be back, allowing participants to get acquainted with South Africa's Xhosa language, western India's Gujarati or even Esperanto, among other languages. "It is the time during which, once a year, all participants not only create real ties of collaboration, but also of friendship between participants", says co-organizer Joey Perugino.

As the only festival of its kind in North America, continuing on the success of the 2017 and 2018 editions, which drew nearly 400 people each, LangFest gives its participants an opportunity to meet and exchange around a common passion for languages. "It's an event for everybody, whether learners or simply people who, like many Quebecers, are passionate about the topic", says Nicolas Viau, the third member of the organizing trio of the festival.

The event will also be a great opportunity for participants to discover Montreal, a city with a unique linguistic, cultural and historical profile, famous around the world for its numerous festivals and its openness to the cultures of the world. "It's going to be a great party!", concludes Joey Perugino.

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#### **For more information or an interview:**

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