

Senator Marleau offered the following resolution:

Senate Resolution No. 95.

A resolution to commemorate September 28, 2015 - October 4, 2015, as French Canadian Heritage Week.

Whereas, The origins of French Canadian culture in the Great Lakes can be traced to the earliest days of the 17th century; and

Whereas, Explorers, missionaries, voyageurs, and indigenous peoples in the Great Lakes encountered each other in numerous, transformative ways from this era onward; and

Whereas, The fur trade engendered extensive cultural miscegenation between indigenous peoples and French Canadians, creating new cultural forms and understanding; and

Whereas, Trapping, farming, commercial fishing, lumber, and new industries provided economic opportunities for French Canadians from the 17th through the 20th centuries; and

Whereas, Leaders such as Magdelaine La Framboise (Mackinac Island, Métisse fur trader), Joseph Labadie (Paw Paw, publisher, poet, and activist), Joseph Grégoire (Lake Linden, "Father of the French Canadians"), Louis Campau (Saginaw and Grand Rapids founder), Marie Caroline Hamlin (Detroit, folklorist and cultural advocate), and Jean Baptiste Réaume (River Raisin), are emblematic of successful French Canadian and French Métis men and women whose legacies continue to shape how we understand our history today; and

Whereas, Cultural institutions and businesses across Michigan continue to draw on French Canadian culture for programming, cross-cultural understanding, and international trade and entertainment opportunities; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate, That the members of this legislative body commemorate September 28, 2015 - October 4, 2015, as French Canadian Heritage Week in the state of Michigan; and be it further

Resolved, That we join all of those of French Canadian ancestry in celebrating their heritage and contributions to the state of Michigan.