

PAN-CANADIAN ACTIVITIES

“A Choice for the Future”

During a press conference at the Université de Moncton on March 2, 1999, the Minister of Canadian Heritage, the Honourable Sheila Copps, confirmed the Government of Canada’s commitment to investing \$70 million each year in its official languages support programs. This investment, which was announced in the federal Budget tabled on February 16, 1999, represents a 31% increase and brings the annual budget for these programs up to \$293.5 million per year, its highest ever level. The federal government’s decision will allow the Department of Canadian Heritage to strengthen its support for official-language minority communities, as well as the support it provides to provinces and territories for teaching the official languages and for the provision of services in the minority language.



The Honourable Sheila Copps at the press conference. Also in attendance were the Honourable Claudette Bradshaw, Minister of Labour, and Mauril Bélanger, Parliamentary Secretary to Ms. Copps.

Appearing before the Standing Joint Committee on Official Languages the day after the announcement, the Minister stated: “*With the announcement we made yesterday of the continuing reinvestment in official languages support across this country, minority language support, I think we are making a choice for the future.*” The majority of members attending this session thanked and congratulated Minister Copps for having succeeded in obtaining additional funding for the official-language minority communities.

MAJOR INITIATIVES



Prime Minister Jean Chrétien unveils the logo for the Year in the presence of Senator Gérald Beaudoin, Ministers Diane Marleau and Sheila Copps, and Senator Jean-Robert Gauthier.

Launch of the Year of *La Francophonie* in Canada

On March 18, 1999, Prime Minister Jean Chrétien, the Minister for International Cooperation and Minister responsible for *La Francophonie*, the Honourable Diane Marleau, and the Minister of Canadian Heritage, the Honourable Sheila Copps, inaugurated the Year of *La Francophonie* in Canada. Some months prior to the *Sommet de la Francophonie*, held in Moncton in September 1999, and in anticipation of the Games of *La Francophonie*, which will be held in the Ottawa-Hull region in 2001, the Canadian government drew attention to the significant contribution made by Francophones and Francophiles in our country’s development.

Following the decision by the federal Cabinet in June 1998 to proclaim a Year of *La Francophonie* in Canada, the Minister of Canadian Heritage established

a Secretariat responsible for coordinating the activities of the Year throughout the country. The departmental Secretariat team quickly received support from many stakeholders in the public and private sectors, as well as from the community networks.

At the time the Year was launched, the Minister of Canadian Heritage released information on a number of projects, which focus on exchanges, culture and education. The Department is continuing to co-operate with its many partners to encourage Canadians to participate in this very special year.



Official Languages: Passport to the XXI Century

“Official Languages: Passport to the XXI Century” was the theme of the first-ever National Symposium on Canada’s Official Languages which was held in Ottawa, September 16 to 18, 1998. Jointly organized by the Treasury Board Secretariat, the Department of Canadian Heritage and the Department of Justice to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the 1988 *Official Languages Act*, the Symposium welcomed over 700 participants. Special guests included:

Acadian writer Antonine Maillet, who wrote a theatrical production especially for the event; Supreme Court Justice Michel Bastarache; Stephen Clarkson, political economist from the University of Toronto; and Philip Resnick, political scientist from the University of British Columbia.



Canadian Heritage hosted a gala dinner where special achievement awards were presented. Recipients were Edgar Gallant and Gretta Chambers, for their work in the development of French- and English-speaking minority communities respectively; Patterson Webster, for her many years promoting linguistic duality in Canada; and Public Works and Government Services Canada, for its efforts relating to the implementation of the 41-42 initiative.

First *Rendez-vous de la francophonie*

Since 1993, National *Francophonie* Week has been celebrated every year around March 20, the *Journée internationale de la Francophonie*. The Week, which is organized by the *Association canadienne d'éducation de langue française (ACELF)*, is now one of the partners for the new *Rendez-vous de la Francophonie*, which encompasses all of the events of the Canadian *Francophonie* taking place from sea to sea. An initiative of the Department of Canadian Heritage, in cooperation with some thirty partners from the communities, associations, governments and businesses, the first-ever *Rendez-vous de la francophonie* was held from March 15-27, 1999. In addition to the many activities which took place across the country, 2.4 million newspaper inserts and 50,000 posters were distributed to showcase the Canadian *Francophonie*.

Young Canada Works

More than 1,100 young people worked, travelled, made new friends, discovered another region of the country, then returned to their studies in September with a practical experience in the labour market as a result of the Young Canada Works in Both Official Languages program. About a dozen young people were able to acquire overseas experience as part of Young Canada Works Internationally. The year came to a successful conclusion with the announcement by Prime Minister Jean Chrétien, in December 1998, that the Canadian government’s Youth Employment Strategy has been renewed on a permanent basis.

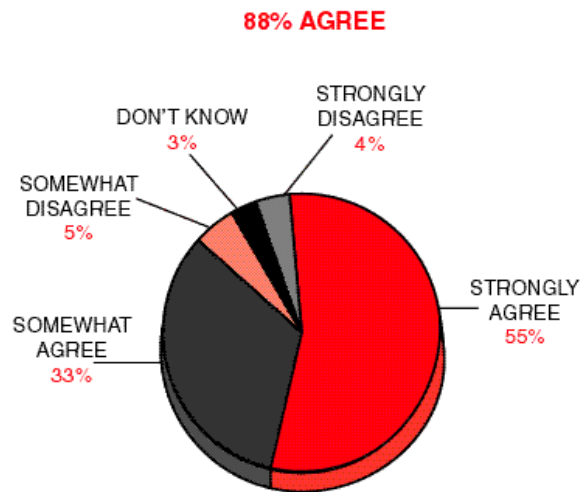


What Canadians Think...

According to an Angus Reid poll of 1,000 Canadians living outside Quebec, conducted in the fall of 1998, (regardless of linguistic group):

- 60% agree that having two official languages is important to their sense of what it means to be a Canadian;
- 88% agree that many French Canadians have made significant contributions to the success of Canada as a nation;
- 77% agree that having French as well as English spoken in Canada enhances Canada's trade and tourism opportunities, as well as Canada's international reputation;
- 66% agree that having French as well as English spoken in Canada enhances employment and business opportunities for all Canadians;
- 82% agree that Canada would be better off if there was more contact between French-speaking Canadians and English-speaking Canadians;
- 77% agree that it is important that Canada's schools teach today's children to speak both English and French.

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National French-Language Health Training Centre

In January 1999, the Canadian government announced a contribution of \$10 million over five years to establish the National French-Language Health Training Centre. The purpose of the centre, which is to be managed by the University of Ottawa, is to offer university training programs leading to careers in health-care professions to young people from Francophone minority communities.

Through the National French-Language Health Training Centre and in cooperation with other teaching institutions of the Canadian *Francophonie*, including the *Regroupement des universités de la francophonie hors Québec* and Francophone community colleges, the University of Ottawa will be able to play a part in increasing the number of professionals able to deliver health care, in French, in the Francophone minority communities. It is hoped that at least 30 doctors and 60 other health-care professionals will be trained over the next five years.

Interdepartmental Working Group on Official Languages Research

An interdepartmental working group was established in the summer of 1998 to encourage more coordinated activity within the federal government on research related to the official languages. This working group includes representatives from Statistics Canada, the Privy Council Office, Justice Canada, the Treasury Board Secretariat and the Office of the Commissioner of Official Languages, with the Department of Canadian Heritage as the Chair. The working group was established as a follow-up to the Symposium on Language Data on Official-Language Minorities organized by Statistics Canada in March 1998, which led to a recognition of the need to increase coordination among the various federal stakeholders in this area.



SUPPORT TO COMMUNITIES

As a prelude to the expiration on March 31, 1999, of the 13 Canada-community agreements, negotiations took place over the course of the year with official-language minority communities in each province and territory, as well as with national Francophone organizations. A new impetus was apparent following the announcement, at the beginning of March, of the injection of \$10 million per year in direct support to the communities. The largest part of the financial increase will serve to augment the Canada-community agreement envelopes. Otherwise, part of the funds will be invested in current initiatives to promote and enhance the presence of minority communities throughout the country.

Additional funds were also accorded for a new initiative relating to an interdepartmental partnership for official-language communities which, with \$5.5 million each year for five years spent on a cost-shared basis, will incite federal departments and agencies to collaborate to a greater extent with official-language minority communities.

FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL/ TERRITORIAL COOPERATION

Program Renewal

The 1998-99 year was essentially a transitional period for two major federal-provincial/territorial files. Provisionary measures were signed with each province and territory to ensure the continuation of the Official Languages in Education Program in anticipation of the conclusion of a new Protocol of Agreements for minority-language education and second-language instruction with the Council of Ministers of Education, Canada. In addition, the French-language service agreements with New Brunswick, Ontario, Saskatchewan, and the Yukon, which had expired in March 1998, were extended for one year.

With the injection of an additional \$70 million each year in the Official Languages Support Programs, 1998-99 finished on a very positive note, the provinces and territories being the principal beneficiaries of these new funds.

- ◆ The federal contributions for minority-language education and second-language instruction will be increased by \$50 million each year. These funds will enable the Official Languages in Education Program to fulfill a series of objectives and will serve to support the implementation of special investment initiatives in education to consolidate the work undertaken in 1992 with respect to Francophone school management and French post-secondary education as well as to promote second-language learning.
- ◆ Federal support for delivery of provincial and territorial services in the minority language will be increased by \$4 million each year, which will permit the Government of Canada to continue to reinforce its collaboration with the provinces and territories, especially in the areas of health, administration of justice, new technologies and tourism.



Official-Language Monitor Program

In 1998-99, the Official-Language Monitor Program enabled nearly 900 young people to continue their university studies while at the same time helping teachers show their students the “life” of the language and culture they are learning. The monitors are placed in teaching institutions for a period of eight months in the case of part-time monitors, and for nine months in the case of full-time monitors. They are entrusted with various tasks which, together with their participation in the community’s everyday life, help to strengthen their mother tongue or second-language skills.

Ministerial Conference on Francophone Affairs

The fourth Ministerial Conference on Francophone Affairs was held in Whitehorse, on July 9 and 10, 1998. The Conference was an opportunity to review various intergovernmental cooperation issues and to raise two issues that are of particular concern to the Francophone and Acadian communities: government changes and health.

With regard to health, the Ministers asked the public servants responsible for Francophone affairs, working with their health and training counterparts, to identify avenues for cooperation in the training of health care professionals and the delivery of health care in French. The participants stressed the importance of ensuring the delivery of services in French when transfers of responsibilities are made by the federal government to the provinces and territories, or by provinces and territories to regional or municipal organizations. Finally, the Ministers repeated their desire to support the *Sommet de la Francophonie* in Moncton and to make this an unique opportunity to celebrate the Canadian *Francophonie* in all regions of the country.



Representing the Minister of Canadian Heritage, the Honourable Don Boudria, with (from left to right) Ned Shillington, Provincial Secretary of Saskatchewan, Noble Villeneuve, Minister of Francophone Affairs of Ontario, Piers McDonald, Yukon Government Leader, and Gerald Smith, MP for Port-au-Port, Newfoundland.

Summer Language Bursary Program



More than 6,000 young people participated in the Summer Language Bursary Program in 1998-99. Bursary recipients undergo intensive training for five weeks to learn their second language, or if they are Francophones, to improve their first-language skills. Numerous cultural activities are included in the training.

In the summer of 1998, 17 educational institutions created 257 positions which enabled young bursary recipients to share their newly acquired language skills in a job placement opportunity. The “Language and Work” initiative of the Young Canada Works in Both Official Languages program was a great success.



SECOND LANGUAGES

Canadian Modern Language Review (CMLR)

In 1998-99, the Canadian Modern Language Review published a volume dealing with the use of technology in both second- and foreign-language classrooms. Articles in this special issue focus on pedagogical and methodological issues in the design of computer-based language courses, the use of new technologies to teach grammar and vocabulary, the influence of computers on second-language use in the classroom, and the impact of technology on minority languages and cultures.



Canadian Parents for French



Canadian Parents for French (CPF) undertook an intensive long-term planning exercise with its provincial branches, in partnership with Canadian Heritage. The plans developed will enable CPF to greatly expand its efforts to ensure that more children have access to quality French as a second-language education.

In November, for the first time in the history of Alberta's French immersion program, 165 education decision-makers representing 31 school districts offering French immersion programs met in Edmonton over a three-day period to reflect and share ideas about the program. CPF Alberta, with the Alberta Department of Education, sponsored this working conference entitled "French Immersion in Alberta: Building the Future".

CPF continued to help parents across Canada to start or maintain French Immersion programs and other initiatives to ensure their children can learn French. French summer camps, in-school French clubs, an essay contest for high school students and many other programs at the local chapter level helped thousands of Canadian children use and appreciate French as their second official language.

Hooked on Immersion... It's Capital!

In November 1998, the Canadian Association of Immersion Teachers, in collaboration with Canadian Parents for French and the Canadian Association of Second Language Teachers, held the first collaborative conference of national organizations in Canada that support second-language learning. The theme of the conference, "Hooked on Immersion...it's Capital" focussed on sharing theories, research and new pedagogical and technological trends.

Symposium on Technology in the Second-Language Classroom

In November 1998, the Canadian Association of Second Language Teachers (CASLT), in collaboration with *La Fête colombienne des enfants*, held a Symposium on Technology in the Second-Language Classroom in Ottawa. Over 150 educators from across Canada assembled to be introduced to CASLT's pedagogical innovation regarding Technology-Enhanced Language Learning Activities on the CASLT web site. In addition, the National Core French Formative Evaluation Project was published for the beginner level as well as the adaptation for the English second-language learner.



Partnership

Partnership Agreements were signed between the Canadian Association of Second Language Teachers, the Society for Educational Visits and Exchanges in Canada and the Canadian Association of Immersion Teachers. An example of this collaboration is the joint organization of the first colloquium "Bilingual Child, Global Citizen", to be held in the fall of 1999.



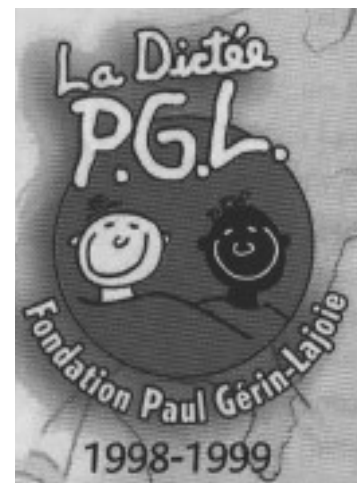
Queen Elizabeth II Silver Jubilee Endowment Fund

The endowment fund was set up in 1977 to mark the 25th anniversary of the Queen's accession to the throne. Scholarships are awarded, in the name of Her Majesty, to university-level students who wish to continue their studies in their second language. The scholarship program is administered by the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada on behalf of the Department of Canadian Heritage. Between 1990 and 1999, 107 scholarships were awarded through the endowment fund. The 1998-99 recipients are:

Mandie Bzdell of Ottawa, Ontario,
Valérie Brousseau of Wolfville, N.S.,
Caroline Boily of Montreal, Quebec, and
Jacques Desfossés of Longueuil, Quebec.

A Record Participation

The 1998-99 version of *La Dictée Paul Gérin-Lajoie* recorded a record participation of 164,322 students between 5 and 13 years of age, from 1,420 primary schools in Canada; 20,171 of the participants were registered in the "immersion classes" category. The *Dictée* was established in 1991 and allows students in primary Francophone and French immersion classes to improve their written French while discovering developing countries and learning about international cooperation. Grade 5 and 6 students can also participate in the contest, with the finals being televised on Radio-Canada. In 1998-99, the winner in the "immersion classes" category was Sarah Kawaguchi, from John Fisher Public School in Toronto.



PROMOTION

On the National Scene

Second-Language Industries

This file was a busy one during the reporting period. A working luncheon was organized for some 60 language schools at the Canadian Education Centres Network annual meeting in Banff in the fall of 1998. Participants were interested in business opportunities described by *Destination Canada Ouest's* Francophone product club, the benefits of hiring a Young Canada Works Internationally intern and support offered by Canadian Heritage for promotion.

Promotional materials on second-language learning were distributed at the 1998 Canadian Association of Immersion Teachers conference in Ottawa in November and at the annual conference of the Canadian Association of Private Language Schools Association in Ottawa in December 1988. In March 1999, the Department organized a workshop for the Council of Second Language Programs annual meeting in Toronto.

At the Rendez-Vous Canada (RVC) event, Canadian Heritage shared a kiosk with Parks Canada and promoted the language industries. RVC is Canada's premier international marketplace for the introduction, promotion and sale of Canadian tourism products and services.

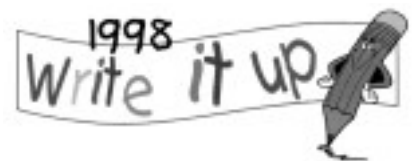
Finally, the Department collaborated at two workshops undertaken by the Canadian Tourism Commission (CTC) to inform language companies about the tourism industry as well as business opportunities/partnerships which could be nurtured with the industry such as "eduvacations" and learning travel.

1998 Write it up! Contest

When asked to write a letter to the Governor General of Canada, the Right Honourable Roméo LeBlanc, 2,500 10-13 year olds from each province in

Canada responded with letters telling him why they think it is important to learn English and French as a second language in Canada. Their reasons varied, including needing two official languages for their careers, meeting new people, learning about another culture, travelling etc. One hundred prizes were awarded in the contest. Four grand prizes of CD/cassette players were presented to: Lindsay Tam (Mississauga, Ontario), Katie Boone (Topsail, Newfoundland), Nicholas de Carlo (Orléans, Ontario), and Cara Jamison (Ardrossan, Alberta).

The year 1998 was the sixth of the Write it up! contest which is sponsored by Canadian Parents for French, the Canadian Association of Immersion Teachers, the Canadian Association of Second Language Teachers, the Society for Educational Visits and Exchanges in Canada, the *Société pour la promotion de l'enseignement de l'anglais au Québec* and the Department of Canadian Heritage.



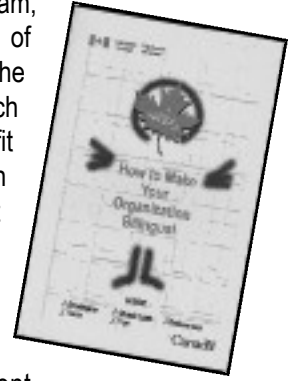


Magazines

For the first time, the Department bought publicity pages in *Owl* and *Les Débrouillards* magazines. The December issues were devoted to second-language learning in Canada and the January issues told young readers about Canadian Francophones.

In English and French, of course!

The Support to Interpretation and Translation Program, which helps non-profit groups reduce their costs of translation and interpretation, and the Program for the Development of Official-Language Services, which provides financial and technical support to non-profit organizations wishing to offer their services in Canada's two official languages, received a boost from the publication of a handbook entitled *How to Make Your Organization Bilingual*. This easy-to-read handbook, produced by the Official Languages Support Programs Branch, provides tools and step-by-step strategies to client organizations. It's full of pointers, checklists and reminders, enabling organizations to take on a bilingual character as smoothly as possible.



PROMOTION

On the International Scene

Council of Europe

The Department continued to closely monitor the activities of the Council of Europe and the European Centre for Modern Languages (ECML), particularly those activities dealing with linguistic standards, the recognition of linguistic skills, language teaching, linguistic policies and the rights of linguistic minorities.

Two Canadian representatives participated in a workshop on linguistic policy which took place at ECML, in May 1998. The workshop focused on analytical and evaluation methods and linguistic policy issues. Twenty-seven countries were represented, 18 of which were from Central and Eastern Europe. The workshop produced a framework for the implementation of linguistic policy.

Lingu@net Europa



In the fall of 1988, the Department became a partner in the Lingu@net Europa project. With funding from the European Commission, a group of ten nations are in the process of designing a multilingual, virtual resource centre on the Internet to support the teaching of foreign languages. Check it out at: <http://www.linguanet-europa.org>.

Expolangues 1999

The Department was involved in Expolangues 1999 with support from Gary Young of the Canadian Association of Second Language Teachers who presented, on behalf of the Department, a workshop called "Get Plugged In!", a project involving the integration of technology into the learning and teaching of second languages. The workshop was well attended and appreciated.

Promotional materials, including *Study English or French in Canada* posters and postcards and *Why Study Languages in Canada* leaflets were distributed at Expolangues 1999 and at the European Student Fair in Brussels with the help of the Canadian Education Centres Network.

