

II. Inter departmental Coordination: Concrete Results

Fiscal year 1995-96 saw the tabling of the first action plans of the 26 federal departments and agencies particularly affected by the measures adopted by the government in August 1994. These measures are designed to implement sections 41 and 42 of the *Official Languages Act*. Section 41 sets out the federal government's commitment to enhancing the vitality and development of the English and French linguistic minority communities everywhere in Canada and fostering the use of both English and French in Canadian society. Section 42 assigns the Department the role of encouraging and coordinating the activities of federal institutions in this regard. The accountability framework put in place by the government in August 1994 to give concrete form to its commitment provides for consultation with the official-language minority communities by the key departments and agencies in order to identify their needs, preparation of an annual or multi-year action plan and submission of a status report on the plan's accomplishments. These two documents must be submitted to the Minister of Canadian Heritage, who refers to them in the report on official languages that is tabled in Parliament each year.

In the summer of 1995, the key federal departments and agencies submitted the first series of action plans to the Minister of Canadian Heritage. A number of the plans proposed measures to inform the official-language minority communities of the programs and services available to them. Other action plans provided financial or technical assistance for the execution of projects deemed to have priority by the representatives of the official-language minority communities. Support was provided in such sectors as economic development, culture, communications and labour market training. In the supplement to this

annual report, the reader will find details concerning the accomplishments resulting from the 1995-96 action plans for implementation of section 41 of the *Official Languages Act* prepared by the key federal departments and agencies, as well as a summary of measures contained in the second series of action plans.

Coordinating Role

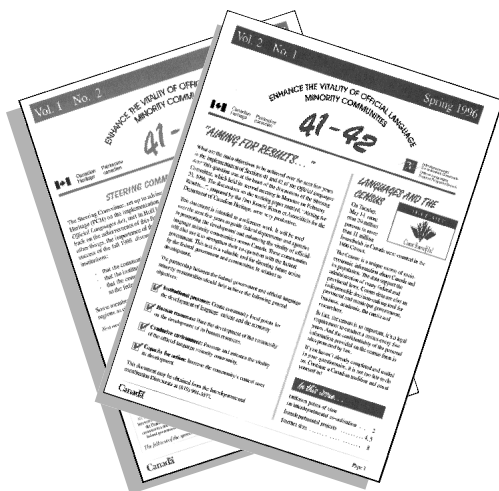
In addition to preparing an action plan, like those prepared by the 26 key departments and agencies, the Department of Canadian Heritage is responsible for coordinating the implementation of the measures announced by the government in August 1994. To this end, the Department has put in place a network of national and regional coordinators in the key departments and agencies and within its own administration. In fiscal year 1995-96, the Department carried out a whole series of activities that helped bring together the key departments and agencies and the official-language minority communities. The list below sets out the most important of these activities.

Since March 31, 1996

On March 24, 1997, the Minister of Canadian Heritage and the President of the Treasury Board announced the signing of a memorandum of understanding to strengthen the implementation of sections 41 and 42 of the *Official Languages Act*. This agreement gives tangible form to the government's response to the Second Report of the Standing Joint Committee on Official Languages on the Implementation of Part VII of the *Official Languages Act*, tabled on November 18, 1996. The involvement of the Treasury Board Secretariat will make it possible to fully incorporate the objectives of section 41 into the government's regular planning and evaluation cycle.

National Activities

- **Consultations and action plans.** Coordination, in the fall of 1995, of Canada-wide consultations that led the Department of Canadian Heritage and the key federal departments and agencies to meet with representatives of the official-language minority communities and produce an action plan on the implementation of section 41 of the *Act*. Organization, on December 8, 1995, of the consultation with national Francophone organizations.
- **Steering committee.** Start of work of the national steering committee responsible for advising the Department of Canadian Heritage on the implementation of section 41 of the *Act*; meetings held in Hull on September 29, 1995 and Moncton on February 22 and 23, 1996. At this second meeting, the participants examined a document entitled *Aiming for Results*, which seeks to define the meaning to be given to the expression "development of the communities" and to propose longer-term development approaches.



- **41-42 newsletter.** Publication and distribution, in over two thousand copies, of two issues of the 41-42 newsletter, which provides a link between the various partners in interdepartmental coordination. The newsletter, published three times a year, regularly reports on the accomplishments of the key departments and agencies.

- **Information meetings.** Organization, with the participation of various departments and agencies, of thematic meetings on the

information highway (June 14, 1995) and on business opportunities between the minority English and French media and the federal government (October 18, 1995).

- **Day of reflection on community development.** Organization of a second day of reflection on community development on February 19, 1996, with the participation of representatives of the official-language minorities, the national and regional coordinators of various federal departments and agencies and all of the officers of the Department of Canadian Heritage involved, anywhere in Canada, in the delivery of official languages support programs.
- **Working sessions with national coordinators.** Five working sessions held with the coordinators responsible for implementing section 41 of the *Act* in the departments and agencies targeted by the government measures of August 1994.
- **Awareness.** Seven presentations made by senior managers at the Department's headquarters and by the interdepartmental coordination team to other federal employees (Canadian Centre for Management Development, National Capital Commission, deputy ministers' group, Public Works and Government Services, etc.) to familiarize them with the reality of the official-language minority communities and the government's commitment to support their development. Various similar presentations made in the regions.
- **Summary of action plans.** Production of a supplement to the 1994-1995 Annual Report entitled *Summary of 1995-1996 action plans prepared by key federal institutions for implementation of section 41 of the Official Languages Act*. This document was tabled in Parliament in the spring of 1996 by the Minister of Canadian Heritage.

Examples of Regional Activities

- **Consultations.** Organization, in the fall of 1995, in each province and territory, of consultations that enabled the Department of Canadian Heritage and the key federal departments and agencies to produce a second action plan for the implementation of section 41 of the Act.
- **Awareness and action.** Hiring of a contract employee to support the Department in implementing an awareness and action plan with federal departments and agencies and the Francophone community in Alberta.
- **Steering committee on Francophone affairs.** Creation, in Newfoundland, of a committee consisting of federal employees and members of the community, with the participation of the province, to coordinate government support for the community's activities.
- **Steering committee on interdepartmental coordination in Ontario.** Creation of an Ontario committee whose aim is to optimize the potential for interdepartmental coordination through partnership.
- **Planning.** The Department's office in New Brunswick developed a work plan on interdepartmental coordination which identifies a procedure to follow to speed up the implementation of section 41 by federal departments and agencies and better meet the particular needs of the community.

Partner in Development

There can be no doubt that the Department of Canadian Heritage plays a key role in enhancing the vitality and supporting the development of Canada's English and French linguistic minority communities. The action plan prepared by the Department for fiscal year 1995-96 resulted in many accomplishments. A summary of them is found below, with the empha-

sis on projects carried out in partnership with one or more other federal departments and, in some cases, with provincial governments.

- **Infrastructures.** Support provided by the Department for carrying out such projects as construction of the School of Electrical Engineering of the *Université de Moncton*, with the participation of Human Resources Development Canada, and the creation of the *Centre de théâtre francophone d'Ottawa*, through an agreement with the National Arts Centre.



École de génie at the Université de Moncton.

- **Youth initiatives.** Financial support from the Department and Human Resources Development Canada to the *Fédération de la jeunesse canadienne-française* for the planning of a series of youth initiatives (training for young people).
- **Francization.** Production of a francization kit by the *Commission nationale des parents francophones* with the support of the Department of Canadian Heritage and Health Canada.
- **Semaine nationale de la Francophonie.** Event organized by the *Association canadienne d'éducation de langue française* from March 20 to 26, 1996, with technical and financial support from the Department of Canadian Heritage, Industry Canada, the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, the Canadian International Development Agency, Human Resources Development Canada and the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation.

- **Young Canada Works.** Preparation, in co-operation with Human Resources Development Canada, of an official languages component to the government's Young Canada Works program.



- **Community radio.** Support provided for the development of community radio and such projects as the creation of a telematics network and an Internet site, the broadcasting of four programs devoted to up-and-coming French-language singers and preparation for the establishment of radio stations in Prescott-Russell and Nipissing, Ontario; Port-au-Port, Newfoundland and Peace River, Alberta.
- **Advertising contracts.** Inclusion by the Department of Canadian Heritage of the minority communities' print and electronic media in the national system of advertising placement of Public Works and Government Services Canada.
- **Economic development plan.** Financial support from the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs and the Department of Canadian Heritage to the *Association franco-yukonnaise* for the production of an economic development plan.
- **Management training.** Financial support from Human Resources Development Canada for the Yukon's French-speaking community to enable 23 participants to receive training in business management and creation through the Business Development Bank of Canada.
- **National Film Board's film collection.** Implementation of the agreement with the National Film Board concerning the transfer of its film collection to the *Centre culturel francophone de Vancouver*. Technical support from the Department of Canadian Heritage.

- **Tourism.** Support from the Department of Canadian Heritage and the Federal Office of Regional Development (Quebec) to the Coasters' Association, which is made up of 15 villages on the Lower North Shore, for holding a conference (March 8-10, 1996) on the future of tourism in this region in extreme eastern Quebec.

- **Labour market.** Creation, with the assistance of the Department of Canadian Heritage and Human Resources Development Canada, of an independent agency, now supported by the Government of Quebec and the private sector, to facilitate the integration of young Anglophones into the largely French-language labour market in Quebec. The services provided included workshops on the job search process and entrepreneurship, information sessions, translation and advisory services and opportunities to converse in French.

- **Festival.** Broadcast, in August 1995, of an international show on the Atlantic Satellite Network, the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, *Radio France* and *Société Radio-Canada* as part of the first Acadian Festival at Louisbourg, Nova Scotia.

- **Grand-Pré.** Funding of a feasibility study in partnership with the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency on the redevelopment of this national historic site in Nova Scotia.

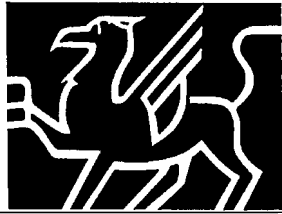
- **Status of Women.** Conclusion of an agreement between the Department's Nova Scotia office and Status of Women Canada to ensure the provision of service in French to the province's French-speaking women, thanks to the loan of an official languages program officer.

- **Conseil de développement économique des municipalités bilingues du Manitoba.** Announcement, in November 1995, of funding over three years for this newly created council from the following departments:

Human Resources Development Canada, Western Economic Diversification and Canadian Heritage. The funds will be used to initiate economic development and diversification projects.

- **Service contracts.** Support from Public Works and Government Services Canada to the *Conseil de développement économique des municipalités bilingues du Manitoba* to enable this agency to link up with the federal government's bidding service and thereby facilitate access to federal contracts for Franco-Manitobans. Implementation of this project coincided with the holding of a forum organized by the *Conseil* in February 1995 and sponsored by the Department of Canadian Heritage, Public Works and Government Services Canada, Western Economic Diversification and Industry Canada.

**Agence de
Voyage
GRIFFON
Travel Agency**



- **Le Griffon travel agency.** Development of tourist routes in French in the Niagara Peninsula thanks to a joint grant from the Department of Canadian Heritage and Human Resources Development Canada. This is a pilot project. Preparation of an action plan and marketing strategy.
- **Coordination groups.** Creation of two coordination groups to advance distance education and economic development of the Port-au-Port Peninsula; agreement between the Department and the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency on multi-year funding for implementation of the economic development plan for this region in western Newfoundland.
- **Bonjour Atlantique.** Successful conclusion of discussions with the CBC on the production, in Charlottetown, beginning in 1996, of the television program *Bonjour Atlantique - édition de l'Île-du-Prince-Édouard*.
- **Training.** Creation of a training program for 13 Acadian artists from Prince Edward Island thanks to funding from the Department of Canadian Heritage, Human Resources Development Canada, the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency, the Government of Quebec and the province's Department of Education.
- **Internet.** Funding provided to the French-speaking communities in Yukon and in Gravelbourg, Saskatchewan, under Industry Canada's Community Access Program, for the creation of public access to the Internet. The Committee for Anglophone Social Action in Gaspé also obtained access to the Internet (in two public locations) thanks to the same Industry Canada program and the cooperation of the Department of Canadian Heritage.
- **Educational technologies.** Holding of the first French-language educational technologies fair in the West, in Regina, thanks to support from Industry Canada.
- **Jobs.** Creation of a job offers service for Francophones in Saskatchewan thanks to the cooperation of the CBC, Human Resources Development Canada and the *Association culturelle franco-canadienne de la Saskatchewan*. The activity takes the form of a report broadcast Mondays to Fridays on the CBC under the title *La tête de l'emploi*.
- **Research.** Conducting of research that enabled the *Association canadienne-française de l'Alberta* to make an inventory

of health services provided in French in the province, to identify those services needed by the population and to create a data bank containing contact information on persons working in this field in Alberta. Technical support from the Department of Canadian Heritage and funding from Health Canada.

The reader will find in this report all the information he or she needs about the Department's many other projects to promote the development of the official-language minority communities. The reader can also refer to the status report of the Department of Canadian Heritage, which is found in the supplement to this report.