

## V. Strategic Support Activities

### Introduction

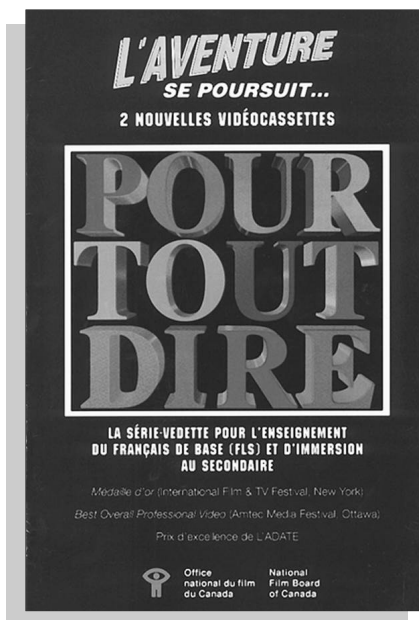
Recognizing the importance of adapting quickly to changes in Canadian society, the Department of Canadian Heritage and its partners carried out many analysis, research and reflection exercises in order to support and direct activities in various areas. The findings from this work helped to define the avenues to be followed, serving as a basis for the new strategies adopted.

The initiatives focussed primarily on the development of coordination tools in the area of education and the economic development of official-language minority communities. Whether the tools are for those involved in second-language instruction or for lawyers responsible for offering services to official-language minority communities, spinoffs from the projects contribute to the advancement of official languages in Canada.

### 1. Language Instruction

In 1994-95, some twenty associations, organizations or institutions carried out nation-wide projects related to minority official-language education, or English or French second-language instruction. Projects included:

- Establishment of a list of courses and teaching material for the language development of students, launching of a promotional campaign aimed at young minority Francophones and adaptation of the Quebec language performance test under the auspices of the *Regroupement des universités de la francophonie hors Québec*;
- Production by the Canadian Association of Immersion Teachers of a directory of research in immersion, listing papers and theses as well as research projects since 1988;
- Assessment, by the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education, of the impact of a six-month exchange program of the Society for Educational Visits and Exchanges in Canada on the effectiveness of French second-language learning in young people.



- Production of two videos in the series *Pour tout dire*, for high school immersion or core French students, by the National Film Board of Canada in conjunction with the Canadian Association of Second-Language Teachers;
- Organization by the *Réseau d'enseignement francophone à distance du Canada* of a national symposium on distance education at the high school level;

## 2. Community Development

Various research projects were carried out in 1994-95 in order to document certain typical features of official-language minority communities.

- *Francophones in Canada: A Community of Interests* presents concrete examples of current relations among members of the Canadian Francophone community, looking at various areas of daily life for Francophones in Quebec and in Canada as a whole, such as kinship ties, visits and trips, networking among associations, the economy, education, cultural exchanges or information. This study was carried out by René Guindon and Pierre Poulin and sponsored by the Department of Canadian Heritage.

“Across Canada there exists a “cultural space” that has its centre in Quebec but draws creative input from all the Francophone communities of the country.”

Department of Canadian Heritage, *Francophones in Canada: A Community of Interests*

- Young people in official-language minority communities are the subject of a study conducted by Statistics Canada with the cooperation of the Department of Canadian Heritage, the Office of the Commissioner of Official Languages and Treasury Board. This study presents data for the period 1971-1991 which bring to light the demographic trends and changes pertaining to the education of young Anglophones and Francophones of minority communities in Canada.
- *The Socioeconomic Vitality of Official-Language Minority Communities: Pilot Study*, sponsored by Canadian Heritage, is being carried out by the Canadian Institute for Research on Regional Development at the *Université de Moncton*. This document presents profiles of socioeconomic indicators for official-language minority populations, explores the economic strengths and weaknesses of minority communities, through field research and proposes development scenarios.

## 3. Official Languages: An Asset for Canadian Society

Various activities were conducted in order to highlight the economic spinoffs of bilingualism in Canada.

- A national symposium on the theme *Official Languages and the Economy: New Canadian Perspectives* was organized jointly by the Official Languages Support Programs and Strategic Research branches of the Department of Canadian Heritage. Held on May 5, 1995, this Ottawa symposium brought together about ten economists and researchers and sixty-five participants to explore the challenges and current economic advantages of using French and English in

Canada. In preparation for the symposium, two reviews of existing studies were carried out by Canadian Heritage's Strategic Research Branch: *Comparative Advantages of Bilingualism in the Marketplace: An Overview* and *Economic Dimensions of Minority and Foreign Language Use: An International Overview*.

- The *Stratégie de promotion internationale des langues officielles* explores the possible approaches to the international marketing of Canadian language products, particularly in language instruction.

## 4. Administration of Justice

To facilitate access to legal services in both official languages and to meet the demands of our dual legal system, which is based on the British common law tradition and the French civil code, various projects were carried out. These involved mainly translation and terminological work, language-oriented legal development courses and publications. The major stakeholders are the four legal translation centres in Canada, which are listed in the following figure:

- Quebec Research Centre of Private and Comparative Law (Montreal)
- Centre for Legal Translation and Documentation (Ottawa)
- *Centre de traduction et de terminologie juridiques* (Moncton)
- *Institut Joseph Dubuc* of the *Collège universitaire de Saint-Boniface* (Winnipeg)

In 1994-95, work continued at the Quebec Research Centre of Private and Comparative Law with a view to publishing the third edition of the *Private Law Dictionary* in the area of civil law in both official languages, and at the

Centre for Legal Translation and Documentation, toward the publication of a new, fully revised, updated and augmented edition of the *Legal Glossary of Federal Statutes*. The *Centre de traduction et de terminologie juridiques* published a sixth volume of the *Vocabulaire de la common law*, devoted to private maritime law. With respect to training, the *Institut Joseph Dubuc* offered, for the first time, a new course in legal French that it had developed based on the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*.

Also in 1994-95, research began on drafting *The Secularization of Quebec Private Law: a Study of Parallel Legal Orders* and publishing the *Introduction à la common law, à ses institutions et à ses méthodes d'analyse et de recherche*.

### Since March 31, 1995

An agreement was concluded between the departments of Justice and Canadian Heritage to enable the six provincial associations of French-speaking common law jurists and the federation to which they belong to continue to play an essential role in the promotion of bilingualism and bijuralism and contribute to the development of their respective communities.