



Official Languages Innovation Program

The program enables federal institutions and federal regional councils to develop innovative projects in the area of official languages. The fund of \$14 millions, invested over five years, is part of the *Action Plan for Official Languages* announced March 12, 2003. The Official Languages Branch of the Public Service Human Resources Management Agency of Canada manages the Program.

The program's objective is to ensure that the public service is better equipped to implement the principles and live out the values of the *Official Languages Act* and to better reflect Canada's linguistic duality. Innovative projects with multiplying impact are sought. In the case of the Regional Partnerships Fund, consultations with minority official language communities are encouraged. A steering committee comprised of 15 champions reviews and recommends projects to Treasury Board.

The program has two components:

The **Official Languages Innovation Fund** allows federal institutions to implement projects that:

- improve their ability to offer services in both official languages;
- create a workplace that is favourable to the use of both official languages;
- encourage a positive change in organizational culture;
- improve their management of the Official Languages Program.

Institutions are required to contribute an amount equal to the funds allocated.

The **Regional Partnerships Fund** is intended to help federal regional councils fund innovative projects that are adapted to regional conditions in order to improve:

- service to the public;
- language of work in regions designated as bilingual;
- equitable participation of English-speaking and French-speaking Canadians in federal institutions.

The first year (2003-2004), the amount of \$800,000 was allocated to 18 projects varying in scope from \$5,000 to \$80,000 per project. The second year (2004-2005), a total of \$1.8 million went to 25 projects varying in scope from \$8,000 to \$149,000. An allocation of \$2.8 million is intended for the third year of the program (2005-2006). As for the fourth year (2006-2007) and the fifth year (2007-2008) of the Program, \$3.8 million will be available for innovative projects. The eligibility criteria can be viewed at the following address:

http://www.hrma-agrh.gc.ca/ollo/innovation/index_e.asp.