



What's New?

New Official Languages Policy Instruments (effective July 15, 2005)

Overview

- Five policy instruments have been reduced to one policy and two directives.
- No new obligations have been introduced, but the requirements have been stated more clearly.
- All institutions subject to the *Official Languages Act* (OLA) are subject to the three new policy instruments.

Aim and scope of the changes

- The *Policy on the Use of Official Languages for Communications with and Services to the Public* flows from the obligations of the OLA.
- The *Directive on the Use of Official Languages on Web Sites* is aimed at employees who work in the field of information technology.
- The *Directive on the Use of Official Languages in Electronic Communications* is aimed at employees in general.
- The two directives support both the *Policy on Language of Work* and the *Policy on the Use of Official Languages for Communications with and Services to the Public*.

Structure

- Policy instruments are values-based and have been restructured, simplified, and modernized with an emphasis on expected results.
- Roles and responsibilities, as well as accountabilities and consequences, have been clearly established.
- Each policy instrument includes a section on monitoring and reporting. Institutions are responsible for assessing their compliance with the policy instruments.
- Definitions and notes give more detailed examples and guidance. Readers can simply click on the hyperlinks.
- All of the new policy instruments are supported by a series of tools available on the Web.