

**Report
Retreat of Departmental
Official Languages Champions**

**September 26-27, 2002
Ste-Adèle, Quebec**

Theme

Building a Future of the Highest Potential by Placing Official Languages at the Heart of Life in the Public Service of Canada.

Goal

Evolve a vision, articulate values, and identify means.

Identify leadership opportunities.

Create a new, inspiring context.

Objectives

Develop specific initiatives.

Develop an action plan.

Networking.

Identify support mechanisms to ensure continuity.

Chair

Diana Monnet, Assistant Secretary, Official Languages Branch, Treasury Board of Canada Secretariat.

Participants

See Appendix 1 for list.

Facilitator

Jacqueline Pelletier, consultant, helped by **Diane Robert**.

Resource Persons

Nicole Fortier, Lily Long and Lisette Brisebois, Official Languages Branch, Treasury Board of Canada Secretariat.

Results

The Champions agreed to work in teams to advance the “official languages” priority in the following categories:

1. **Educating Public Service managers:** better equip them in the area of official languages.
 - Team members: Sandra Webber and Yolande Cloutier
 - Persons in charge: Dawn Edlund and Mario Dion
 - Activities: training sessions will take place for the management teams at the Department of Justice by early November 2002.

2. **Social marketing:** identify ways to promote official languages as a fundamental value in departments and agencies.
 - Team members: André Thivierge, Richard Gagné, and Chantale Cousineau-Mahoney
 - Person in charge: Diana Monnet
 - Activity: a meeting will take place in November 2002.

3. **Creating the Council of Official Languages Champions’ Network:** assist the key agencies (Treasury Board Secretariat, Intergovernmental Affairs and Privy Council, Canadian Heritage, Public Service Commission and others) in guiding the work of Champions in their efforts to relaunch the Official Languages Program.
 - Team members: François Côté, Lyse Ricard, Marcel Gibeault, Paul Engal, Nicole Fortier, Arnold Zeman and Barry Stemshorn
 - Person in charge: Michel Cardinal
 - Activity: a meeting took place October 24, 2002, which the members of the current Champions’ Steering Committee had also been invited to attend.

4. **Active presence of Champions on departmental executive committees:** better ensure leadership in the area of official languages.
 - Team members: Lyse Ricard, Suzanne Laporte, Bill Elliott, Michel Cardinal and Rita Tremblay
 - Persons in charge: François Côté, Françoys Raynauld and Diana Monnet
 - Activity: a conference call will take place in November 2002 to finalize the letter going to departmental executive committees.

5. **Wealth of cultural diversity underlying bilingualism:** enhance the appreciation of the cultural aspect of language learning.
 - Team members: Françoys Raynauld, Bill Elliott, Barry Stemshorn, Sharon Watts and Yolande Cloutier
 - Person in charge: Michel Roy
 - Activity: a meeting took place on October 25, 2002.

6. **Creating a framework of collaboration:** enhance collaboration between official languages Champions and the regional operations of departments and agencies.
 - Team members: Louis Vigneault, Chantale Cousineau-Mahoney, Ellen Alcock, Nicole Fortier, Lorraine Cameron and Denis Racine
 - Person in charge: Donald Arsenault
 - Activity: a discussion paper is under way.

NOTE: The OLLO site will allow us to keep the Champions' network informed by updates provided by the team in charge of each initiative. Furthermore, a report concerning progress in the implementation of the initiatives will be presented at the *Seventh Conference of Departmental Champions of Official Languages*, on February 20 and 21, 2003, in Edmonton.

The Official Languages Branch of Treasury Board of Canada Secretariat undertook the following measures:

- **Liaison with the members of the National Joint Council's Official Languages Committee:** inform the members of the National Joint Council's Official Languages Committee on the Champions' role in the departments and the results of the Retreat in Ste-Adèle.
- **Redesign of the Publiservice site of the Treasury Board Secretariat's Official Languages Branch:** highlight the departmental Champions' sub-site, add more tools and permit information management in support of the Champions' role. For that purpose, those in charge of the above initiatives will be able to use this site by early November to keep the Champions' network regularly informed of progress being made in the initiatives. Also, the Champions will be able to contribute to the *Best Practices* section of the *OLLO Toolbox*.
- **Promotion Session :** for Champions who were unable to participate at the Retreat. This activity will be coordinated by the Treasury Board Secretariat's Official Languages Branch. The goal is to promote initiatives now being carried out, recruit new collaborators, and add impetus and share the enthusiasm generated.

Reference Papers

Speech delivered by the Honourable Stéphane Dion, June 22, 2002 in Whitehorse 20:

Government's Official Languages Action Plan

Address:

http://www.pco-bcp.gc.ca/aia/default.asp?Language=E&Page=pressroom&Sub=Speeches&Doc=20020622_e.htm

Paper revised August 2, 2002, further to the Sixth Conference of Departmental Champions of Official Languages, May 30-31, 2002, in Sudbury, Ontario:

Strategy for Action by Departmental Official languages Champions.

Address:

http://publiservice.tbs-sct.gc.ca/ollo/cc/champions/min-cr/action-intervention_e.rtf

Study released by the Honourable Lucienne Robillard, September 18, 2002:

Attitudes Towards the Use of Both Official Languages Within the Public Service of Canada.

Address:

http://www.tbs-sct.gc.ca/ollo/or-ar/study-étude/index_e.asp