



“Exploring Human Values and Official Languages” Workshop

The Official Languages Branch (OLB) has created a **Session Leader’s Compendium** for institutions interested in offering the **Exploring Human Values and Official Languages** workshop.

The half-day workshop, designed as a result of a successful pilot project in collaboration with the former Canada Customs and Revenue Agency, can be an effective tool in fostering an **exemplary public service** where respect for every person’s choice of official language is a core value. It explores fundamental human values such as interpersonal respect, human dignity and solidarity, and their role in the use of English and French in the workplace. The session brings about a shift in how one views official languages matters – seeing them first and foremost as a concrete expression of human values, rather than as an obligation imposed by laws and regulations.

Response to the workshop approach has been very positive. To capitalize on this success, the OLB developed the Session Leader’s Compendium. It is designed to help organizations work with facilitators to offer this awareness workshop. The Compendium includes:

- essential attributes of a workshop leader;
- in-depth description of the approach used;
- practical guidance on giving the workshop; and
- suggested exercises.

In addition to the Session Leader’s Compendium, the OLB has also published an **overview of the pilot project** that led to the development of the workshop design, as well as a **one-page handout** that contrasts differences between a rules-based approach to official languages and a values-based approach.

All of these materials can be downloaded from the Official Languages website at www.hrma-agrh.gc.ca/ollo . Click on “Awareness Sessions, Organizational Development and Training”.