



## **PLEASE NOTE**

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For more information concerning the history of this Act, please see the [Table of Public Acts](#).

This document is *not* the official version of the statute printed pursuant to the authority of the [Queen's Printer Act](#) R.S.P.E.I. 1988, Cap. Q-1.

This Act and the amendments as printed under the authority of the Queen's Printer for the province should be consulted when determining the authoritative statement of the law.

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**CHAPTER F-15.1**  
**FRENCH LANGUAGE SERVICES ACT**

PREAMBLE

Not proclaimed.

Preamble

INTERPRETATION

**1.** In this Act

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| (a) “Acadian and Francophone community” means all the Acadians and Francophones residing in Prince Edward Island;   | Acadian and Francophone community      |
| (b) “Acadian Communities Advisory Committee” means the advisory body created by Minute-in-council M99/77;   | Acadian Communities Advisory Committee |
| (c) “Court” means the Provincial Court and the Supreme Court of Prince Edward Island;   | Court                                  |
| (d) “Departmental Minister” means a Minister of a department of the Government of Prince Edward Island;   | Departmental Minister                  |
| (e) “Deputy Head” means a deputy minister or Chief Executive Officer as defined in the Policy and Procedures Manual;  | Deputy Head                            |
| (f) “enactment” carries the same meaning it does in the <i>Interpretation Act</i> R.S.P.E.I. 1988, Cap. I-8;  | enactment                              |
| (g) “government institution” means any Government of Prince Edward Island department, Crown corporation, or reporting entity as defined in the <i>Financial Administration Act</i> R.S.P.E.I. 1988, Cap. F-9 except those in Schedule B and C which may be exempted by the Minister, excluding the following: Enterprise P.E.I.; Prince Edward Island Museum and Heritage Foundation; Prince Edward Island Liquor Control Commission; La Commission scolaire de langue française; the any health authority, as defined in the <i>Health and Community Services Act</i> R.S.P.E.I. 1988, Cap. H-1.1; and the Workers Compensation Board of Prince Edward Island; | Government institution                 |
| (h) “Minister” means the Minister responsible for Francophone Affairs as designated by the Lieutenant Governor in Council;  | Minister                               |
| (i) “public administration” means all positions related to the Government of Prince Edward Island departments, Crown  | Public administration                  |

corporations or reporting entities as defined in the *Financial Administration Act* R.S.P.E.I. 1988, Cap. F-9;

regulation	(j) “regulation” has the same meaning it does in the <i>Interpretation Act</i> R.S.P.E.I. 1988, Cap. I-8;
statute	(k) “statute” has the same meaning it does in the <i>Interpretation Act</i> ;
Traffic sign	(l) “traffic sign” includes all traffic control signals, warning sign-posts, direction posts, signs, lines, marks or other devices, other than tourism signage, for the guidance of persons using highways as defined in the <i>Highway Traffic Act</i> . R.S.P.E.I. 1988, Cap. H-5. 1999,c.13,s.1; 2002,c.29,s.22.

#### PURPOSE AND SCOPE

Purpose	<b>2.</b> The purpose of this Act is to <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) not proclaimed;</li> <li>(b) specify the extent of French language services to be provided by government institutions;</li> <li>(c) not proclaimed; and</li> <li>(d) contribute to the development and enhancement of the Acadian and Francophone community. 1999,c.13,s.2.</li> </ol>
Working language	<b>3.</b> Nothing in this Act dictates or limits the working language of the public administration. 1999,c.13,s.3.
Act no limitation	<b>4.</b> Nothing in this Act shall be construed to limit the use of English or French outside the application of this Act. 1999,c.13,s.4.

#### PROCEEDINGS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Enactments	<b>5.</b> Not proclaimed. 1999,c.13,s.5.
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#### COMMUNICATIONS WITH AND SERVICES TO THE PUBLIC

Right to communicate in French of government institutions	<b>6.</b> Not proclaimed. 1999,c.13,s.6.
	<b>7.</b> Where the Acadian and Francophone community could reasonably be expected to use a particular service on a regular basis, every government institution shall ensure the following: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) all written correspondence in English or French sent to any government institution is replied to in the language of the original correspondence;</li> <li>(b) to (d) not proclaimed;</li> <li>(e) all requests to communicate in English or French with a government institution are complied with;</li> </ol>

- (f) French services are provided during at least one session of every series of public consultations;
- (g) not proclaimed;
- (h) the participation of the Acadian and Francophone community on various boards, commissions and agencies within the Government of Prince Edward Island. 1999,c.13,s.7.

- 8.** Not proclaimed. 1999,c.13,s.8. Third party services
- 9.** Notwithstanding any other Act, upon the date this Act comes into force, when installing, replacing and developing traffic signs under the jurisdiction of the province, with the exception of those signs erected pursuant to the *Municipalities Act* R.S.P.E.I. 1988, Cap. M-13, the province shall ensure that the traffic sign is either Traffic signs
  - (a) in both English and French; or
  - (b) makes use of a pictograph or pictographs. 1999,c.13,s.9.
- 10.** Notwithstanding any other Act, from the coming into force of this Act, the name of the community indicated on all signs bearing the name of the community shall be determined by representatives of the Department of Transportation and Public Works in consultation with that community with regard to Community signs
  - (a) the name in use by its citizens;
  - (b) the existence of a Acadian and Francophone community and;
  - (c) the historical place name of the community. 1999,c.13,s.10.

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

- 11.** Not proclaimed. 1999,c.13,s.11. Supreme Court
- 12.** Not proclaimed. 1999,c.13,s.12. Decisions
- 13.** Not proclaimed. 1999,c.13,s.13. Duties of Courts

ADMINISTRATION OF THE ACT

- 14.** (1) The Minister is responsible for the administration of this Act. Administration
- (2) The Francophone Affairs Division shall provide administrative support to the Minister. Francophone Affairs Division
- (3) The Acadian Communities Advisory Committee shall Acadian Communities Advisory Committee
  - (a) consult with the Acadian and Francophone community; and
  - (b) advise the Minister on the manner in which the legislation, policies, programs, and services of government impact on the Acadian and Francophone community. 1999,c.13,s.14.

- Duties of the Minister
- 15.** (1) The Minister shall develop and co-ordinate the policies and programs of the government regarding
- (a) the provision of French language services within government institutions; and
  - (b) the development and enhancement of the Acadian and Francophone community.
- Idem*
- (2) In order to fulfil the duties prescribed in subsection (1), the Minister shall
- (a) prepare and recommend government plans, policies and priorities;
  - (b) co-ordinate, monitor and oversee the implementation of programs of the government by government institutions;
  - (c) make recommendations in connection with the financing of government programs;
  - (d) respond to public comments respecting the quality of French language services provided;
  - (e) require the formulation and submission of government plans for the implementation of this Act and establish time limits for their formulation and submission;
  - (f) refer matters to the Acadian Communities Advisory Committee for its report and recommendations within such times as the Minister specifies;
  - (g) submit to the Lieutenant Governor in Council, at the end of each fiscal year, an annual report reflecting initiatives and programs undertaken within the Government of Prince Edward Island to achieve the purpose of the present Act, and table the report in the Legislative Assembly; and
  - (h) perform such duties as are assigned to the Minister by order-in-council or by any other Act.
- Implementation
- (3) Every departmental minister and deputy head shall ensure that
- (a) the implementation of this Act within the departmental minister's or deputy head's area of jurisdiction conforms with the purpose of providing quality French services and contributing to the development and enhancement of the Acadian and Francophone community; and
  - (b) departmental initiatives and programs comply with this Act. 1999,c.13,s.15.
- French services co-ordinator
- 16.** (1) A French services coordinator
- (a) shall be appointed by the deputy head of each government institution to assist and advise the deputy head in the implementation of this Act; and

(b) shall report directly to the deputy head on matters relating to the implementation of this Act.

(2) A committee consisting of Committee  
 (a) all French services coordinators; and  
 (b) the Director of the Francophone Affairs Division, as Chair of the committee,

shall assist and advise all interested parties in the implementation of this Act. 1999,c.13,s.16.

**17.** (1) Any person whose rights under this Act or the regulations have been infringed or denied may seek remedy from the Minister. Appeal to Minister

(2) Where a person Appeal to Supreme Court  
 (a) has sought a remedy pursuant to subsection (1); and  
 (b) is not satisfied with the remedy obtained,

the person may apply to the Supreme Court to obtain a remedy that the court considers appropriate and just in the circumstances. 1999,c.13,s.17.

**18.** The Lieutenant Governor in Council may make regulations Regulations  
 necessary for carrying out the provisions of this Act. 1999,c.13,s.18.