

Reinforcing the *Official Languages Act*: Changes for continuity

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The Honourable Josée Verner
Minister of International Cooperation
and Minister for La Francophonie
and Official Languages

In 1988, the year in which Part VII was added to the *Official Languages Act* (OLA), all federal institutions made a commitment to contribute to the development of the official-language minority communities (OLMCs), to enhance the vitality of these communities and to promote linguistic duality. Over the years, various measures have been taken to guide the institutions' work in this respect, including: the 1994 Accountability Framework for the implementation of sections 41 and 42 of the OLA, the Government of Canada's Action Plan for Official Languages, the Official Languages Accountability and Coordination Framework (2003), and the Horizontal Management Framework for the Official Languages Program (2005).

The turning point came in 2005, when the *Act to Amend the Official Languages Act (Promotion of English and French)* came into force. The new Act requires that the federal government take positive measures to fulfill the commitment set out in section 41 of the OLA. The Act also authorizes the Governor in Council (the Governor General on the advice of Cabinet) to make regulations prescribing the manner in which federal institutions' duties are to be carried out, and it makes Part VII of the OLA enforceable, meaning that the obligations stated in this part of the OLA can be the subject of court remedies.

The responsibilities assigned to Canadian Heritage under sections 42 and 43 of the OLA remain unchanged: to encourage and promote a coordinated approach for the implementation of federal institutions' commitment and to take such measures as the Minister considers appropriate to advance the equality of status and use of English and French in Canadian society.

Federal institutions are now required to assess and increase, where needed, the efforts made to take positive measures to fulfil their commitment. They must understand their obligations well and ensure that their employees are well aware of the specific responsibilities set out in the Official Languages Accountability and Coordination Framework.

For more information, visit the Canadian Heritage Web site at:

www.pch.gc.ca/progs/lo-ol/legislation/02_e.cfm

Related articles on page 3:

- Wording of the new sections of the OLA
- Examples of good practices for implementing section 41



2005 PRIX ZOF DU PARTENARIAT

The performance *Maïta* was the recipient of the 2005 *Prix Zof du partenariat*, awarded during the pre-*Gala des prix Éloïzes 2005* evening, which rewards a successful collaboration between Quebec organizations and the Francophone and Acadian communities in the field of arts and culture. This performance, a co-production of the *Théâtre de Sable* in Québec and the *Théâtre de la Vieille 17* in Ottawa, presents the varied realities of the two cultures and gains strength from a shared passion for art, theatre and the French language.

The *Prix ZOF* for *Zone francophone*, was created in May 2002 as an initiative of the *Fédération culturelle canadienne-française* in cooperation with the Government of Quebec. The award is sponsored by the *Secrétariat des affaires intergouvernementales canadiennes*.

ELAN: THE ART OF NETWORKING

The goals of the English-Language Arts Network (ELAN) include resource-sharing, group promotion, professional development and promotion of the arts. This group is the result of cooperation between the community, Canadian Heritage and the Canada Council for the Arts.

The group's first annual general meeting took place in the fall of 2005. The group agreed to focus on two key objectives for 2005-2006: consolidate the arts sector and coordinate the circulation of information, and promote the Anglophone arts community. In winter 2006, the group expects to produce a directory of people and organizations that provide services to artists and a calendar of events that will be distributed as widely as possible.

ELAN's Web site contains a wealth of useful information for the Anglophone arts community: www.quebec-elan.org.

WORKING GROUPS IN ACTION**Joint Theatre Forum**

ASSOCIATION DES
THÉÂTRES
FRANCOPHONES
DU CANADA

Members of the *Association des théâtres francophones du Canada* (ATFC), and representatives from

Canadian Heritage, the Canada Council for the Arts and the National Arts Centre met in Gatineau, Quebec, on January 13, 2006. Special guests included Simon Brault, Director General of the National Theatre School of Canada, and Denise Guilbault, Artistic Director of the School's French Section. The meeting provided an opportunity to take stock of the professional theatrical training and development available in Francophone minority communities. Other topics discussed included certain challenges and issues, namely, the *Chantiers-théâtre* (a biennial theatrical training project spearheaded by the ATFC), theatrical training in the West, theatrical writing residencies and other ATFC projects.

Website: www.atfc.ca

Working Group on Song-Music

The Working Group on Song-Music met on February 3, 2006. The meeting was co-chaired by Pierre Lalonde, Director of Sound Recording Policy and Programs, Canadian Heritage, and Robert Paquette, Franco-Ontarian artist and President of the *Alliance nationale de l'industrie musicale*

(ANIM). The discussions addressed the issues that arise in the music industry in minority-language communities, namely, the development of support trades in the region, professional training, media coverage, digital technology, and the distribution and expansion of Canadian and foreign markets.

Website: www.animusique.ca

REINFORCING THE OFFICIAL LANGUAGES ACT

The wording of the new sections of the OLA follows (amendments in bold characters):

41. (1) The Government of Canada is committed to (a) enhancing the vitality of the English and French linguistic minority communities in Canada and supporting and assisting their development; and (b) fostering the full recognition and use of both English and French in Canadian society.

(2) Every federal institution has the duty to ensure that positive measures are taken for the implementation of the commitments under subsection (1). For greater certainty, this implementation shall be carried out while respecting the jurisdiction and powers of the provinces.

(3) The Governor in Council may make regulations in respect of federal institutions, other than the Senate, House of Commons, Library of Parliament, office of the Senate Ethics Officer or office of the Ethics Commissioner, prescribing the manner in which any duties of those institutions under this Part are to be carried out.

77. (1) Any person who has made a complaint to the Commissioner in respect of a right or duty under sections 4 to 7, sections 10 to 13 or Part IV, V **or VII**, or in respect of section 91, may apply to the Court for a remedy under this Part.

Examples of good practices for implementing section 41

- Anticipate the impact on the OLMCs in any Memorandum to Cabinet or new departmental initiative planning document;
- Include the OLMCs, from the outset, in any social research conducted by the institution;
- Consult with the OLMCs, take part in their activities, keep abreast of their concerns or projects, and inform them of the institutions' concerns and projects;
- Provide financial support or support in kind for OLMC projects;
- Cooperate with other federal institutions and attend various interdepartmental meetings;
- Promote linguistic duality in Canada by presenting the two language communities and the added value that the duality provides all Canadians in their relations with the rest of the world;
- Support *Les Rendez-vous de la Francophonie*;
- Ensure the widespread distribution of publications on official languages within the institution (e.g., *Bulletin 41-42*);
- And much more... (see Alberta initiative at page 16).

New Minister for La Francophonie and Official Languages

On February 6, 2006, the Prime Minister of Canada announced the appointment of Josée Verner as Minister of International Cooperation and Minister for La Francophonie and Official Languages.

As Minister for Official Languages, she has two main roles: the coordination of all activities by federal institutions relating to official languages; and specific responsibilities of the Minister of Canadian Heritage pertaining to the promotion of English and French, as described in Part VII of the *Official Languages Act*.

As Minister of International Cooperation and Minister for La Francophonie, she will host the Ministerial Conference of La Francophonie, which will be held in St. Boniface, Manitoba, from May 12-14, 2006. The theme of the conference will be conflict prevention and human security. Next September, Ms. Verner will accompany the Right Honourable Stephen Harper, Prime Minister of Canada, to Bucharest, Romania, for the XIth Summit of La Francophonie, uniting heads of state and government of countries using French as a common language.

Don't miss the next issue of *Bulletin 41-42* which will feature an article on the Honourable Josée Verner.

OFFICIAL LANGUAGES GOOD PRACTICES FORUM: INAUGURAL SESSION WELL-RECEIVED

On November 28, 2005, the Public Service Human Resources Management Agency of Canada, in partnership with Statistics Canada and in cooperation with the Council of the Network of Departmental Official Languages Champions and the Department of Canadian Heritage, organized the first Official Languages Good Practices Forum. In the first half of the day, the champions and co-champions, persons responsible for official languages and national coordinators responsible for the implementation of section 41 of the *Official Languages Act*, met to discuss their respective roles and the ways in which they could support one another. In the afternoon, the federal official languages stakeholders were invited to take part in an information fair on good practices. The participants visited the booths and attended presentations on good practices and innovative tools.

The purpose of the day-long event was to help build closer ties among the various official languages stakeholders. The participants felt that this initial meeting was a step in the right direction, an event to be held again.

Some 200 institutions are subject to the *Official Languages Act*. In 1998, the Treasury Board of Canada Secretariat asked deputy heads to appoint official languages champions in their organizations. This resulted in the creation of two networks of official languages champions: one comprised of departmental champions and one of Crown corporations and other institutions. In August 2003, the departmental champions established the Council of the Network of Departmental Official Languages Champions made up of more than twenty members; its mandate is to promote official languages by acting as an agent of change. For more information, visit the following Web site: www.hrma-agrh.gc.ca/ollo/champions/min-cr/Champions_e.pdf.

The Bulletin team compiled the comments made by a member of the Council of the Network of Official Languages Champions: Jean-Pierre Blais, Assistant Deputy Minister of Cultural Affairs at Canadian Heritage. He is a committed champion whose actions speak for themselves.

INTERVIEW WITH JEAN-PIERRE BLAIS, OFFICIAL LANGUAGES CHAMPION AT CANADIAN HERITAGE



Jean-Pierre Blais

In 1998, the Treasury Board Secretariat asked federal institutions to appoint an official languages champion. In 2003, these champions created the Council of the Network of Departmental Official Languages Champions.

Today, in 2006, how do you perceive the role of a federal institution's official languages champion?

We are the ambassadors for official languages, or, more specifically, the conscience of our organizations where official languages are concerned. Being proactive means having an influence on the way activities are carried out, daring to raise issues and making suggestions to other senior management levels. It also means being fully committed, taking part in discussions and sharing information.

Champions must also demonstrate a solid personal commitment and ensure that, structurally, decisions are carried out. They must also make sure that actions are perpetuated beyond the Network of

Champions and throughout the various levels of our respective organizations.

Of course, the champions do not necessarily play their roles in the same way; the roles depend on the mandate of their department or agency and present different challenges. For example, the actions taken in a regional agency may differ from those taken in a larger department.

What concrete results has the Network of Champions and the Council of the Network achieved?

With the Council, we have gradually created a climate of openness within the federal government's senior management. In addition, the recent strengthening of official languages governance has facilitated the Network's activities.

Funding provided by the Public Service Human Resources Management Agency of Canada's Official Languages Innovation Fund has allowed the Council to create a secretariat, which, in turn, has allowed for a better structured Network, ensured support for the Network, and increased its capacity.

An equally important fact is that the Council is a very effective venue for exchanges, and its full potential should be used. It is a discussion table that enables champions to address the issues and difficulties they face, and to discuss concrete approaches and actions.

The fact that the Network meets in various regions and that it meets with the official-language minority communities in their own environments makes the official languages issue more tangible, less "theoretical." This is an important interaction that enables us to move forward with our actions in our respective departments.

What is your view of the ideal official languages champion?

Preferably, an ideal champion would be a member of senior management, because he or she must be able to exercise influence on a daily basis. He or she must be a role model, take part in meetings and consultation sessions that involve him or her, and commit to the role fully. Champions should be prepared to be daring, persistent and convincing.

An ideal champion also builds bridges with other departments and agencies. These champions are attentive to their colleagues, and they share their successful experiences with those who live and work in an environment that is less receptive than their own. They must exercise leadership within and outside of the Network.

Becoming a champion is voluntary: people are very committed and the exchanges are sincere and strive to

achieve concrete results, because the champions are willing to get involved. We need to discuss every angle of this issue among ourselves and be proactive in our departments and agencies.

How do you believe the champions can exercise their leadership and change the organizational culture of a department?

The champions need to show proof of leadership, particularly with their colleagues who are members of the senior management committee, to ensure that official languages are the focal point of the decisions made. They facilitate the achievement of official languages objectives by relying on a values-based approach.



The key is to "speak through action." They must play the part of champion during senior management

meetings. It is not a matter of convincing others, but rather, thinking like a champion. For example, if a meeting is taking place in English only, and the champion speaks French, this action will naturally incite the alternate use of English and French. Gradually, the alternating use of both languages will pervade the other committees and working groups.

What are the challenges you face as an official languages champion?

Without a doubt, one of the greatest challenges is time. As a member of the senior management of a department, it is important to master time management in order to be fully present, in body and spirit, in our official languages-related activities.

Another great challenge is communication. Often, people do not understand their official languages obligations. We need to inform them and explain these obligations to them clearly, without scaring them!

Competition with other departmental priorities poses another challenge. The

existing hierarchy of priorities needs to be taken into account, and the obligations need to be incorporated with these priorities. The champion can have an influence on his or her organization's activities by taking part in a network or council that commands a certain respect and by carrying out debriefings. This is not necessarily quantifiable, but it certainly puts official languages on the agenda.

Can you share some of the best practices at Canadian Heritage?

As official languages champion at Canadian Heritage, I co-chair, with a member of the community party, the two joint consultative committees: Canadian Heritage and the Quebec Anglophone community, and Canadian Heritage and the Francophone and Acadian communities. The main objective of these two committees is to ensure that the communities and the Department strengthen their partnerships.

Some results achieved by the Anglophone Committee have a direct impact on the community: the creation of ELAN in the Quebec Anglophone artistic community (see text on page 2) and support for a project to create a forum for the community's young people who are leaving Quebec in large numbers after completing their education. The purpose of this summit will be to develop approaches to counter this exodus and to revitalize the Anglophone communities.

At Canadian Heritage, I created a working group on official languages that discusses all of the issues relating to the implementation of parts IV, V, VI and VII of the OLA. The directors general and directors who sit on this committee should exercise



Dale Moore, Coordinator, Working Group on Official Languages

their influence within their own branch or directorate, thus providing the impetus for action.

The working group includes one person who is responsible for coordinating its activities and for linking the actions taken under the various parts of the OLA.

Another best practice is the inclusion of an official languages clause in the management agreements of members of the management group. As a result of this clause, the performance evaluation of managers depends in part on their official languages commitments.

How are parts IV, V, VI and VII linked and how can the official languages champion promote the complementary implementation of these parts of the OLA?

At the outset, very little was said about Part VII of the Act during meetings of the Network of Champions. Over time, throughout the meetings and discussions,

its presence grew, such that today, parts IV, V, VI and VII support each other: exchanges on practices, measures and work methods are increasingly tangible.

To gain a better understanding of what goes on in our department, we could, for example, improve the data-gathering methods used to better quantify the results of the actions we take. For example, we could create a code for the projects that receive grants and contributions in a context other than official languages, but that, nonetheless, have an impact on the vitality of official-language minority communities. It is important to quantify (using performance indicators) the initiatives taken to develop the communities to be better able to target our actions and to report on them.

Have you any ideas about how to enhance the status of Part VII of the Act within the departments?

The Network of Official Languages Champions, the network of national

coordinators responsible for the implementation of section 41 of the OLA, and now, the network of regional/territorial persons responsible for interdepartmental coordination at Canadian Heritage certainly contribute to raising awareness within the federal government overall. They are three pillars of influence, and they support each other mutually. As they become more active, the departments and agencies will increasingly act of their own volition.

We need to remember that if employees are made aware of the official languages issues internally, they will be in a better position to contribute to the federal strategy for supporting the development of official-language minority communities.

Any closing remarks?

I will conclude by simply stating the three essential qualities of an official languages champion: commitment, a proactive nature and perseverance.

THE CANADIAN HERITAGE INTERDEPARTMENTAL COORDINATION NETWORK (SECTION 42): STRONG SUPPORT



The success of federal interdepartmental coordination relies in large part on Headquarters' and the regional offices' ability to work as a team. Communication, sharing of tools and distance pose great challenges at times. In the regions, the coordinators responsible for implementing section 41 of the *Official Languages Act* (OLA) can sometimes feel isolated.

Consequently, Canadian Heritage created the Interdepartmental Coordination Network to reinforce its coordination role with respect to the federal commitment to developing the official-language communities and promoting linguistic duality, increasing its support for federal departments and maximizing the effects of the implementation of section 41 of the OLA nationally and regionally.

The Network comprises employees from the Canadian Heritage Interdepartmental Coordination Directorate (ICD at Headquarters) and a representative from each

of the Department's provincial and territorial offices. At the national level, the ICD oversees a network of national coordinators responsible for implementing section 41 of the OLA. Similarly, at the provincial and territorial level, Canadian Heritage officers responsible for interdepartmental coordination are in a position to provide support to the coordinators from various federal departments and agencies in their regions.

Given that the regional coordinators can count on the assistance of a Canadian Heritage officer in their province or territory, they should be better equipped to maximize the contribution made by their institution to the development of official-language minority communities.

For a list of the members, please contact Michel Labelle, Coordination Officer, Interdepartmental Coordination Directorate, by e-mail at michel_labelle@pch.gc.ca or by telephone at (819) 953-8308.

Conference on cultural diversity and the future of cultures

The Francophonie in Canada: A little-known mosaic

With special contribution by France Trépanier

Canadian Heritage

The Francophonie in Canada has evolved over the decades. The Conference on Cultural Diversity and the Future of Francophone Culture in Canada was held in Vancouver in the fall of 2005 to acknowledge and enhance this diversity. Approximately 100 participants from Aboriginal, ethnocultural, French-Canadian and Quebec communities came together to discuss the uniqueness of the Francophonie in Canada and the "other" Francophonie, the one with whom we share language, but not necessarily culture.



Hubert Lussier, Director General of Official Languages Support Programs, Canadian Heritage, gave the opening address. In reference to his participation in the event, he explained that, "the Francophonie in Canada has been marked by diversity, plurality, and alterity for some time. How can we make the most of it? Our discussions showed that the theme merits further

consideration with the stakeholders from all horizons whose interests lie in pooling their challenges, hopes and successes. I was especially pleased to address this in Vancouver,

because in this respect, Francophones from British Columbia serve as a fascinating laboratory for the minority communities. I am also very happy about the role played by the Aboriginal and Métis representatives and the Quebec representatives in these discussions." The Conference created an opportunity for multiple communities to discuss their future together.

The continuity of cultures within the Canadian Francophonie was also discussed through thematic workshops, meetings including all of the participants registered, and public discussions. A series of 12 television vignettes was produced to present the diversity of the communities that make up the evolving Francophonie in Canada. Filming was completed by Francophone teams set up in various parts of the country. The series was aired on *TV5 Canada-Québec*. In addition, a one-hour television documentary presented a more complete analysis of the realities, ambitions and challenges of the various Francophone communities in Canada. The Conference documents are available at www.culturescope.ca through the Diversity and Francophonie discussion group.

Some highlights

- There are 11 Aboriginal Nations in Canada in which French is spoken. The institutions of the Francophonie could have a greater influence on the preservation and promotion of Aboriginal languages and cultures. They must view this role in the context of recognition, respect and solidarity. The creation of a Francophone Aboriginal space would give Canada a unique character in the international Francophonie.
- Demographic changes and immigration have had a considerable impact on the social structure of the Francophonie in Canada and on the relationship between the various cultures it comprises. For some communities that are Francophone in origin, this gives rise to challenges relating to building an identity, preserving cultural heritage, Francophone immigrant reception structures, and survival of the language and the communities.
- The racial minority and ethnocultural communities are willing to participate fully and actively in the Francophonie in Canada. They would like to have a greater presence in the institutions of the Francophonie in Canada and in the organizations of minority-language Francophone communities. They want to help promote the French fact and make the most of the potential for the achievement and openness of cultural diversity.
- The situation calls for the development of a new vision based on the acceptance of differences and on solidarity as primary values. This vision could give rise to the development of a space for Francophone citizens in which the issues of linguistic duality, equality, representation, and citizen participation could be discussed.

Agreement on accommodation rates for associations renewed

Martine de Repentigny

Public Works and Government Services Canada

Public Works and Government Services Canada has extended its hotel card program until December 31, 2010. Non-profit organizations that represent official-language minority communities will continue to benefit from the same reduced rates for accommodation that the federal government enjoys in participating hotels in Canada.

New cards were sent to all organizations that meet the established criteria.

Any questions in this matter may be addressed to Martine de Repentigny by e-mail at martine.derepentigny@pwgsc.gc.ca or by telephone at (819) 956-9897.

Symposium on Official Languages in Ontario A new formula based on needs

The Symposium on Official Languages, organized by the *Direction de l'entente Canada-communauté Ontario* in partnership with Canadian Heritage, was held in November 2005 and hosted approximately 160 participants, including numerous Francophone community leaders, federal and provincial institution representatives, representatives from foundations and resource people.

The format of the event was based on the needs expressed by the Ontario Francophone community and the departments. Basic issues were discussed and solutions were identified for the development of Francophone communities in Ontario during formal and informal exchanges. Mauril Bélanger, then Minister responsible for Official Languages, addressed the participants on the Government of Canada's Action Plan for Official Languages.



Canadian Heritage's Information Table

The most notable aspects included:

- a discussion on the theme "The Social/Integrated Economy: A tool for independence or withdrawal of the State?", which included a definition of the concept, a presentation of the issues and the situation in Ontario, the government's reasons for making this commitment, and a dialogue on the institutionalization that may follow;
- a reverse information fair that enabled members of the communities to learn about the programs and services that are of interest to the community from exhibitors with the governments of Ontario and Canada, and with the foundations;
- the "*Carnets de rendez-vous*," where eight federal institutions and two foundations gave personal interviews to community organizations; and
- a conference by Michelle Boucher of the Ontario Ministry of Education, which provided a better understanding of Ontario's *Aménagement linguistique* policy for French-language education.

Workshops also enabled the participants to discuss the challenges, obstacles and solutions related to four themes:

- How can we ensure the integration of racial and ethnocultural minorities?
- How can we facilitate regional and intersectoral cooperation?
- How can the departments further incorporate the needs of the community into their programs and services?
- How can Francophone organizations become key stakeholders within the various departments?

T H E G A M E S



SHOWCASING CANADA'S LINGUISTIC DUALITY

The Canada Games, the *Jeux de la francophonie canadienne*, the Games of La Francophonie, the Olympic and Paralympic Games, these are all great opportunities for promoting and experiencing Canada's linguistic duality. The Government of Canada and the Francophone and Acadian communities recognized these opportunities and took full advantage of them!

The Games, year over year

- The Canada Games are held every two years, alternating between summer sports and winter sports. The first Winter Games took place in Quebec in 1967; the next Games will be held in Yukon in 2007. The next Summer Games will be held in Prince Edward Island in 2009. The program includes an artistic component that covers dance, theatre, music and visual arts.
- The *Jeux de la francophonie canadienne* have been held every three years since 1999, the Year of La Francophonie in Canada. The next games will be hosted by Edmonton in 2008.
- The Games of La Francophonie take place every four years, in the year that follows the Olympic Games. These Games have been played since 1989 and feature two components: sport and culture. The next Games will be held in Lebanon in 2009.

Sport Canada's Web site provides an overview of the Games and contains a wealth of information:

www.pch.gc.ca/sportcanada

JEUX DE LA FRANCOPHONIE CANADIENNE

Created in 1999 for the Year of La Francophonie in Canada, the Games are organized by the *Fédération de la jeunesse canadienne-française*. It includes three components: sport competitions, artistic competitions, and leadership activities. The Games provide a concrete approach to helping young Francophone Canadians break out of their isolation, promoting exchanges, and supporting the commitment to the culture and identity that is associated with the French language.

The sport and artistic components are competitive. In 2005, the teams challenged each other in track and field events, badminton, volleyball, visual arts, music, video and improvisation. The

leadership component aims to introduce future leaders to activities that are of interest to them, without competing against one another. They learn to lead a delegation in a large-scale event such as the Games, organize special activities, and create and write a daily journal.

The 2005 *Jeux de la francophonie canadienne* introduced a particularly effective practice for increasing the number of exchanges and promoting the development of solid ties. The competitive activities under the sport and artistic components, which pitted provincial teams against one another, were systematically followed by cooperative activities within a team

created on-site, comprising young people from various participating provinces. The same was done in the artistic disciplines: a group project was completed following the individual competitions.

The young people were especially appreciative of this formula, because they were given the opportunity to meet more young Francophones in Canada, and they had a chance to win more than one medal. The formula will certainly be retained in the next Games, which are to be held in Edmonton in 2008.

Jeux de la francophonie canadienne
www.jeuxfc.ca



2005 CANADA SUMMER GAMES



With special collaboration by Chantal Alarie
Canadian Heritage

Thanks to the teamwork of Canada Games and the *Assemblée communautaire francasquoise*, the two official languages in Canada were an integral part of this great sporting and cultural event.



In the host city of Regina, 70 businesses agreed to provide services in French, and thousands of bilingual volunteers wore a badge, proudly proclaiming, *Je parle français*. The organizing committee

assigned these volunteers to the work that involved the most contact with the public. As a result, numerous volunteer students from French immersion schools

were able to speak with visitors in their second language.

With very few exceptions, the activities and documents identified as public were produced in both official languages, as were the training activities and the announcements made during the competitions. The **2005 Canada Games** Web site (www.regina2005.ca) was also bilingual.

Throughout the Games, the Canada Games Language Services Division ensured that all athletes, coaches, officials, dignitaries and visitors were greeted and served in the language of their choice. This effort was a great success, based on the positive comments made by the delegations from New Brunswick and Quebec and the federal government representatives. Everyone was pleasantly surprised and delighted to discover that Saskatchewan had the capacity to host a national bilingual activity.

Some statistics:

- Approximately 500,000 words were translated prior to the Games, and more than 100,000 words were translated during the activities.
- 1,008 bilingual volunteers took part in the activities relating to the Games.
- More than one third of the employees hired by the Games were bilingual.
- 1,700 *Je parle français* badges were produced; 150 of them were worn by employees in a number of Regina businesses.
- 2,500 people live in French in Regina.
- 50,000 people speak French in Saskatchewan.



2007 CANADA WINTER GAMES



Broadening the Francophone space

The Canada Winter Games will be held in Whitehorse in 2007. This will be the 40th Games: the first to be held north of the 60th parallel and the first to be held in a territory.

According to Lucy Steele-Masson, a former participant in the Canada Games and honorary Chair of the 2007 bid, there are few opportunities in the Yukon to attend elite sporting competitions. This will be a rare experience for the Yukon residents

and for everyone arriving from points south of the 60th parallel.

The community will have a unique opportunity to gain visibility and make itself known by showcasing the wealth and colours of the Francophone North. The Host Society of the Games will work closely with the *Association franco-yukonnaise* to ensure the success of the Winter Games and the active participation of the Francophone communities in the North and the West.

Canada Winter Games
www.2007canadagames.ca



THE GAMES OF LA FRANCOPHONIE

A cultural exchange opportunity for Francophones around the world

With special collaboration
by Madeleine Duchesne

Canadian Heritage



The Games of La Francophonie are the only international games in which both artists and athletes can win medals. Essentially, the participation of Team Canada artists in the December 2005 Games in Niger revolved around exchanges with Francophone artists from other cultures who practise very different forms of artistic expression. Luc-Robert Martin, Deputy Head of Mission for the Culture component, noted that "the discussions on the techniques, artistic approaches, and the context for creation offered an experience that was all the more rewarding,

given the prospect of winning a medal, which has a different meaning in arts than it does in sports."

In Canada, the Games of La Francophonie come under the responsibility of the Minister responsible for La Francophonie. He is Canada's representative in the *Organisation internationale de la Francophonie*, which includes Quebec and New Brunswick as participating governments. As such, three separate Canadian teams take part in the Games of La Francophonie every four years: Team Canada, Team Canada-Quebec, and Team Canada-New Brunswick.

Canadian Heritage is responsible for the participation of Team Canada in the Games, whereas Foreign Affairs Canada (FAC) handles the policy issues and Canada's financial contribution. Madelaine Duchesne, Head of Mission for Team Canada, explains that, throughout the preparations, her work consisted of ensuring the health and safety of the team's athletes and artists, and FAC was responsible for the positions adopted by Canada and the decision to participate in the Games. The excellent cooperation between

Canadian Heritage, FAC and the Canadian International Development Agency merits special mention.

5th Games of La Francophonie
www.jeux2005.ne

How does the artistic competition unfold?

For example, storytellers give a 15-minute presentation that showcases their writing style, presence, technique and research. The same principle applies to dancers who present an original 20-minute creation. The photographers, painters and sculptors prepare a creation for the Games and produce one on-site during a workshop.



2010 OLYMPIC AND PARALYMPIC WINTER GAMES



Suzanne Deschênes
Canadian Heritage

2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games Federal Secretariat

In 2010, the eyes of the world will be focussed on Canada as it hosts the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games. More than 6,500 athletes and officials from 80 countries, and approximately 250,000 visitors are expected in Vancouver and Whistler, British Columbia. More than 10,000 journalists will be covering the two events, with an estimated international audience of three billion television viewers.

The Government of Canada is proud to be a member of the team responsible for organizing the 2010 Games. It is determined to make this event a celebration that is on par with its ambitions and to ensure that the two official languages in Canada are fully integrated into the planning and organizing of the Games. It is working closely with the Vancouver Organizing Committee for the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games (VANOC) to see to it that the linguistic duality in Canada and the rich pan-Canadian Francophone heritage are reflected in every aspect of the Games, for example, by involving the Francophone community in British

Columbia and ensuring the provision of bilingual services, communications and bilingual staff.

The 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games Federal Secretariat is the mainspring of the Government of Canada's participation in the Games. Its role is to provide guidance, advice and support to the departments and governments in order to promote cooperation and participation in the Games. The Secretariat works closely with VANOC to ensure that its official languages commitments are fulfilled.

The promotion of linguistic duality and the participation of Francophone communities from across the country are part of the Government of Canada's priorities. A discussion forum took place in December with the Francophone community of British Columbia. Representatives from VANOC, the *Fondation Dialogue*, the *Fédération des francophones de la Colombie-Britannique*, the *Fédération des communautés francophones et acadienne du Canada* and the federal government attended this meeting. The session gave VANOC an opportunity to present its official languages objectives, and it allowed the Francophone community to identify the ways in which it could help support these objectives.

The meeting gave rise to productive exchanges and to the determination of the guiding principles for the development of a cooperation framework between VANOC, the *Fondation Dialogue*, and the *Fédération des francophones de la Colombie-Britannique*. This session was part of a process initiated in March 2005 further to a strategic-thinking session, to open discussions with Francophone community leaders across Canada and to talk about ways to optimize opportunities and the visibility of the Francophonie in Canada during the 2010 Winter Games. The *Fondation Dialogue* was identified as a catalyst to developing a strategic pan-Canadian plan to ensure the participation of the Francophone communities in the 2010 Games.

XXI Olympic Winter Games and X Paralympic Winter Games
www.vancouver2010.com

2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games Federal Secretariat
Tel.: (819) 934-2010
www.pch.gc.ca/special/2010

Fondation Dialogue
Tel.: (613) 241-6055
www.fondationdialogue.ca

Planned and synchronized Francophone participation

The *Fondation Dialogue* (formerly known as the *Fondation canadienne pour le dialogue des cultures*) is a non-profit organization whose purpose is to:

- promote and support dialogue among the Francophone and Acadian communities in Canada, Francophones in Quebec, the Anglophone population, ethnocultural communities and Aboriginal Peoples;
- educate and inform the people to bring the various communities closer together and to promote closer ties with each of them;
- create partnerships and promote, support and conduct research on bringing the Francophone and Acadian communities in Canada closer to the various sectors of Canadian society.

Overview of meetings between signatories of IPOLC memorandums of understanding

In October 2005, the Interdepartmental Coordination Directorate of Canadian Heritage held a series of meetings with federal institutions that signed MOUs on the IPOLC. Focused on three areas of activity (economic development, arts and culture, and social development), these meetings sought to determine how the MOUs helped achieve IPOLC objectives and to identify future strategies for continuing this initiative. These meetings led to the following conclusions:

The IPOLC provides OLMCs with greater access to federal programs

The IPOLC has allowed federal institutions to establish or enhance dialogue with the official-language minority communities (OLMCs), fostering both awareness and recognition of OLMC priorities and federal institution mandates and programs. Through the IPOLC, federal institutions were able to implement initiatives that generated spinoffs for most of the provinces and territories. The IPOLC also made contributions possible from a number of federal institutions for common projects, particularly in arts and culture. In many cases, the IPOLC temporarily increased funding available in certain programs, which could help justify a permanent increase in support of OLMC development when these programs are renewed.

The IPOLC is an awareness tool for federal institutions

Putting in place an IPOLC MOU has also supported the work of national coordinators responsible for implementing section 41 of the *Official Languages Act* (OLA). By establishing links between community priorities and federal programs, the national coordinator had a number of opportunities to remind his colleagues of their OLA obligations, in addition to enhancing the scope of this awareness in the regions.

The IPOLC is a tool used to enhance the impact of federal programs in the regions

Since the 2003 formative evaluation of the IPOLC which recommended increasing the impact of this initiative in the regions, efforts have been made to ensure greater access through the IPOLC to federal programs in the following regions: Western and Northern Canada, Newfoundland and Labrador, Prince Edward Island and Nova Scotia. The regional effects were noted primarily in areas dealing with women, literacy, public health, immigration, economic development, and arts and culture.

Access mechanisms to IPOLC funds lack flexibility

At present, institutions that signed IPOLC MOUs have access to funding by way of transfer payments from Canadian Heritage. This mechanism is relatively restrictive for certain departments or agencies. Canadian Heritage will therefore explore the possibility of making it more flexible, where appropriate.

A future outlook for the IPOLC

Over the next few years, projects to garner more attention from Canadian Heritage with regard to the IPOLC will be those that: build on the ability of federal institutions to have a presence in the OLMCs in each of the provinces and territories; will focus particularly on immigration and cultural diversity; and will seek involvement from a number of federal institutions on the same issue, such as early childhood development, health, immigration and cultural diversity.

The Interdepartmental Partnership with the Official-Language Communities (IPOLC) is a Canadian Heritage initiative, launched in June 2000 with an annual budget of \$5 million, which provides complementary funding to that received by federal institutions looking to support official-language minority community development. On March 31, 2005, Canadian Heritage signed 18 memorandums of understanding (MOUs) with 17 federal institutions. These MOUs generated an investment of \$30 million from federal institutions, \$22 million from Canadian Heritage and \$14 million from other sources, for a leverage of \$66 million for the first five years of the initiative.

www.canadianheritage.gc.ca/ipolc

REGIONAL INITIATIVES



Speak for Yourself! / Parle – c'est l'idéal!

This is the title of a play that was an instant hit with Grade 7-10 core French and French immersion students in Newfoundland and Labrador in the fall of 2005.

This original production encourages students to speak up during the show and become "spect-actors" instead of mere spectators. The Centre for the Arts Theatre Company in St. John's had the idea of using the action theatre technique, developed by Augusto Boal, a great Brazilian playwright, to take students on an imaginary voyage. With Inspector Maladroit and Hugo, the globetrotting polyglot, they discovered the perils, thrills, challenges and rewards of learning French.

This initiative of the Newfoundland and Labrador chapter of Canadian Parents for French (CPF) received partial funding from Canadian Heritage through the Promotion of Linguistic Duality component of the Official Languages Support Programs. It is an innovative and stimulating way to promote the advantages of bilingualism. On a month-long tour of the province, *Speak for Yourself! / Parle - c'est l'idéal!* gave tens of thousands of students the opportunity to experience this voyage through 43 performances. The play was performed again in November in Fredericton, New Brunswick, for the CPF national conference.

Symposium on Official Languages concerning Part VII of the *Official Languages Act*

In Atlantic Canada, the determination of official-language committees of federal councils has become a source of pride for senior officials, who want to ensure that the performance of their workforce meets expectations and administrative guidelines.

Program officers who work closely with official-language communities on issues such as the economy, health, culture and education all feel the need to have a better understanding of the scope of their responsibilities in official-language community development. It is therefore important for them to clearly understand the role of the Department of Canadian Heritage (section 42), the role of all federal departments (section 41), and the definition of the commitment to "enhancing the vitality of the English and French linguistic minority communities in Canada and supporting and assisting their development, and fostering the full recognition and use of both English and French in Canadian society."

The symposium, to be held on May 16 and 17, 2006, will allow participants from all levels of the federal Public Service in Atlantic Canada to consider key topics such as strengthening the *Official Languages Act* and finding ways to make new provisions operational.

Close to 200 public servants from Atlantic Canada are expected to attend this meeting, which should provide them with insight into Part VII of the *Official Languages Act*.



REGIONAL INITIATIVES



La petite enfance, c'est pour la vie! [Early childhood, it's for life!]

The *Réseau de la petite enfance francophone*, created by the *Association francophone des parents du Nouveau-Brunswick* to involve early childhood stakeholders, organized a symposium entitled *La petite enfance, c'est pour la vie!* The focus of activities on March 17 and 18, 2006, was to report on the status of services provided to families with children 5 years of age and younger. Children this age are very sensitive to what their parents experience. Discussions during the symposium will shed light on the daily reality of New Brunswick's Francophone parents for many stakeholders.

Four themes were covered in the workshops: health, global development, urban and rural services, and francization. The approach used was a reporting-style audiovisual presentation where parents themselves explained the experiences they have had with the workshop themes. Stakeholders then presented their viewpoints before groups were formed to discuss the topics and make recommendations.

The network is the result of a multiparty effort and includes representatives from the federal government (Canadian Heritage and the Public Health Agency of Canada), provincial government (Family and Community Services, Education, International and Intergovernmental Relations) and various community groups (*Association francophone des parents du Nouveau-Brunswick*, *Soins et éducation : la petite enfance du Nouveau-Brunswick*, family resource centres, and more).

Immigration: Informing and raising awareness among Acadian and Francophone communities



With financial support from the Nova Scotia Office of Immigration, and Citizenship and Immigration Canada, Francophone immigration in this province will now be managed by Dominique Lombard, a communications officer who knows the community very well, as she has lived in six Acadian regions.

Ms. Lombard reports to the Francophone Immigration Steering Committee in Nova Scotia. Her main duties include organizing an awareness and information tour in the region and promoting provincial and federal strategic immigration frameworks. The project will permit equal and comprehensive consultation with Nova Scotia's Acadian regions. The Steering Committee also hopes that the tour will open Acadian communities to French-speaking newcomers.

The Steering Committee is composed of representatives from the *Conseil de développement économique de la Nouvelle-Écosse*, the *Conseil communautaire du Grand-Havre*, *Université Sainte-Anne*, the *Association des juristes d'expression française de la Nouvelle-Écosse*, and the *Fédération acadienne de la Nouvelle-Écosse*.

Franco-Ontarian diversity now formally represented



The *Assemblée de la francophonie de l'Ontario* (AFO) and the *Union provinciale des minorités raciales et ethnoculturelles francophones de l'Ontario* (UP-MREF) were officially created during meetings held from November 10 to 12, 2005.

The AFO is the result of a merger between the *Assemblée des communautés franco-ontariennes* (ACFO) and the *Direction de l'entente Canada-communauté Ontario* (DECCO). The new AFO will be the main political voice of Ontario's Francophones.

REGIONAL INITIATIVES

The UP-MREF is a completely new organization dedicated to bringing Francophone racial minorities together under the same banner and ensuring effective representation and increased participation in decision-making with regard to the integration, development and vitality of its members in the host community.

Participation in both meetings exceeded expectations, and a number of media sources in attendance called the event historic and memorable for Ontario's Francophonie.

ConverGence 2006 - Enhancing cooperation through better mutual understanding

The Manitoba Federal Council, the Manitoba French Language Services Secretariat and the *Société franco-manitobaine* organized a federal-provincial-community forum on the Francophonie in Manitoba. Entitled *ConverGence: Enhancing Cooperation Through Better Mutual Understanding*, the forum was held on March 16 and 17 in Winnipeg as part of *Les Rendez-vous de la Francophonie*.

The purpose of the forum was to encourage public servants to work toward a shift in organizational culture to ensure that their organizations meet their linguistic obligations. The forum gave public servants the opportunity to familiarize themselves with the needs of the Francophone community in the region and to assess them within the scope of their respective mandates. It also served to foster an ongoing dialogue between public servants and community representatives and to explore additional opportunities for cooperation in order to move forward with priority issues.

From Obligation to Opportunity

This was the theme of the first meeting of the Federal Program Officers Network organized under the direction of the Federal Council on November 23, 2005, in Edmonton.

Some thirty people, program officers, consultants and supervisors, met for the first time to form a cooperation network. Informal discussions led to information-sharing, a better understanding of various departmental programs and the establishment of personal contacts. In this way, network members hope to find concrete approaches to improve their compliance with federal obligations under Part VII of the *Official Languages Act*. This meeting was organized by Canadian Heritage, in partnership with the Alberta Federal Council. In light of the success of the first meeting, a second meeting was held in January 2006.

For further information on the Network, please contact Ginette Taylor by telephone at (780) 495-6490 or by e-mail at ginette_taylor@pch.gc.ca.

Together in Harmony

A new networking and awareness project is taking off in the Yukon. New life will be given to "Together in Harmony," which took root in the community relations policy developed by the *Association franco-yukonnaise* (AFY) and recognized by UNESCO. This project seeks to re-establish and strengthen a network of people and organizations looking to work proactively towards a better mutual understanding and to encourage harmony among Aboriginal, ethnic and linguistic majorities and minorities. The project received funding from Canadian Heritage under the Multiculturalism Program.

The AFY seeks to revitalize the Race Relations Council, which was active in the 1980s and early 1990s in the Yukon. A number of community partners have already shown keen interest.

