

Annual Report

1995-1996



Official Languages

Eighth Annual Report to Parliament
with Respect to Part VII
of the Official Languages Act

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Foreword



As Minister of Canadian Heritage, I am pleased to present to Parliament the 1995-1996 report on Canada's official languages. The promotion of linguistic duality is at the heart of my Department's mandate. Our objectives are an essential part of our Government's mission to reaffirm the faith and confidence of all Canadians in the future of their country.

Canada is a country built through dialogue and reinvented by each new generation in a spirit of openness and generosity. Today's Canada is a reflection of the long-standing partnership between the two largest linguistic groups, Anglophones and Francophones, stretching across our country, from sea to sea. Let us not forget that more than 1.7 million Francophones and Anglophones are living in a province or region of Canada in a minority situation. They are central to a vision of Canada which fosters understanding and respect among citizens.

Recent achievements have consolidated the gains of the last years and illustrated the strong commitment of the federal government, recognizing and promoting the linguistic duality of the country. Important agreements have been signed which mark the achievements of several years' efforts and constitute significant milestones in areas which are crucial to the future of minority official-language communities. In addition, thanks to federal government support, all provincial and territorial governments now offer some type of school management to their official-language minorities. The arrival of the Treasury Board Secretariat on the scene, to review the departmental business plans, brings a more rigorous accountability to the government commitment to support the development of these communities. Finally, thanks to the Canada-community agreements, the minority communities in each province and territory now have the assurance of multi-year financing coupled with decision-making abilities.

More and more Canadians have come to see our access to two major international languages as a precious asset. People all over Canada, young and ever-young have taken up the challenge and the occasion offered them to learn English or French as a second language. The Summer Language Bursary Program and Young Canada Works in Both Official Languages have encouraged fruitful exchanges between young people of both linguistic groups across Canada, contributing to the creation of more than 500 summer jobs, in the case of Young Canada Works. Today's generation is already the most bilingual in our history. This phenomenon affords numerous occasions to build bridges between Canadians as well as an awareness of the increased benefits which may be reaped as a result of it.

We are already able to claim added value and economic results associated with our linguistic duality, mainly in sectors such as human resources, tourism, retail as well as international commerce and culture. The success of events such as the first economic forum of Francophone business people held in the Beauce region of Quebec clearly shows that partnerships are the road to the future and that it is to our advantage to profit from them. Our success at prestigious international fairs like Expolangues in Paris and the important roles we have in the activities of the Commonwealth and the Francophonie confirm the high esteem that Canada enjoys within other countries.

I am proud of the progress made in the area of official languages. This is progress which highlights the Government's commitment to linguistic duality, a commitment which has never wavered over the years and one that all Canadians may count on in the years to come.

Sheila Copps
Deputy Prime Minister and
Minister of Canadian Heritage

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Supplement : Summary of 1995-1996 status reports and 1996-1997 or multi-year action plans prepared by key federal institutions for implementation of section 41 of the Official Languages Act.


Part I: Summary of 1995-1996 status reports

Part II: Summary of 1996-1997 or multi-year action plans

I. Introduction

41-42 Initiative

In fiscal year 1995-96, significant progress was made in various areas that have an impact on the official-language minority communities. Again this year, the federal government's

 *As Canadians, we must view bilingualism as an investment, because language is the fuel of information. Clearly, we must create products and services that meet our particular needs in both languages - needs that reflect the Canadian experience and strengthen our identity."*

(Excerpt from an article by Dr. Victor Goldbloom, Commissioner of Official Languages, in *Focus*, the executive management magazine for the federal public service)

initiative to implement sections 41 and 42 of the *Official Languages Act* and provide a concerted approach to promote the participation of all federal institutions in the development in these communities was front and centre on the official languages agenda of the Department of Canadian Heritage. The first series of action plans was submitted by twenty-six designated federal institutions, proposing

measures to inform the communities of federal services available to them or offering financial or technical support for priority projects. Details are provided in Section II under the heading "Interdepartmental Coordination: Concrete Results". Accomplishments resulting from the 1995-96 action plans submitted by the designated federal institutions as well as the second series of annual or multi-year actions plans submitted by these institutions are contained in the *Supplement to the Annual Report*.

Promotional Activities

The Department has been very active promoting Canada's linguistic duality across the country and abroad. Activities such as the establishment of an official languages site on the World Wide Web, the publication of documents such as *Francophones in Canada: a*

Community of Interests in the *New Canadian Perspectives* series, and active participation in international spelling contests and language exchanges all demonstrate the federal government's commitment to communicating the benefits of living in a bilingual country. A more detailed description of these promotional activities nationally as well as in the regions is presented in Section III under "Key Issues".

The Web

The Department's Official Languages Support Programs Branch has joined the electronic age by creating its own home page on the World Wide Web, thereby providing access to descriptions of all official languages programs, fact sheets on minority communities, information on official-language bursary and monitor programs, and even making it possible for users to download the Branch's publications. The minority communities themselves have become wired to the Internet to provide their members with better accessibility to information and to improve communication among themselves. More is provided on this topic under "Information Highway" in Section III ("Key Issues").

Regional News

An overview of key activities involving federal-provincial/territorial cooperation for both education and official-language services is presented in Section IV under the heading "On the Regional Scene". Also included in this section are events which had a significant impact on the development of the official-language minority communities across the country.

As for discussions on topics of national scope, such as second-language instruction programs and the activities of national Francophone associations, details are provided under the heading "On the National Scene" in Section IV.

School Management and Canada-Community Agreements

Although emphasis in this year's report has been placed on the 41-42 initiative and on the promotion of linguistic duality, school management is considered to be a key area for the Department. Considerable progress has been made in every province and territory in matters relating to school management and minority- and second-language education. Equally important are the Canada-community agreements which were signed with most provinces and the two territories during 1995-96 to establish a renewed cooperation framework with the minority communities to make more efficient use of federal resources. An update on the Department's relationship with the communities is presented under the heading "New

Partnership with the Communities in Section III ("Key Issues"), while more specific information on school management and the signature of Canada-community agreements is provided in Section IV ("On the Regional Scene") along with other highlights from the regions.

A list of the Department's publications and promotional material and tables showing federal contributions in such areas as education and services in the official languages for each of the provinces and territories appear in the Appendixes. We have again included windows of information summarizing significant events that have taken place since March 31, 1996, but which do not fall within the time period covered by the report. In this way, we are able to provide the reader with the most up-to-date facts on the topics dealt with.

Fiscal year 1995-96 saw the tabling of the first action plans of the 26 federal departments and agencies particularly affected by the measures adopted by the government in August 1994. These measures are designed to implement sections 41 and 42 of the *Official Languages Act*. Section 41 sets out the federal government's commitment to enhancing the vitality and development of the English and French linguistic minority communities everywhere in Canada and fostering the use of both English and French in Canadian society. Section 42 assigns the Department the role of encouraging and coordinating the activities of federal institutions in this regard. The accountability framework put in place by the government in August 1994 to give concrete form to its commitment provides for consultation with the official-language minority communities by the key departments and agencies in order to identify their needs, preparation of an annual or multi-year action plan and submission of a status report on the plan's accomplishments. These two documents must be submitted to the Minister of Canadian Heritage, who refers to them in the report on official languages that is tabled in Parliament each year.

In the summer of 1995, the key federal departments and agencies submitted the first series of action plans to the Minister of Canadian Heritage. A number of the plans proposed measures to inform the official-language minority communities of the programs and services available to them. Other action plans provided financial or technical assistance for the execution of projects deemed to have priority by the representatives of the official-language minority communities. Support was provided in such sectors as economic development, culture, communications and labour market training. In the supplement to this

annual report, the reader will find details concerning the accomplishments resulting from the 1995-96 action plans for implementation of section 41 of the *Official Languages Act* prepared by the key federal departments and agencies, as well as a summary of measures contained in the second series of action plans.

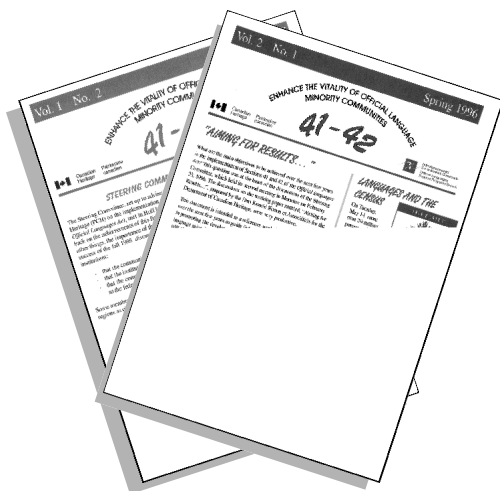
In addition to preparing an action plan, like those prepared by the 26 key departments and agencies, the Department of Canadian Heritage is responsible for coordinating the implementation of the measures announced by the government in August 1994. To this end, the Department has put in place a network of national and regional coordinators in the key departments and agencies and within its own administration. In fiscal year 1995-96, the Department carried out a whole series of activities that helped bring together the key departments and agencies and the official-language minority communities. The list below sets out the most important of these activities.

Since March 31, 1996

On March 24, 1997, the Minister of Canadian Heritage and the President of the Treasury Board announced the signing of a memorandum of understanding to strengthen the implementation of sections 41 and 42 of the Official Languages Act. This agreement gives tangible form to the government's response to the Second Report of the Standing Joint Committee on Official Languages on the Implementation of Part VII of the Official Languages Act, tabled on November 18, 1996. The involvement of the Treasury Board Secretariat will make it possible to fully incorporate the objectives of section 41 of the Act.

National Activities

- **Consultations and action plans.** Coordination, in the fall of 1995, of Canada-wide consultations that led the Department of Canadian Heritage and the key federal departments and agencies to meet with representatives of the official-language minority communities and produce an action plan on the implementation of section 41 of the *Act*. Organization, on December 8, 1995, of the consultation with national Francophone organizations.
- **Steering committee.** Start of work of the national steering committee responsible for advising the Department of Canadian Heritage on the implementation of section 41 of the *Act*; meetings held in Hull on September 29, 1995 and Moncton on February 22 and 23, 1996. At this second meeting, the participants examined a document entitled *Aiming for Results*, which seeks to define the meaning to be given to the expression "development of the communities" and to propose longer-term development approaches.



- **41-42 newsletter.** Publication and distribution, in over two thousand copies, of two issues of the 41-42 newsletter, which provides a link between the various partners in interdepartmental coordination. The newsletter, published three times a year, regularly reports on the accomplishments of the key departments and agencies.

- **Information meetings.** Organization, with the participation of various departments and agencies, of thematic meetings on the

information highway (June 14, 1995) and on business opportunities between the minority English and French media and the federal government (October 18, 1995).

- **Day of reflection on community development.** Organization of a second day of reflection on community development on February 19, 1996, with the participation of representatives of the official-language minorities, the national and regional coordinators of various federal departments and agencies and all of the officers of the Department of Canadian Heritage involved, anywhere in Canada, in the delivery of official languages support programs.
- **Working sessions with national coordinators.** Five working sessions held with the coordinators responsible for implementing section 41 of the *Act* in the departments and agencies targeted by the government measures of August 1994.
- **Awareness.** Seven presentations made by senior managers at the Department's headquarters and by the interdepartmental coordination team to other federal employees (Canadian Centre for Management Development, National Capital Commission, deputy ministers' group, Public Works and Government Services, etc.) to familiarize them with the reality of the official-language minority communities and the government's commitment to support their development. Various similar presentations made in the regions.
- **Summary of action plans.** Production of a supplement to the 1994-1995 Annual Report entitled *Summary of 1995-1996 action plans prepared by key federal institutions for implementation of section 41 of the Official Languages Act*. This document was tabled in Parliament in the spring of 1996 by the Minister of Canadian Heritage.

- **Consultations.** Organization, in the fall of 1995, in each province and territory, of consultations that enabled the Department of Canadian Heritage and the key federal departments and agencies to produce a second action plan for the implementation of section 41 of the Act.
- **Awareness and action.** Hiring of a contract employee to support the Department in implementing an awareness and action plan with federal departments and agencies and the Francophone community in Alberta.
- **Steering committee on Francophone affairs.** Creation, in Newfoundland, of a committee consisting of federal employees and members of the community, with the participation of the province, to coordinate government support for the community's activities.
- **Steering committee on interdepartmental coordination in Ontario.** Creation of an Ontario committee whose aim is to optimize the potential for interdepartmental coordination through partnership.
- **Planning.** The Department's office in New Brunswick developed a work plan on interdepartmental coordination which identifies a procedure to follow to speed up the implementation of section 41 by federal departments and agencies and better meet the particular needs of the community.

sis on projects carried out in partnership with one or more other federal departments and, in some cases, with provincial governments.

- **Infrastructures.** Support provided by the Department for carrying out such projects as construction of the School of Electrical Engineering of the *Université de Moncton*, with the participation of Human Resources Development Canada, and the creation of the *Centre de théâtre francophone d'Ottawa*,

There can be no doubt that the Department of Canadian Heritage plays a key role in enhancing the vitality and supporting the development of Canada's English and French linguistic minority communities. The action plan prepared by the Department for fiscal year 1995-96 resulted in many accomplishments. A summary of them is found below, with the empha-

- **Young Canada Works.** Preparation, in co-operation with Human Resources Development Canada, of an official languages component to the government's Young Canada Works program.



- **Community radio.** Support provided for the development of community radio and such projects as the creation of a telematics network and an Internet site, the broadcasting of four programs devoted to up-and-coming French-language singers and preparation for the establishment of radio stations in Prescott-Russell and Nipissing, Ontario; Port-au-Port, Newfoundland and Peace River, Alberta.
- **Advertising contracts.** Inclusion by the Department of Canadian Heritage of the minority communities' print and electronic media in the national system of advertising placement of Public Works and Government Services Canada.
- **Economic development plan.** Financial support from the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs and the Department of Canadian Heritage to the *Association franco-yukonnaise* for the production of an economic development plan.
- **Management training.** Financial support from Human Resources Development Canada for the Yukon's French-speaking community to enable 23 participants to receive training in business management and creation through the Business Development Bank of Canada.
- **National Film Board's film collection.** Implementation of the agreement with the National Film Board concerning the transfer of its film collection to the *Centre culturel francophone de Vancouver*. Technical support from the Department of Canadian Heritage.

- **Tourism.** Support from the Department of Canadian Heritage and the Federal Office of Regional Development (Quebec) to the Coasters' Association, which is made up of 15 villages on the Lower North Shore, for holding a conference (March 8-10, 1996) on the future of tourism in this region in extreme eastern Quebec.

- **Labour market.** Creation, with the assistance of the Department of Canadian Heritage and Human Resources Development Canada, of an independent agency, now supported by the Government of Quebec and the private sector, to facilitate the integration of young Anglophones into the largely French-language labour market in Quebec. The services provided included workshops on the job search process and entrepreneurship, information sessions, translation and advisory services and opportunities to converse in French.

- **Festival.** Broadcast, in August 1995, of an international show on the Atlantic Satellite Network, the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, *Radio France* and *Société Radio-Canada* as part of the first Acadian Festival at Louisbourg, Nova Scotia.

- **Grand-Pré.** Funding of a feasibility study in partnership with the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency on the redevelopment of this national historic site in Nova Scotia.

- **Status of Women.** Conclusion of an agreement between the Department's Nova Scotia office and Status of Women Canada to ensure the provision of service in French to the province's French-speaking women, thanks to the loan of an official languages program officer.

- **Conseil de développement économique des municipalités bilingues du Manitoba.** Announcement, in November 1995, of funding over three years for this newly created council from the following departments:

Human Resources Development Canada, Western Economic Diversification and Canadian Heritage. The funds will be used to initiate economic development and diversification projects.

- **Service contracts.** Support from Public Works and Government Services Canada to the *Conseil de développement économique des municipalités bilingues du Manitoba* to enable this agency to link up with the federal government's bidding service and thereby facilitate access to federal contracts for Franco-Manitobans. Implementation of this project coincided with the holding of a forum organized by the *Conseil* in February 1995 and sponsored by the Department of Canadian Heritage, Public Works and Government Services Canada, Western Economic Diversification and Industry Canada.

Le Griffon travel agency.

Development of tourist routes in French in the Niagara Peninsula thanks to a joint grant from the Department of Canadian Heritage and Human Resources Development Canada. This is a pilot project. Preparation of an action plan and marketing strategy.

- **Coordination groups.** Creation of two coordination groups to advance distance education and economic development of the Port-au-Port Peninsula; agreement between the Department and the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency on multi-year funding for implementation of the economic development plan for this region in western Newfoundland.

- **Bonjour Atlantique.** Successful conclusion of discussions with the CBC on the production, in Charlottetown, beginning in 1996, of the television program *Bonjour Atlantique - édition de l'Île-du-Prince-Édouard*.

- **Training.**

of health services provided in French in the province, to identify those services needed by the population and to create a data bank containing contact information on persons working in this field in Alberta. Technical support from the Department of Canadian Heritage and funding from Health Canada.

The reader will find in this report all the information he or she needs about the Department's many other projects to promote the development of the official-language minority communities. The reader can also refer to the status report of the Department of Canadian Heritage, which is found in the supplement to this report.

III. Key Issues

A. New Partnership with the Communities

In 1994, the Department of Canadian Heritage set about substantially altering the relationship it had maintained for almost 25 years with Canada's official-language minority communities. At a time when the funds required to respond directly to these communities' needs were becoming increasingly scarce, it was imperative that the Department find the means to intervene more efficiently than ever before.

By opting for the Canada-community agreements, the Department of Canadian Heritage,

national Francophone organizations and the official-language minority communities in each province and territory have changed the way they manage their relationship. All of the agreements have now been signed (for further details, see "On the Regional Scene" in the "Highlights" section). Already, this new approach has taken hold, and a good many of the objectives established at the outset of the exercise are well on their way to being achieved.

Increased Coordination within the Communities

One of the objectives of the Canada-community agreements is to foster greater coordination among the key players in each community. Everywhere, structures are now in place to enable groups to come together in order to discuss their directions, priorities and available resources. In some cases, the dynamic inside the community has been significantly altered; in others, changes have been made to improve the quality of the exchanges. In every case, however, simply sitting down at the same table has enabled the various stakeholders to gain a better understanding of one another.

- In New Brunswick, the agreement facilitated the process of reflection that was under way on the interrelationships and necessary links among the various groups and associations.

- In Manitoba, the consensus is that this strategy of coordination has made it possible to strengthen community integration, bring local community organizations closer together, streamline the allocation of resources and enhance cooperation among organizations.
- In Quebec, the organizations feel that the agreement has brought them closer together and that they are now cooperating more effectively and addressing issues from a broader perspective. Increased planning efficiency has enabled them to launch joint projects.



Consultation forum of the Société des Acadiens et Acadiennes du Nouveau-Brunswick

Identification of Development Priorities

The idea of coordination lies at the heart of another of the agreements' objectives: to promote community self-management. What this boils down to is helping key players in the community develop and present an orderly vision of the community's needs, reach consensus on its development priorities, and then make decisions together concerning allocation of the funds required to act on these priorities. Only a few months after adopting this new approach, the Department and the communities have already observed that funds are being allocated in a more strategic, targeted manner.

- In Newfoundland, the community feels that it now has a far more prominent role in determining its directions and priorities. Today, the community has a much more hands-on approach to choosing its priorities and co-managing its resources.
- In British Columbia, the agreement was concluded following a provincial exercise involving all the communities, which enabled them to establish an overall development plan.
- In the Northwest Territories, the community is satisfied that a transparent prioritization and project selection process has been put in place.

Since it is centred more on the communities' development priorities, funding provided under the Canada-community agreements will increasingly be earmarked for specific projects producing concrete impacts. Undoubtedly, this will be one of the most significant results of the Department's new relationship with the

official-language minority communities. Now that new funding allocation mechanisms are in place, the trend should grow over time, as the agreements evolve.

Lastly, the Canada-community agreement formula will enable the organizations to stabilize their funding, as it guarantees them funds over a period of four years, on average. That said, a number of communities have already set their sights on financial independence by diversifying their funding sources. While continuing to support their efforts in this regard, the Department plans to pursue its agenda in terms of interdepartmental coordination, which remains - in the eyes of the communities - a key factor in reducing their dependence on direct support from the Department of Canadian Heritage.

Since March 31, 1996

Aside from renewing the Official Languages in Education Program, scheduled to run until March 1998, the Department has carried out a variety of studies examining the reform of its main official languages support programs. One such study, focusing on the Canada-community agreement formula as a means of providing this support, sought an overview of how the mechanisms put in place are operating. The study confirmed that the process is well under way and will soon make it possible to achieve the objectives of increased coordination within the communities and greater cohesiveness in terms of local activities. It also presented recommendations for optimizing funding allocation, funding diversification and follow-up on the Canada-community agreements.

B. Promotion of Linguistic Duality

One of the chief goals of the Department of Canadian Heritage is to promote a fundamental component of our country's national identity - linguistic duality. The Department is becoming increasingly visible to Canadians, whether by its presence at various exhibits and national or international events, its participation in initiatives involving schools, its funding of the voluntary sector, or by establishing its own site on the World Wide Web. To convey its message to a larger audience than ever before, a key part of the Department's promotional strategy is to establish partnerships with organizations working in various areas such as education, tourism, sports and culture.

The activities in this section have been subdivided into four categories: those of national scope, promotional activities in the regions, those of international interest, and those relating to the production of publications and promotional materials. The newly developed official languages site on the Internet, which provides a powerful communication tool for the Department in its dealings both nationally and internationally, is presented in detail in the sec-

tion entitled "Information Highway" (under "Key Issues"). Some of the key activities for 1995-96 are described below.

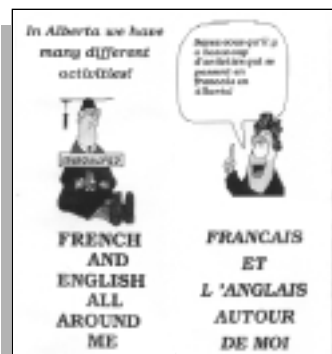
Since March 31, 1996

On April 12, 1996, the Minister of Canadian Heritage announced the Department's participation in the Young Canada Works program. The Department joined forces with Human Resources Development Canada and three other federal departments to work on youth job creation as part of the Federal Jobs Strategy. Four sectors of the Department, including the Official Languages Support Programs, worked together on this program, which had the objective of creating 2,000 jobs for young Canadians.

Young Canada Works in Both Official Languages, the official languages component of the program, was implemented with the assistance of coordinating partners in all regions of the country. Key objectives were the development of the linguistic capacity of young Canadians and the economic development of the official-language minority communities.

1. Activities of National Scope

Write it up! contest



Winning pamphlet,
Write it up! contest

Again, the 1996 *Write it up!* contest was a resounding success! With the invaluable help of Canadian Parents for French, the Canadian Association of Immersion Teachers, the Canadian Association of Second Language Teachers, the Society for Educational Visits and Exchanges in Canada, and the *Société pour la promotion de*

l'enseignement de l'anglais langue seconde au Québec, the Department of Canadian Heritage oversaw the fourth annual writing contest for students ages 10-13.

This year's contest asked students across Canada to design a brochure describing French and English activities in their area; the theme was "English and French All Around Me". The 2,000 brochures received were extraordinary! Many entries were very detailed and extremely well designed, giving insights about local and regional points of

interest, festivals and events in the French and English communities of Canada.

Once again, 100 prizes were awarded to winners. The four first-prize winners came from Quebec, Ontario (2) and Manitoba. All contest participants received letters thanking them for their participation. The brochures gathered from this year's contest will appear in various publicity documents of the Department of Canadian Heritage (including its Web site) as well as those of our partner associations. Another contest is planned for 1997.

Dictée P.G.L.

The *Dictée P.G.L.*, an initiative of the *Fondation Paul Gérin-Lajoie* dating back six years, involves a series of activities taking place from November to May. It enables children from French elementary and immersion schools to improve their knowledge of French in interesting and enjoyable ways, encourages awareness of environmental issues, and promotes sharing and solidarity with children from Third World countries. One of the activities is a French dictation contest bringing together young people from Canada, Louisiana and Senegal, culminating in a televised finale in May. Thanks to the Department's contribution, 127,000 students (including 6,349 in the "immersion" category) from 904 Canadian schools took part in the contest. Brochures were published in English to promote the contest among the English-speaking majority.

Dictée des Amériques

The Department took part in the third annual *Dictée des Amériques*, a highly successful international French dictation competition which helps promote proper usage of the French language and contributes to the influence of French on the world scene.

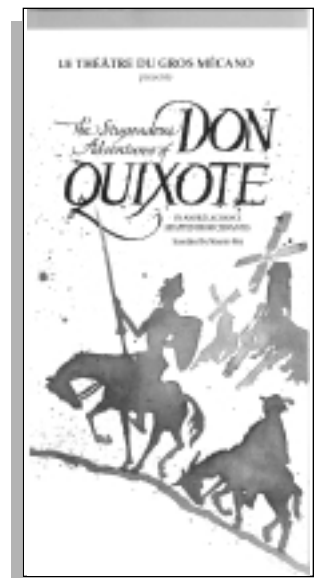
The finals of the *Dictée des Amériques*, held March 30, 1996 in the *Salon Rouge* of Quebec's National Assembly, were televised by *Radio-Québec* and *TFO* and rebroadcast by *Canada-TV5*, *Europe-Afrique-Asie-TV5*, *Amérique latine-TV5* and *États-Unis-TV-5*.

Taking part in the competition were some 55,000 contestants from Canada, the United States, Europe, Africa and Latin America. The 104 finalists represented 11 countries. Of the five grand champions, three were Canadians - from Quebec, the Northwest Territories and British Columbia; the other two came from Belgium and France. Once again, Hélène Cormier of the Official Languages Support Programs Branch was one of the judges.

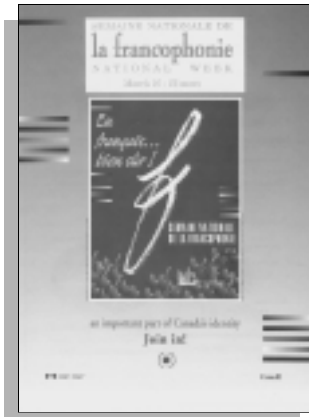
Théâtre du Gros Mécano

The *Théâtre du Gros Mécano* performs quality theatre for young people 6 to 12 years of age, in both English and French, in schools across Canada.

The French-language play *Les aventures mirabolantes de Don Quichotte* was mounted in English as *The Stupendous Adventures of Don Quixote* so that it could be performed in both English and French by a bilingual troupe in schools across the country.



Semaine nationale de la Francophonie



For the fourth year in a row, the Department was actively involved in commemorating the *Semaine nationale de la Francophonie*. The event, which took place this year during the week of March 20 to 26, is coordinated by the *Association canadienne d'éducation de langue française*, with several well-known persons acting as honorary patrons. The *Semaine* is a celebration of Canada's *Francophonie*, an opportunity to discover a culture

and a language which have marked our country's history, to showcase the talents, special features and diversity of the Francophone experience in Canada, and to see a reflection of our identity. It is a chance to promote the growth, use and development of the French language, to provide Francophones with more opportunities to express themselves and live in French and to build bridges between French speakers of all origins and all those who love the French language. In 1996, the theme of the *Semaine* was "*Francophonie and Cultural Identity*".

The Minister of Canadian Heritage invited her Cabinet colleagues to take part in activities organized by their respective departments, and materials designed to promote the *Semaine* were distributed throughout Canada's Public Service and in agencies reporting to the Department of Canadian Heritage.

On March 20, an official ceremony was held on Parliament Hill to mark the *Journée internationale de la Francophonie*. In attendance were the Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Speakers of the House of Commons and the Senate, the Minister of Canadian Heritage and several other federal ministers. During the ceremony, Canadian and international Francophone awards were presented in the fields of education, informatics and literacy.

Also, in the lobby of the building housing Canadian Heritage's administrative headquarters, the Official Languages Support Programs Branch presented an exhibit on the Internet in French and distributed its publications. The Department's regional offices were encouraged to promote and develop activities in the regions, which led to an impressive number of events from one end of the country to the other.

Official Languages and the Economy Colloquium

On May 5, 1995, Ottawa hosted a colloquium entitled *Official Languages and the Economy: New Canadian Perspectives*. Organized by the Department of Canadian Heritage, this gathering enabled participants to hear from a dozen specialists from the public sector, the academic community and the private sector. The theme of the colloquium was explored from a variety of angles, including historical considerations, political and social viewpoints and the economic perspective.

“Against a global background of trade and competition, the individual and collective acquisition of a second language is now seen as an economic "asset".”

(Synopsis of the colloquium *Official Languages and the Economy: New Canadian Perspective* held in Ottawa in May 1995)

The major issues surrounding linguistic duality were raised. What are the costs of Canada's bilingualism policy and what are the benefits? Which regions profit from it financially? How can Canada ensure the development of its linguistic minorities? Under what conditions can bilingualism become a positive economic factor and contribute to the independence of the communities, industrial development, and the economic growth of businesses and the regions?

The following main themes were explored:

- *Commercial aspect of bilingualism:* In a world where trade and competition are extremely important, learning a second language - both individually and collectively - is looked on as an economic "plus".
- *Language training and commercialization:* There is a certain dynamic that is set in motion by linguistic duality. From a business point of view, Canadians must learn to make better use of their bilingualism. Over the years, Canada has acquired exceptional expertise in the field of language instruction. This can be marketed internationally.
- *New orientations and gains:* Major political upheaval, international trade agreements, new partnerships, the emergence of the new Europe, new technologies, the changing face of competition and the birth of the information highway are among the factors that have given the world's major languages new importance. English and French are two such languages. Canada must take advantage of this fortuitous situation.

Cooperation with the Voluntary Sector

Hundreds of voluntary organizations across Canada are involved in promoting the use of both official languages in order to more effectively communicate with their members and the general public. To assist with the expenses relating to the provision of bilingual services, the Department of Canadian Heritage provides grants to these organizations to cover up to half the cost of translation and interpretation services at meetings, conferences and other important gatherings. Also considered for these grants are official languages development projects that enable organizations to acquire the means to provide services in both official languages.

Some 120 associations were funded during 1995-96 to hold events in Canada involving the use of both official languages. As well, the Department was able to continue to assist 50 groups wishing to establish permanent official-language services within their organizations.

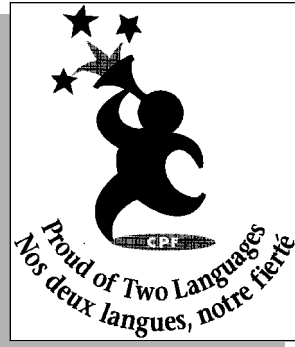
"We are thankful for the funding provided through this program which has allowed us to provide vital services to Canadians in both official languages. MediaWatch's special projects which are now available in both French and English have also served to increase Canada's profile internationally as a leader in the field of media analysis and media literacy."

(Excerpt from a letter received from Linda Hawke, Executive Director, MediaWatch,)

National Awareness Campaign

Canadian Parents for French undertook a national awareness campaign to inform Canadians of the benefits of second-language learning. The campaign included several major elements.

- A national opinion poll was conducted that showed that 75 per cent of Canadians consider second-language learning an important part of a good education.
- The results of the poll and campaign messages were delivered to all major Canadian media and supplemented by a media and speaking tour by the association's president and vice-president.
- Eighty-five local chapters participated in the campaign, produced various products and held a variety of events across the country.



- A 14-minute video entitled *Proud of Two Languages* was produced, highlighting success stories of French-as-a-second-language graduates. Nearly 650 copies of this video have been produced and distributed to schools, school boards, educators, participating local chapters of Canadian Parents for French and educational television networks.

Exchanges and Language Visits

Two very successful national programs - the Summer Language Bursary Program and the Official-Language Monitor Program - provide Canadians with the opportunity to learn their second official language or, in the case of Francophone minorities, to perfect their mother tongue. They are administered by the provincial and territorial departments of education in conjunction with the Council of Ministers of Education, Canada. These programs are so popular that, year after year, the number of applications greatly exceeds the funding available.

- In 1995-96, the Summer Language Bursary Program enabled some 6,460 young people to take five-week immersion courses at 40 colleges and universities throughout Canada. Of the total number of bursaries awarded, 173 went to Francophones outside Quebec who participated in the bursary program in Trois-Rivières and Jonquière (Quebec) and in Moncton (New Brunswick). The bursary recipients take part in a very structured educational experience and, after class hours, participate in numerous cultural activities. They are housed in university or college residences or in private homes, which ensures that their learning experience remains intensive over the entire five-week period.

- Separate bursaries are awarded under the Official-Language Monitor Program to those post-secondary students who wish to work as minority- or second-language monitors on a part-time basis. An additional full-time component of the program allows monitors to work in rural or semi-urban communities. In 1995-96, there were close to 940 participants in the program.
- Monitors are placed in educational institutions for a period of eight months in the case of part-time monitors, and nine months for full-time monitors. They are given various duties which, along with their participation in the daily life of the community, reinforce their knowledge of their mother tongue or their second language.



Since March 31, 1996

On March 19, 1997, the Minister of Canadian Heritage and the Chair of the Council of Ministers of Education, Canada, signed two agreements for the renewal, in 1997-98, of the Summer Language Bursary and Official-Language Monitor Programs.

Administration of Justice

The projects that were carried out helped improve the administration of justice in both official languages, promoted the use of the minority official language in the practice of law, encouraged the creation of works and tools dealing with common law in French and with civil law in English, and helped stabilize legal vocabulary.

- Quebec Research Centre for Private & Comparative Law (McGill University, Montreal)
- Centre for Legal Translation and Documentation (University of Ottawa)
- Centre de traduction et de terminologie juridiques (Université de Moncton)
- Institut Joseph-Dubuc du Collège universitaire de Saint-Boniface (Winnipeg)

The four centres for legal translation in Canada (see box) continued performing their translation and terminology work and developing and dispensing language-oriented legal upgrading courses.

With a view to publishing the third edition of the English and French versions of the *Private Law Dictionary*, the Quebec Research Centre for Private & Comparative Law of McGill University continued in 1995-96 to update the Dictionary's definitions in light of Quebec's new *Civil Code*. The University of Ottawa's Centre for Legal Translation and Documentation updated the *Guide du praticien*, and the *Centre de traduction et de terminologie juridiques* of the *Université de Moncton* developed an electronic version of the *Juridictionnaire*, a collection detailing the difficulties and resources associated with legal French. In terms of training, the *Institut Joseph-Dubuc* used a new formula to offer its courses in legal French: mock criminal trials.

In addition, an agreement was concluded between the departments of Justice and Canadian Heritage to enable the six provincial associations of French-speaking common law jurists and their umbrella federation to continue to play an essential role in promoting bilingualism and bijuralism and to continue to contribute to the development of their respective communities.

2. Promotional Activities in the Regions

The Department has been active in all the provinces and territories promoting the benefits of linguistic duality for Canada. The regional staff, in conjunction with provincial official-language minority associations and national organizations such as Canadian Parents for French, organized and participated in a variety of activities and events in 1995-96, showing that knowledge of both of Canada's official languages can be an economic asset to Canadians and, at the same time, add another dimension to their lives by exposing them to a culture and language other than the one they grew up with. Here is a sample of what went on in the regions during the past year.

- Newfoundland's Francophone community became film stars this year with the release of the French version of a video documentary entitled *Ça vient du t'choeur - voyage dans la communauté franco-terreneuvienne*, depicting the Francophone population of the Port-au-Port Peninsula on the province's west coast. The production was made possible by cooperation between the *Fédération des francophones de Terre-Neuve et du Labrador* and the Department of Canadian Heritage, and received support under the Canada-Newfoundland cooperation agreement on cultural industries.
- The *Semaine provinciale de la Francophonie* has become an annual event in Prince Edward Island. Various activities were organized to promote and publicize Acadian and Francophone culture to all Prince Edward Island citizens. The *Semaine* has gone a long way in helping bring the province's two language communities closer together. The event was organized mainly by the education sector, provincial employees and the Acadian/Francophone community, but, for the first time, the private sector also contributed.

- In cooperation with the provincial government and the Acadian community, the Nova Scotia provincial office organized a closing ceremony for the *Semaine de la Francophonie*, held in the legislative assembly on March 26, 1996. A hundred or so people took part, including representatives of Canadian Parents for French, the *Alliance française*, various provincial departments and community organizations. Speeches were delivered by such notables as the Premier of Nova Scotia, the Minister responsible for Acadian Affairs, a representative of the *Fédération acadienne de la Nouvelle-Écosse* and various federal MPs. The event encouraged *rapprochement* between the two official-language communities and helped promote Acadian language and culture in Nova Scotia.



Nova Scotia Premier John Savage at a celebration of the Semaine nationale de la Francophonie in Halifax

- Festival Antigonish Summer Theatre in Nova Scotia set up two sessions of French Immersion Drama Workshops, one designed for junior high school students and one for seniors. By improvising scenes and studying French-Canadian plays, the workshops offer, to both French- and English-speaking students who are studying in French, ways to practice and improve their French and to familiarize themselves with the French culture.

- The Architects Association of New Brunswick equipped itself with a series of tools and structures which will enable it to offer its members and the general public services in both official languages.
- In connection with the *Semaine nationale de la Francophonie*, the New Brunswick provincial office of Canadian Heritage, together with the Moncton chapter of the Institute of Public Administration of Canada and the Atlantic office of the Commissioner of Official Languages, organized a training and ideas workshop for all the province's federal employees. The workshop dealt with the use of the French language in the federal Public Service in New Brunswick. Dr. Victor Goldbloom, Commissioner of Official Languages, gave the opening address. The workshop enabled participants to identify



bilingual kit on the Franco-Manitoban community. This promotional tool was developed to promote Manitoba's Francophone community on the national and international stage. The video describes the province's Francophone institutions and shows an active, vibrant community, particularly in the areas of communications, economic activity, heritage, culture and education.

- The Saskatchewan Chapter of Canadian Parents for French hosted the association's 19th Annual National Conference from October 26 to 28, 1995 in Saskatoon with 150 delegates attending. The theme of the conference was *Bilingual Youth: Bridge Builders*. For the first time, youth delegates were included as part of the conference. Thirty-five young people attended plenary sessions leading to discussions between the association and the youth delegates.
- Canadian Parents for French, in cooperation with the Alberta Department of Education, published a guide for parents of French immersion students called *Yes You Can Help*. This book was well received by parents who had requested such a tool.
- The *Association des juristes d'expression française de l'Alberta* francized the very popular English-language *Court House Education Program* of the Calgary Bar Association. It is administered by a bilingual group composed of representatives of the Calgary Bar Association, the *Association des juristes*, the local French-speaking community, the federal judiciary, and Calgary's public and separate school boards. This self-financed program, incorporated into school curricula, aims to raise young people's awareness of Canada's court system and, in particular, of the Court of Queen's Bench.
- An information day was held at Vancouver's Sinclair Centre as part of the *Semaine nationale de la Francophonie*. Eleven federal departments and six Francophone organizations set up booths. On March 15, 1996, the Department of Canadian Heritage organized a breakfast at Studio 16 in the *Maison de la Francophonie*, where some 50 individuals gathered to celebrate the French fact in British Columbia.
- The British Columbia Chapter of Canadian Parents for French celebrated the *Semaine de l'immersion* in February. Carnivals, film festivals, folk dances and visits to schools by authors and comedians were organized for the occasion.
- The *Association franco-yukonnaise* was very involved in activities staged by the majority community. For example, it took an active part in the Canada Day celebrations, which included artists from different cultures to give an accurate reflection of Canadian reality. It also arranged for Francophone artists from the Yukon and elsewhere to participate in major cultural events, such as the Dawson Music Festival and the Frostbite Festival. The visit to the sugar bush organized by the *Association*, which took place during the famed annual winter carnival, the Sourdough Rendez-vous, proved to be a very popular event.
- The public speaking competition staged in Yellowknife in February 1996 by Canadian Parents for French was a big success. The three winners were invited to take part in a French immersion program at the Terry Fox Centre in Ottawa. Also, in the *Dictée des Amériques* competition, a 13-year-old Yellowknife immersion student, Alana Demko, won top honours in the international division, junior category.

3. Activities of International Interest

“The flow of ideas around the world promotes positive change within countries. As we adjust old partnerships and build new ones, the world becomes a more integrated community of nations. [...] This is a very Canadian view of the world. And that should be no surprise, because it clearly reflects the way we do things at home [...] the way we try to integrate the views of different regions, linguistic groups and cultural communities rather than isolate them.”

(Prime Minister Jean Chrétien at the National Forum on Canada's International Relations on September 11, 1995 in Toronto)

Considerable progress has been made over the past year in exploring the potential for marketing Canadian expertise in the language industries, particularly in Europe and Asia. This involved conducting surveys, establishing contacts, exchanging documentation and materials, and participating in various forums and exhibitions. Here are some highlights.

Obadia, professor at Simon Fraser University, attended a workshop in Spain in September 1995 on the ongoing training of foreign-language teachers at the primary level. These forums provided opportunities for Canadian experts to exchange views and present the Canadian perspective.

The Official Languages Support Programs Branch participated in the orientation and planning sessions of both the Modern Languages Project Group and the new European Centre for Modern Languages in Graz, Austria. The long-term involvement of the Canadian government in projects relating to language learning is viewed by our European counterparts as a key contribution to the success of initiatives in this area. Consideration is being given to a different type of involvement to assist the Centre in Graz to achieve its goals. The partnership already established by the Centre with eastern European countries is of particular interest to the Branch.

Council of Europe

The Department of Canadian Heritage has been able to pursue its cooperation with the Council of Europe through the participation of Canadian experts in several workshops relating to second-language instruction. Sharon Lapkin, professor at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education, attended a workshop in Norway in October 1995 on the educational value of exchanges, and André

Since March 31, 1996

In 1996, Canada was given Observer Member status by the Council of Europe. Following that decision, the Department decided to conduct a review to examine all of its activities within the Council. The Official Languages Support Programs Branch is actively participating in the review and is considering new avenues of cooperation with the Council and the European Centre for Modern Languages in Graz.

Expolangues 1997

In 1996, Canada was selected to be the "Guest of Honour" at the 15th *Expolangues* -



*Canadian Heritage Minister
Sheila Copps visiting the
Canadian stand at Expolangues*

an international language, culture and travel fair - held in February 1997 in Paris. The Branch is also intensively networking with Foreign Affairs and other governmental and private sector partners to enhance the participation of

Canadian exhibitors. A conference program is being developed to showcase Canadian expertise in the teaching of second languages in a bilingual as well as multilingual context.

Since March 31, 1996

Over 20,000 visitors came to see the Canadian stand at Expolangues in February 1997 where Canada was the "Guest of Honour". The Minister of Canadian Heritage was on hand for the inauguration ceremony. The fair attracted 370 exhibitors from 20 countries and the 25 Canadian exhibitors who marketed language-training courses, educational software, cultural products and services, and tour packages were overwhelmed by the warm welcome received from their French hosts. The French media also provided extensive coverage on Canada prior to and during the event.

The Canadian stand included a multi-media booth provided by Canadian Heritage as well as a heritage tourism kiosk. The Canadian conference program presented nine guest speakers, including Keith Spicer, Canada's first Commissioner of Official Languages.

Export of Canadian Products

Studies have been conducted to identify the key players in the export of Canadian products relating to the teaching of second languages (e.g. courses, linguistic exchanges and teaching products). A sound knowledge of Canadian industry is essential to best determine the role that the Department of Canadian Heritage can play in order to assist this industry to develop new export markets. Market studies conducted by the Department of External Affairs and International Trade have shown that foreigners perceive Canada as a destination of choice for educational travel. Support for industry efforts to develop this specific market should result in an increase in revenues for this sector.

By increasing awareness of Canadian expertise in areas relating to second-language learning, the Department intends to promote the positive impact of Canada's bilingualism. The Branch is looking at ways to facilitate the circulation of information on the products and services available in Canada as well as to establish strategic alliances between private and public institutions involved in this sector of activity.

Since March 31, 1996

An Internet site showcasing Canadian second-language products and services was created in cooperation with Simon Fraser University. The site (<http://www.educ.sfu.ca/expo/>) was designed to give Canadian industry a window on the world.

4. Publications and Promotional Material

Every year, the Department of Canadian Heritage produces and distributes a wide variety of printed and promotional materials. These include publications, posters, fact sheets, brochures and discussion papers which are used for promotional activities and are distributed across Canada and abroad. A complete list of these documents, produced in 1995-96 by the Department or in cooperation with its partners, is provided in Appendix A ("Publications and Promotional Material").

A new research series, *New Canadian Perspectives*, was launched in 1996 to publish a variety of research in the area of official languages. The fields of research identified as priorities are: the development of the official-language minority communities in the educational, economic and cultural sectors; relations among

An article entitled "Bilingualism: A Selling Point for Canada" was prepared by the Official Languages Support Programs Branch for inclusion in the first issue of this annual resource guide, co-produced with the French Chamber of Commerce (Ontario) and Victoria Communications, and dedicated to private businesses providing services in both official languages. The article deals with the economic impact of linguistic duality on business, the benefits it provides for tourism and its impact from an international perspective.

these communities as isolated entities. The paper also highlights the many areas in which exchanges between Francophones from Quebec and those from Canada's other regions are mutually beneficial.

Subsequently, the Department published the second research paper to appear in the new series, *Status Report: Minority-Language Educational Rights*, written by Jean-Charles Ducharme. This paper offers a Canada-wide overview of the changes and current situation involving the implementation of section 23 of the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*. It is a concise, accessible assessment of the legislation in effect in each of Canada's provinces and territories.

Since March 31, 1996

An update of this document was presented at the symposium of the *Commission nationale des parents francophones* on constitutional redress, held in Ottawa on October 18 and 19, 1996. A more detailed account will be included in the symposium proceedings, to be published by the Canadian Centre for Linguistic Rights of the University of Ottawa.

The Department has published a third paper in the *New Canadian Perspectives* series entitled *Official Languages and the Economy*

Official Languages Support Programs Branch: An Important Presence on the World Wide Web

The Official Languages Support Programs Branch's site on the World Wide Web was launched on February 16, 1996, opening Canadian Heritage's window on the world of technology. The site, located at <http://www.pch.gc.ca/off-langoff/>, offers a vast amount of information about the Branch, its mandate and partners. One of the first branches of the Department to appear on the Web, we are proud that the site has remained current and has been updated several times throughout its short lifespan.



Content

Beginning with *Who we are*, the site explains the Branch's various programs, including:

Exchanges and Bursaries

Descriptions of the Summer Language Bursary and Official-Language Monitor programs, which are funded by the Official Languages Support Programs Branch and administered by the Council of Ministers of Education, Canada. A direct link to the Council's own site provides all the information necessary to apply for either of these two programs.

Living in French in Canada

A colourful map of Canada which opens these pages to the official-language minority communities across the country. Clicking on

a province gives insight into demolinguistic data, the Francophone representative organizations, the media and communications, cultural and community life, education, and the economy of each province - a valuable source of information!

Learning English and French as Second Languages

In addition to a one-page fact sheet on French immersion, these pages offer a one-stop lesson on learning English or French as a second language with links to our partners, i.e. Canadian Parents for French, Canadian Association of Second Language Teachers, Canadian Association of Immersion Teachers, among others. A feature just added is an invitation to join an immersion teachers' chat group, *A Mail List for Immersion Teachers, Administrators and Researchers*, which is administered by Simon Fraser University and considered an invaluable research tool for all second-language teachers.

DID YOU KNOW?

- 305,000 students are currently enrolled in French immersion programs across Canada as compared to 75,000 in 1980-81.
- More than 2 million English-speaking students are studying French as a subject in school.
- Nearly 25 per cent of the population of young people in the country aged 18-29 are now bilingual.

French on the International Scene

These pages include information on Canada's *Francophonie*, Canada and the International *Francophonie*, the *Dictée des Amériques* (an international French dictation competition), and a wealth of links to other interesting sites across the world.

Youth Activities

Entitled *Youth Corner*, young people of all ages will discover events and activities, publications, youth associations, exchanges and bursaries, a map of Canada and other interesting sites related to youth activities and the official languages of Canada.

And that's not all. The *Publications* section of the site offers readers the opportunity to download our latest publications in whole or in part, reducing printing and distribution costs significantly, while, offering readers the option of selecting passages and information of interest to them.

As the world of high technology moves faster and faster, the Official Languages Support Programs Branch is proud to be a participant.

Through the World Wide Web site, the Branch has been able to interact with government officials, international contacts and the general public worldwide. For those interested in all aspects of official languages policies and programs, the site is seen as a valuable information tool itself and a significant stepping stone to sites in Canada and throughout the world that are related to official languages.

Promotion of the Web Site

In an effort to promote the Official Languages Support Programs Branch's web site, demonstrations of the site were given at a variety of promotional events, including the *Salon national de l'Éducation*, the Multi-media International Market, and the International Symposium on Second Languages. In 1996, promotional activities will include the annual general meeting of the Canadian Association of Second Language Teachers, the *Salon de l'éducation et de la formation professionnelle et technique*, and the general meeting of the *Société pour la promotion de l'enseignement de l'anglais langue seconde au Québec*.

Exploratory session on the Information Highway

This one-day forum, held on June 14, 1995 in Hull, Quebec, was organized by the Official Languages Support Programs Branch to enable the main stakeholders - representatives of the official-language minority communities, the federal and provincial governments, the education sector and voluntary agencies - to meet and exchange ideas on new technological applications in their respective areas.

Highlights

- The Official Languages Support Programs Branch focused on how the communities can

use the information highway to fulfil their aspirations.

- The various stakeholders expressed similar concerns. The communities must: break out of their isolation and compensate for their low demographic weight and lack of resources; broaden access to new technologies (link up individuals and groups to existing networks, reduce the costs of implementation and use, disseminate information on available technologies and resources); provide future users with adequate training; and develop French-language software and content.

- The extent to which the participants make use of the information highway and new technologies differs widely. Their technological achievements include SchoolNet, the *Village électronique*, the *Collège de l'Acadie* and the presence on the World Wide Web of the *Fédération culturelle canadienne-française*.
- By encouraging the creation of strategic alliances among the main stakeholders, the session enabled the participants to immedi-

ately identify how to get the most out of the structures currently in place so as to benefit right away from the advantages of the information highway.

The Department of Canadian Heritage is examining, in cooperation with its partners, ways of encouraging a variety of specific activities and courses of action. The following section outlines various activities that are already under way.

Well-Connected Communities

The 1995-1996 year was a very busy one for the information highway in Canada. This new technology offers visibility and communications at a lower cost than that of print and telephone advertising. It enables isolated communities to gain a window on the world, make themselves known and access information quickly and efficiently. New markets are opening up, new clientele are joining the rush and traffic on the information highway is on the increase. Over the past year, the Internet has grown by leaps and bounds.

The Organizations

Against this backdrop, organizations representing the official-language minority communities were quick to recognize the benefits of setting up shop on the information highway. They developed Internet sites right away, despite the fact that this new technology was more or less foreign to associations at the beginning of 1995.

- In September 1995, the Information Highway Advisory Council released its report entitled: *Connection, Community, Content: the Challenge of the Information Highway*. The report indicated that French-language content was deficient and that measures were needed to stimulate the creation and production of new content. The

Government of Canada responded in a paper entitled: *Building the Information Society: Moving Canada into the 21st Century*. The Department of Canadian Heritage is committed to developing a strategy on Canadian cultural content in order to, among other things, encourage a sustained dialogue on culture in Canada.

- The lack of a French presence led official-language minority organizations to take their place on the Internet. The *Comité canadien francophone sur l'inforoute* was created. This umbrella group for national official-language minority organizations developed a concerted Internet appropriation approach centred on eight strategic themes. The committee was coordinated by the *Fédération culturelle canadienne-française*.
- The national organizations identified this activity as a priority, and funds from the agreement between Canada and the national organizations were set aside for projects that would give Francophone communities greater visibility on the Internet.
- The *Fédération des communautés francophones et acadienne du Canada* developed a *Francophonie* site and is leasing a server for that purpose. The *Fédération* site includes a list of associations, a communication centre

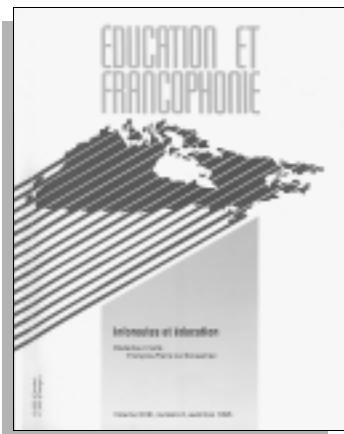
with a list of news groups and classified ads inviting visitors to answer messages. The toolbox makes available to users a series of software and shareware in French, such as Netscape and Qualcomm (Eudora), enabling them to navigate the Internet. The *Francité* search engine is also available. The electronic mail and Internet service provider address book contains several different sections: individuals, government institutions, Francophone organizations and businesses. The category *Chroniques Hey* has more than 40 subscribers. The *Chroniques* are virtual interviews with individuals or companies doing innovative work on the Internet. Lastly, a section was set up to offer hyperlinks to other organizations representing Canada's *Francophonie*. The *Fédération* sent Canadian Francophone groups an offer of services for the creation of Internet sites. Several organizations, including all the members of the *Fédération*, now have their own site. A consultant offers groups technical assistance and provides training to Francophone national organizations.

- The *Fédération culturelle canadienne-française* is setting up an Internet site for each national, provincial and even local cultural organization on the server of the *Village électronique*, with which it signed a memorandum of understanding. It developed a French-Canadian arts centre, where already almost 100 singers and musicians are promoting their products. Each entry gives a description of the CD or the artist, allows users to sample an audio demo and indicates where the product can be purchased. *À vue d'oeil*, a magazine available exclusively on the Internet, was launched in the spring.

In addition, the *Fédération* offered training and advice to other Francophone organizations wishing to be connected to the Internet. The *Fédération culturelle*, with the aim of becoming self-funding, also launched a company called *Concept Art*, which offers Internet site design services.



- The *Alliance des radios communautaires* hooked up its 16 community radio stations to the Internet, providing them with fast access to a host of information of interest to the local communities they serve. Also, Francophones within the community, while performing volunteer work for their community radio station, can use the computer and "surf the Net". A site was developed with such headings as *Nouvelles*, *Palmarès* and *Éphémérides*. Public affairs records and local news are available. Sites were created for each radio station, and these stations will add information to make the sites truly their own. The *Firstclass* electronic bulletin board will facilitate exchanges, document transmission and access to thematic conferences. The *Alliance* is in the process of setting up a news service on the Internet.
- The *Association canadienne d'éducation de langue française* opened a site on the Internet to inform the public about its programs and activities. In the future, the



Association hopes that the information highway will help establish links among educators in all provinces and territories. The issue *Inforoute et éducation* of the magazine *Éducation et francophonie* contains articles describing how the new information technologies can be used to support education.

- In the spring of 1996, the *Fédération canadienne pour l'alphabétisation en français* gave its members a training workshop to encourage them to navigate on the Internet to obtain a variety of information and to eventually use electronic mail as a means of internal communication within their organizations.
- Most newspapers belonging to the *Association de la presse francophone* are connected to the information highway. Each member publisher has the necessary equipment to access the information network. The *Association* and several other newspapers have an Internet site, facilitating the exchange of information. One of the advantages of being on the network is that it allows access to the news service. Advertisements will soon be sent by this means.
- The Francophone minority communities played a strategic role by participating in committees on the information highway. A representative of the *Fédération culturelle canadienne-française* sat on the Community Access Program's national selection committee for their 1995 tenders. The Program provides rural communities with Internet access. A representative of the *Association canadienne d'éducation de langue française* is also a member of the SchoolNet national advisory committee and of that committee's working group on the *Francophonie*. The Official Languages Support Programs Branch also participates in the working group.

In the Regions

Work began on some other very interesting initiatives in the regions.

- In the Atlantic region, the *Centre international pour le développement de l'inforoute francophone*, located in Edmunston at the *Centre universitaire Saint-Louis Maillet* of the *Université de Moncton*, was created following the 1995 Francophone Summit held in Cotonou, Benin, with the support of the Canadian International Development Agency. The mandate of the *Centre international* is to gather and catalogue French-language resources, offer Francophones expertise and technical support and encourage the development of tools and resources in French. The *Centre* has made available to the public an inventory of information highway terminology.
- The *Centre Assomption de recherche et de développement en entrepreneuriat* of the *Université de Moncton* and the *Conseil économique du Nouveau-Brunswick* organized a forum on the theme *L'inforoute francophonie et occasions d'affaires* in the spring of 1996. Stakeholders from the private, educational, cultural and finance sectors participated in the forum, which was aimed at informing Francophone business, academic, community and cultural groups in New Brunswick of the possibilities and challenges posed by the information highway. Companies such as NBTel, Ingenia Communications, Philips Electronics and Géomacadie made presentations. Premier Frank McKenna announced the creation of programs to assist businesses and organizations wishing to hook up to and place content on the information highway.



The *Association des municipalités du Nouveau-Brunswick* compiled an inventory of the existing informatics infrastructure of its 39 member municipalities and conducted a feasibility study exploring the possibility of an automated communications network for its members.

- In Quebec, the Quebec Farmers' Association coordinated the networking of 15 Anglophone minority organizations. First, the Association evaluated the technical requirements of each group. Next, it oversaw the acquisition of the necessary equipment. Lastly, it provided on-site training to ensure optimal use of the information highway.
- In the West, the Northwest Territories' Francophone communities are equipped with the computer hardware they need to communicate by electronic mail. In British Columbia and the Yukon, a number of Francophone organizations are hooked up. The Yukon's Francophone community, with the help of Industry Canada, is setting up an Internet community access centre. In Saskatchewan, the community developed a site offering information on Francophone education, history and media. In Manitoba, schools are starting to help connect organizations to the information highway. A study was undertaken by the *Conseil de développement économique des municipalités bilingues du Manitoba* to explore how best to hook up the province's Francophone communities.

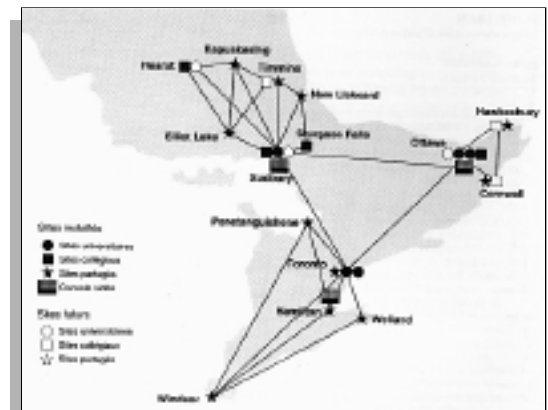
In the Education Sector

Educational organizations were also quick to seize on the advantages offered by the Internet in terms of promoting their activities:

- The *Réseau d'enseignement francophone à distance du Canada* posted its *Répertoire de l'enseignement à distance en français* on the Internet. Also, the *Téléuniversité* offers courses and seminars on the electronic highway. In cooperation with TVO, the Canadian

Association of Second Language Teachers opened a site which was used for registrations for its annual general meeting held last spring.

- A number of minority-language educational institutions offer distance education programs. Some use the Internet as a communications tool to supervise students. The *Collège de l'Acadie* and, now, Nova Scotia's schools are hooked up to a videoconferencing network. New Brunswick is on the network thanks to Tele-Education, which broadcasts the courses offered by schools, colleges and universities. In Ontario, the *Réseau franco-ontarien d'enseignement à distance* comprises 26 sites in 15 locations and makes available to the community real-time video interactive courses. In Alberta, a distance education system has been used to offer high school courses in French.



Réseau franco-ontarien d'enseignement à distance

The official-language minority communities are developing more and more projects on the Internet. These communities are taking their place along the information highway. The movement is under way and rapidly gaining new followers.

IV. Highlights

A. On the regional scene

Anglophones in Quebec and Francophones in the rest of Canada living in minority communities are living proof of the presence of linguistic duality in this country. A number of interesting developments took place in 1995-96 relating to the provision of official lan-

guages services, minority-language education and second-language instruction, school management and community development. Here is a look at some key events and activities in all of our provinces and territories.

NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR

Federal-Provincial Cooperation



- On the heels of the referendum on school reform held September 5, 1995, in which the population of Newfoundland and Labrador voted to end denominational school boards, the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador asked the federal government to amend section 17 of the Constitution to allow this undenominationalization.

Also, in January 1996, the province introduced a new piece of legislation aimed at restructuring the school system. The bill included provisions for the creation of Francophone schools, but the *Fédération des parents francophones de Terre-Neuve et du Labrador* felt that these schools did not comply with section 23 of the Charter. Consequently, the *Fédération* launched legal action to contest the legislation and to ensure that once the

reforms are in place, the provincial government will grant Francophone parents their management rights.

- The first of its kind in Newfoundland, the *Centre scolaire et communautaire Sainte-Anne*, located in Mainland, opened its doors in October 1995. The *Centre* has a school component (kindergarten up to grade 12) and a community component, consisting of a student radio station, a community television studio, a museum and a community library. Port-au-Port's three French-speaking communities (Cap-St-Georges, Mainland and Black Duck Brook) now have a quality institution they can call their own, where they can not only receive education in their mother tongue but enjoy community recreational activities as well.
- The Government of Newfoundland and Labrador conducted a needs study concerning post-secondary professional and technical development for Labrador's French-

speaking population. It also carried out a project promoting French as a second language for secondary students in the higher grades by producing a video and a brochure in cooperation with Canadian Parents for French.

Since March 31, 1996

On December 4, 1996, the House of Commons gave final approval to the constitutional amendment proposed by the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador following its referendum on school reform. This cleared the way for the province to implement its new school management structure.

On December 19, 1996, the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador passed its new school act, providing for the creation of a provincial Francophone school board. The province plans to table a bill in the spring of 1997 that will specify the procedures for implementing Francophone school management.

On February 28, 1997, Canada and Newfoundland and Labrador signed a special agreement on the implementation of Francophone school management. Signing the agreement were the Minister of Canadian Heritage, the Premier of Newfoundland and Labrador, and the Minister of Education of the province.

Community Development

- In October 1995, Newfoundland and Labrador's French-speaking community signed a Canada-community agreement with the Department of Canadian Heritage, adding Newfoundland to the list of provinces which have signed agreements. A number of projects have been carried out thanks to the agreement.
- The *Association régionale de la côte ouest* set up new programs and services at the *Centre scolaire et communautaire Sainte-Anne*, in Mainland. These include the estab-

lishment of a regional museum and the acquisition of books for the library and CDs for the student radio station.



Back to school at the Centre scolaire et communautaire Sainte-Anne in Mainland, Newfoundland

- The community television studio and the student radio station teamed up to offer technical training workshops on broadcasting and video production. Also, in October 1995 the radio station used its mobile radio equipment to do a short broadcast. The station toured the three Francophone communities of the Port-au-Port Peninsula, providing a foretaste of a more permanent community radio station.
- *Franco-jeunes de Terre-Neuve et du Labrador* created the *Fondation Émile-Benoît pour la jeunesse* as a funding diversification measure. Over the long term, the *Fondation* will grant post-secondary scholarships and fund leadership programs.
- In August 1995, *Franco-jeunes* hosted the *Festival jeunesse de l'Atlantique*, welcoming to Newfoundland some 125 young Francophones from all across Atlantic Canada.
- In the summer of 1995, the *Association francophone de Saint-Jean* organized an historical walking tour of the city of St. John's to showcase for tourists the rich, storied history of Avalon Francophones.

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

Federal-Provincial Cooperation

- Unable to obtain a French school, parents in Summerside filed suit against the province in November 1995 to secure French-language education for their children.

Since March 31, 1996

As a result of a decision on January 8, 1997 by the Supreme Court of Prince Edward Island, parents in the Summerside region are entitled to have their children educated in French.

- Thanks to the Canada-Prince Edward Island Agreement on the Promotion of Official Languages, there was an increase in the number and quality of provincial services provided in French in the regions most heavily populated by Francophones. The Health and Community Services Agency provided bilingual gerontology and extended care services in Prince County's three senior citizens' residences, as well as bilingual home care services in the East Prince and West Prince regions.
- The bilateral agreement on official languages in education allowed for the continued development of the *Collège de l'Acadie* campus in Prince Edward Island, which opened in 1994-95. The province's Acadian and French-speaking population now has access to the regular programs offered by the *Collège de l'Acadie*, the Francophone community college based in Nova Scotia.
- Of the province's 24,097 Anglophone students, 14,919 were enrolled in French second-language courses. A total of 3,481 students were enrolled in French immersion at the 27 schools offering this program.
- Prince Edward Island's Acadian and Francophone community, represented by the *Société Saint-Thomas d'Aquin*, concluded an agreement with Canada aimed at supporting the community's continued development. The agreement provides for avenues of strategic action to address future issues and community development; these avenues include communications, cultural and artistic development, economic and tourism development, education, health and social services.
- The *Carrefour de l'Isle-Saint-Jean* school/community centre is well rooted in the community of Charlottetown-Rustico. The community centre offers a very diversified cultural and social program along with daycare service and kindergarten. It also used its community facilities to generate income, enabling it to both maintain its existing services and activities and develop new ones.
- The *Fédération culturelle de l'Île-du-Prince-Édouard* handled preparations for the first *Gala de la chanson et de la musique*, showcasing the province's Acadian and Francophone artists, in an effort to promote Francophone music and the development of the province's artists. The Gala took place on June 2, 1996.



The musical group Barachois at Prince Edward Island's music festival

- The video *L'Acadie de l'Île*, produced by the *Musée acadien*, received excellent feedback from museum goers and an award for excellence from the Heritage Canada organization.

NOVA SCOTIA

Federal-Provincial Cooperation

- The agreement with Nova Scotia on the promotion of official languages enabled the province's only French-language newspaper, *Le Courrier de la Nouvelle-Écosse*, to make a fresh start by modernizing its equipment and informatics systems and adopting a three-year business plan aimed at enhancing its long-term financial independence. Each Acadian region is helping to develop markets, find news stories and obtain advertising.
- As part of the reform of Nova Scotia's school system announced in February 1995, the province held public consultations in the spring and summer of 1995 concerning proposed measures to implement Acadian and Francophone school management in Nova Scotia, including the establishment of a provincial Acadian school board.
- In 1996, all of Nova Scotia's French-language elementary, secondary and post-secondary schools were hooked up to an advanced interactive television network. The project, which has allowed these schools to break out of their isolation and maximize their resources, was made possible by a special agreement on school management implementation concluded between Canada and Nova Scotia in 1995.
- In August 1995, a committee charged with implementing the new provincial Acadian school board began work. At around the same time, Nova Scotia's Department of Education and Culture tabled its development plan for French school management.

- On October 23, 1995, the federal government and Nova Scotia signed a special agreement on school management, clearing the way for the implementation of school management and the establishment of refrancization programs and teacher training and development programs.
- Before officially proceeding with its school reform, the Department of Education and Culture tabled an education bill in the Nova Scotia legislature, which passed on January 8, 1996.
- Once the legislation was enacted, the province was able to move ahead with its school board restructuring plan.

Since March 31, 1996

In April 1996, the province's new Acadian school board was officially established in accordance with section 23 of the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*, and the members of its first governing council were appointed.

The Department of Education and Culture made it possible for a number of post-secondary students to obtain bursaries to improve their French, either as their first or as a second language. It also arranged for teachers to take training and development courses.

- The services of a French teacher were made available in Kings County to assist Francophone students at the R.C. Gordon school. The Dwight Ross school, also in Kings County, offered Grade 7 students a second-language program in social studies.

Community Development

- The *Conseil culturel acadien de la Nouvelle-Écosse*, in cooperation with other Nova Scotia community organizations such as the *Fédération acadienne de la Nouvelle-Écosse* and the *Conseil jeunesse provincial*, coordinated the participation of Acadian

artists in the show entitled *L'accessible étoile*, put on during the Halifax G7 economic summit in the summer of 1995.

- On October 6, 1995, Chéticamp's community radio station, CKJM, went on the air with 55 hours a week of local programming. Within six months, the station became the most listened-to in the region.



- In August 1995, Nova Scotia's Acadian community signed a four-year framework agreement with the Department of Canadian Heritage aimed at encouraging its development. Thanks to the agreement, a number of projects were carried out:

- In October 1995, the *Association des juristes d'expression française de la Nouvelle-Écosse* held its first annual general meeting. Over the course of the year, it carried out a research project to demonstrate the need to offer the Acadian population French-language legal services, and produced a series of plain language brochures on a variety of subjects. In addition, through its communication efforts, it convinced the province to allow Nova Scotia's non-profit organizations to incorporate in French.

- The *Fédération des parents acadiens de la Nouvelle-Écosse* undertook a three-year project aimed at maintaining the *Centre provincial de ressources préscolaires*. The project resulted from cooperation between the Department of Canadian Heritage, the *Centre provincial de ressources pédagogiques* and Nova Scotia's Department of Education and Culture.

NEW BRUNSWICK

Federal-Provincial Cooperation

- A subsidiary agreement growing out of the Canada-New Brunswick agreement on official languages in education was concluded on September 14 concerning the development of the *Centre international de la common law en français* of the *Université de Moncton*. Through activities in the areas of training, research, translation and legal documentation, as well as through exchanges and publications, the *Centre* will make available to the *Francophonie* the knowledge and expertise that have been acquired in the field of French common law. The agreement is for three years.

- Ceremonies were held on November 5, 1995 to inaugurate the *Pavillon Adrien-J.-Cormier*, the new wing of the *Université de Moncton* Law School. The School was created in 1978 in response to a pressing need to provide Canada's Francophones with common law legal training exclusively in French.



Pavillon Adrien-J.-Cormier at the École de droit, Université de Moncton

- The City of Moncton's language training program made it possible to increase the level of bilingualism among municipal employees and, in so doing, improve the provision of services to citizens in the official language of their choice.
- In order to encourage the use of French as a language of business, the *Société des Acadiens et Acadiennes du Nouveau-Brunswick* led a campaign to promote French signs in New Brunswick. The project came under a bilateral agreement on the promotion of official languages.

- Of the province's 90,444 Anglophone students, 74,259 were enrolled in French second-language courses. A total of 16,425 students were enrolled in French immersion at the 107 schools offering this program. Of the province's 44,356 Francophone students, 29,730 were enrolled in English second-language courses.
- The *Association des municipalités du Nouveau-Brunswick* sponsored the design of an information and continuing education program for New Brunswick's French-speaking municipal elected officials, providing them with training on the workings of municipal governments and the issues facing these governments in the 1990s.
- The implementation of the official languages program in several of New Brunswick's hospitals provided an opportunity to offer language courses to designated employees so they could serve Francophone clients in French.

Community Development

- New Brunswick's Acadian community, represented by the *Forum de concertation des organismes acadiens et francophones du Nouveau-Brunswick*, signed a Canada-community agreement on January 25, 1996 with the Department of Canadian Heritage. This four-year agreement will enable the Acadian community to enjoy a greater degree of autonomy and continue to develop in line with its own list of priorities. The agreement focuses on such activities as communications, arts and culture, the economy, education and human resources.
- The *Société des Acadiens et Acadiennes du Nouveau-Brunswick* issued a report entitled *L'Acadie, à l'heure des choix*, prepared under the direction of economist André

Leclerc. The study deals with the political and economic future of New Brunswick's Acadian community.

- A major fund-raising campaign was developed as part of the Fonds de l'avenir, created by the *Société des Acadiens et Acadiennes du Nouveau-Brunswick* to enable it to become more financially self-sufficient.
- The *Centre Assomption de recherche et de développement en entrepreneuriat*, the *Conseil économique du Nouveau-Brunswick*

and the Canadian Institute for Research on Regional Development joined forces to produce the *Synthèse des conférences économiques et des exercices de planification stratégique des communautés acadienne et francophone du Nouveau-Brunswick*. This synopsis contains a great deal of information on the socio-economic status of New Brunswick's Acadian community. The economic conferences dealt with in the synopsis took place between 1989 and 1994.

QUEBEC

Federal-Provincial Cooperation

- In a second five-year Canada-Quebec agreement, the federal government covered part of the expenses incurred by Quebec for the implementation of measures aimed at providing English-speaking persons with access to health and social services in their own language. According to this agreement, Quebec undertook projects in the areas of coordination, translation, volunteer training, as well as information, counselling and referral for the Anglophone community.
- New activities for the Anglophone community were carried out under the bilateral agreement on official languages in education:
 - instructional development in English aimed at analyzing the needs of the schools (use of new technologies) and improving the curricula (evaluation tools);

- school accountability through action research with McGill University to enable the schools to gather and analyze data on student outcomes;
- ongoing training and development for English first-language teachers, one of the objectives being the establishment of a provincial teachers' network.
- At the Lakeshore School Board, a new treatment centre for students with serious behavioural and reading difficulties was established under the Canada-Quebec agreement on official languages in education. A multidisciplinary team analyzes the students referred to the centre, develops a treatment plan, assesses their progress and participates in the development plan. The team helps teachers and administrators deal more effectively with crisis situations and day-to-day behavioural problems.

- The Grosse-Île English primary and secondary school in the Magdalen Islands completed its expansion project by refitting antiquated space and adding two new classrooms as well as a storage area.

Since March 31, 1996

The 110 students of the Grosse-Île English primary and secondary school celebrated the opening of the new facilities in September 1996.

Community Development

The Quebec Farmers' Association began the first stage of a two-part distance education project in which they conducted a comparative survey of English- and French-language distance education programs currently being offered in Quebec and the rest of Canada.

In stage two, it will carry out a needs assessment of current and future users in Quebec to promote the development of this increasingly important academic sector.

- The Quebec Young Farmers' Provincial Federation produced a youth leadership kit to further the use of leadership training materials in workshops at local and regional levels, and hosted a provincial forum to establish a long-term rural program on this subject.



Leadership conference of the Quebec Young Farmers' Provincial Federation

- With departmental assistance, Alliance Quebec conducted two projects designed to improve access to legal and health-care information for members of the English-speaking community in the province. In one case, it produced a general legal directory that provides a comprehensive listing of existing information and services and, in the other, it compiled a series of distinctive profiles in eight administrative regions identifying the health needs of the English-speaking elderly.

The Federation of English-speaking Writers of Quebec, together with the Association of English Publishers of Quebec, set up a full-scale central library project. Using the Atwater Library in Montreal as a central location, they collected the works of Quebec English-speaking writers and promoted the collection extensively throughout the province.

- For the third consecutive year, Outaouais Alliance organized a planning and priority session for representatives from the regional association network, whose goal was to draft action plans for cooperative ventures in terms of advocacy, youth employment, and improved delivery of legal and health-care services in English.
- Under the Canada-community agreement with Quebec, client groups launched a series of initiatives to help them diversify their funding sources. They undertook one study on the benefits that non-profit organizations could derive from adopting a market-driven approach (Alliance Quebec), another on the financial challenges and opportunities that face organizations operating in the voluntary sector (Quebec Farmers' Association), and a third on provincial government programs that might be of assistance for project purposes (Quebec Association for Adult Learning).
- The Voice of English Quebec created a central demographic data system on Quebec Anglophones that can generate up-to-date information on the predominant characteristics of the communities that the groups represent. In addition, Alliance Quebec conducted a survey to evaluate the needs of current and potential markets so that it would be in a better position to provide suitable products or services to these markets, thereby strengthening their case for support with donors or sponsors.

ONTARIO

Federal-Provincial Cooperation

- In February 1996, the Ontario School Board Reduction Task Force (Sweeney Task Force) presented Ontario's Ministry of Education with its report, calling for, among other things, the creation of 15 French school boards to replace the 77 French-language boards, sections and advisory committees currently in place.

Since March 31, 1996

In January 1997, the Government of Ontario announced the creation of seven new French school boards, on top of the four existing ones.

- As of September 1995, all Franco-Ontarians have been able to pursue their college studies in French. The French-language college system in Ontario was made possible by cooperation between the Department of Canadian Heritage and the province. In September 1995, the *Collège des Grands Lacs*, which serves the central and south-western region, *Collège Boréal* and its six satellite campuses in Northern Ontario, and the *Cité collégiale* in Ottawa welcomed the first students in their new facilities.

Since March 31, 1996

On March 20, 1997, the Minister of Canadian Heritage, the Minister of Public Works and Government Services and the Minister of Industry announced a federal contribution to the *Collège Boréal* to meet its requirements relating to the purchase of equipment.

- During the 1995-96 school year, this network of colleges boasted an enrolment of nearly 5,000 post-secondary students, exceeding the figures that had been forecast. The statistics break down as follows: *Cité collégiale*, 3,400; *Collège Boréal*, 1,500; and *Collège des Grands Lacs*, 100.

- Under the bilateral agreement on official languages in education, a project was undertaken to examine the restructuring of French public education in the Greater Toronto Area. The project was initiated by the French-language advisory committees of Durham, Peel and York Region and by the Metropolitan Toronto French school board, in association with the Greater Toronto and Metropolitan Toronto English public school boards. The purpose of the study is to put in place a new structure that would ensure the delivery of improved French public educational programs and services and their management by and for Greater Toronto's Francophones. The final report should be tabled in 1997.

- The Department of Canadian Heritage, in cooperation with the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, supported the establishment and operation of Francophone farm management cooperatives. Thanks to a partnership with the *Union des cultivateurs franco-ontariens* and participating farmers, two management groups (in the Eastern Ontario and Temiskaming areas) were set up.

- In cooperation with the *Office des affaires francophones*, the Department helped carry out a micro-marketing project aimed at increasing the cost-effectiveness and self-sufficiency of Francophone community organizations by equipping them with customized promotional tools. With the help of a computer program, the organizations can target population segments geographically or according to specific socio-economic characteristics.

- Community profiles were established with support from the Department and the *Office des affaires francophones*. These profiles, developed by the *Office*, focus on demographic features, marital and family status,

the rate of assimilation, education, employment income and participation in Ontario's Francophone labour force. Comparisons are made with the general population of Ontario in order to highlight the relative situation of the province's Francophones.

- The Department of Canadian Heritage and the Ministry of Community and Social Services provided support for the *Better Beginnings* project, aimed at developing and organizing educational and social activities for Francophone youngsters and families living in the Cornwall region. Families are provided with information on childhood development and on the services and resources that are available.

Community Development

- Four Ottawa theatres (*Théâtre du Trillium*, *Théâtre de la Vieille 17*, *Vox Théâtre* and *La Catapulte*) concluded an agreement to purchase the *Atelier* of the National Arts Centre. The agreement will enable the Ottawa region to establish a Francophone theatre centre.



- The *Théâtre du Nouvel-Ontario* and *Collège Boréal* signed a partnership agreement for the construction, on the Collège's main campus in Sudbury, of a theatre production centre. The centre is scheduled to open in September 1997.
- The *Association canadienne-française de l'Ontario (Huronie)*, the *Centre d'activités françaises* and *Radio-Huronie* agreed to merge into a single representative organization, the *Clé d'la Baie*. This amalgamation will help channel the community's efforts and reduce expenditures.

- A veritable symbol of Franco-Ontarians' struggle against Regulation 17, *École Guigues* is becoming the *Centre de jour Guigues*, a multi-purpose centre for Ottawa-Carleton's French-speaking senior citizens.

Since March 31, 1996

The *Coalition pour le développement et l'épanouissement de la communauté franco-ontarienne et des minorités raciales francophones de l'Ontario*, an umbrella group representing some 70 Franco-Ontarian organizations, signed a Canada-community agreement with the Department on December 18, 1996.

The first *Mondial de l'entreprenariat jeunesse* took place in Ottawa in September 1996. The event, organized by *Direction-jeunesse* and the *Forum Ontario/Francophonie mondiale*, gave young entrepreneurs in 26 Francophone countries an opportunity to conduct transactions, exchange ideas and network.

In September 1996, the Kingston school/community centre welcomed the students of the Marie-Rivier secondary school and community organizations to its new facility.

Since September 1996, cable TV viewers in New Brunswick have been able to watch TFO, the only French-language educational channel outside Quebec.



Canadian Heritage Minister Sheila Copps signing the Canada-community agreement with Ontario's Francophone community

Federal-Provincial Cooperation

- Following the renewal of the Canada-Manitoba agreement on the promotion of official languages in March 1995, several initiatives were carried out with the province of Manitoba to develop French services for the Franco-Manitoban community, including: developing French-language health-care services in the 21 institutions designated officially bilingual by the province; establishing bilingual libraries in bilingual municipalities; providing support for a French day-care centre in Notre-Dame-de-Lourdes; expanding the services of the *Centre de ressources éducatives à l'enfance* to designated rural regions; and making French services available in the City of Winnipeg.
 - In addition, the province of Manitoba and the federal government pledged to co-fund the construction of the *Centre du patrimoine franco-manitobain*. A subsidiary agreement was signed by the two governments in March 1996, confirming both parties' support for the project. The *Centre* will house archival documents and historical objects, while offering the population exhibits and workshops on Francophone heritage. The *Centre* will be attached to the *Centre culturel franco-manitobain* and managed by the *Société historique de Saint-Boniface*.
 - New initiatives were carried out under the bilateral agreement on official languages in education, including the following:
 - the professional development project *À cause d'une langue* aimed at creating a professional development model for teachers in Manitoba's French schools;
 - the development of the instructional tool *Sacs de trésors* for the immersion program at the H.L. Softley school, to enable English-speaking parents to help their children learn French and take part in the learning process;
 - the development of a variety of courseware for computer-assisted interactive learning at River East Collegiate, to integrate technology into second-language learning;
 - an activities day aimed at introducing the author Gabrielle Roy to students in their early teens, organized in cooperation with the *Centre culturel franco-manitobain*, the Winnipeg Art Gallery and the *Cercle Molière*; the hosts of the event welcomed pre-secondary students in October 1995.
- With specific reference to French-language post-secondary education at the *Collège universitaire Saint-Boniface*, the following projects were carried out:
- language upgrading and development measures for students;
 - development and implementation of a tele-marketing and teleservice program;
 - development of the theatre company, student radio station and student newspaper;
 - access by the *Collège* to the Internet and installation of community networking infrastructure;
 - support to the *Centre des études franco-canadiennes de l'Ouest* for the organization of its annual colloquium and the publication of its review, *Les cahiers du CEFCO*.

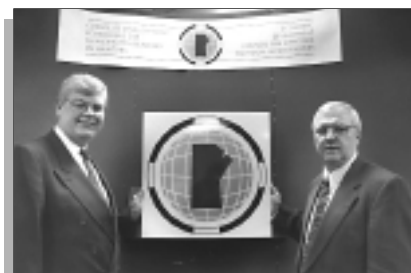
- The Franco-Manitoban School Division (FMSD) was in its second year of operation. At the beginning of the school year in September 1995, *École Laurier* became the province's 21st French-language school. During the 1995-96 school year, 21 school committees were established.
- Initiatives undertaken in 1995-96 include the establishment by the FMSD of a refrancization program for *ayants droit* (children entitled to French-language education) under section 23 of the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms* and the creation of new computerized laboratories in several secondary schools.
- The FMSD and the community organizations cooperated on a number of projects. In the fall of 1995, the *Fédération provinciale des comités de parents* and the FMSD teamed up to raise parents' awareness of their role in school management. This parent training and awareness initiative was carried out in connection with a project called *La communauté et l'école*. The *Fédération* continued with its refrancization program for *ayants droit* at the preschool level in cooperation with the FMSD and the Department of Education, as part of the bilateral agreement. The FMSD is cooperating with the *Festival du Voyageur*, the provincial youth council and the *100 Nons*, a youth group that promotes French-language songs and music, to stage concerts in the schools.

Community Development

- When it signed a Canada-community agreement, the Franco-Manitoban community made a commitment to review its structures and priorities in order to get the most out of the resources available under the agreement. In the spring of 1995, it embarked on a year of transition, with the aim of thoroughly reviewing its funding and structures, establishing a profile of its members and setting

specific development priorities. This exercise also enabled the community to restructure itself, in order to put in place a joint committee to represent the community rather than its organizations.

- Five major priorities emerged: economic development; community training; standards for living in French; community networking; and cultural and artistic development. These priorities led to projects such as: the establishment of the *Conseil de développement économique des municipalités bilingues du Manitoba*; the development of a heritage centre; the creation of a network to link up the various communities; the development of the *Radio communautaire du Manitoba*; and the development of the *Centre de ressources éducatives à l'enfance en milieu rural*.



Unveiling of the logo of the Conseil de développement économique des municipalités bilingues du Manitoba by Maurice McCarthy, Industrial Commissioner, and Raymond Poirier, President

- Also in 1995-96, the community launched the project *Destination Saint-Boniface*, under the auspices of the *Chambre de commerce francophone de Saint-Boniface*, in order to revitalize Winnipeg's Francophone district. *Destination Saint-Boniface* comprises over 30 initiatives and received support under a tripartite agreement on Winnipeg tourism development. The project is aimed at revitalizing Provencher Boulevard, in the heart of Saint-Boniface, developing tourist trails, and creating parks along the banks of the Seine and Rouge Rivers, thereby showcasing the area's rich heritage.

SASKATCHEWAN

Federal-Provincial Cooperation

- Saskatchewan continued carrying out capital projects related to school management. Four Fransaskois communities officially opened their new school facilities during the year. The French-speaking communities of Bellegarde and Gravelbourg proudly inaugurated their schools on November 10 and 11, 1995, respectively. A few days later, the Francophones of Saskatoon inaugurated the new facilities of the *École canadienne française de Saskatoon*. The province also undertook construction and renovation projects in schools in St-Isidore de Bellevue and Vonda.
- A number of projects were carried out under the agreement on official languages in education, including:
 - creation of a distance education network for immersion schools and Francophone schools;
 - the *Projet éducatif* of the parents' committees and the *Association provinciale des parents fransaskois*, which promotes the cultural integration and refrancization of Francophone students;
 - development of training instruments and workshops on curriculum and teaching methods for teachers of French immersion and core French, and teachers in Fransaskois schools.
- In 1995, Ferland became the ninth community with Francophone school management in Saskatchewan. The *Conseil général des écoles fransaskoises* approved a pilot project for a French education program in Ferland. The school is under the jurisdiction of the *Conseil scolaire La Vieille* in Gravelbourg.

- Officials from the Department of Canadian Heritage, the Saskatchewan departments of Education and Justice and the office of the Provincial Secretary met in Regina on June 29 to review the implementation of Canada-Saskatchewan agreements on official languages. In addition to taking stock of accomplishments, participants in the meeting discussed avenues of cooperation under the agreements which should be explored before the agreements expire on March 31, 1998.

Community Development

- Prince Albert Francophones celebrated the culmination of more than ten years of work on February 14, 1996 with the official opening of *Le Carrefour fransaskois*, the first school/community centre in Saskatchewan. The project was made possible by financial support from the federal and provincial governments.
- Management of *Les Éditions Louis-Riel* held a strategic planning meeting in Regina on June 22 to consider ways to improve the company's financial position, expand its customer base, and continue publishing the works of Fransaskois writers and authors.
- Fransaskois from around the province and elsewhere met in St-Isidore de Bellevue to celebrate the 16th *Fête fransaskoise*, which was a resounding success. The numerous activities included celebration of the 20th anniversary



of *Camp Voyageur*, a vacation camp for
Francophone children in

Community Development



The Jeux francophones de l'Ouest in Edmonton

- Over 200 young athletes from the four western provinces and the Yukon competed in the first *Jeux francophones de l'Ouest*, held in Edmonton from June 30 to July 3, 1995.
- *Francophonie jeunesse de l'Alberta* developed a full-featured computer application for managing use of volunteers. This application is now available to all Francophone organizations.
- The *Fédération des aînés francophones*, in collaboration with Health Canada and the Department of Canadian Heritage, has developed two series of training sessions for senior citizens: *Viellir en santé* and *La vie continue*. Six sessions were held in 10 regions of the province.
- The *Centre d'éducation communautaire de l'Alberta* carried out a pilot project in the Calgary area designed to facilitate the integration of mixed couples into the Francophone community. Two similar projects are planned for Saint-Paul, Plamondon and Bonnyville-Cold Lake.
- The Edmonton chapter of the *Association canadienne-française de l'Alberta* organized the *Fête franco-albertaine* in Beaumont. The event had a significant impact on the town: Beaumont has since officially become bilingual.
- *Unithéâtre* has developed a drama training program for schools and cultural groups in outlying areas.
- A sub-committee of the *Association canadienne-française de l'Alberta* prepared an action plan on tourism development potential in Franco-Albertan communities.
- The *Association canadienne-française de l'Alberta*, in collaboration with the *Faculté Saint-Jean* and the *Centre d'éducation communautaire de l'Alberta*, organized a first conference with a view to writing the history of Francophones in Alberta at the general and local levels.
- The *Association des juristes d'expression française de l'Alberta* conducted a study of Franco-Albertans to determine their awareness of their rights as Francophones and to gather information on how they use those rights and why.

Since March 31, 1996

Rivière-la-Paix community radio station CKRP-FM went on the air on October 28, 1996.

BRITISH COLUMBIA

Federal-Provincial Cooperation

- In the summer of 1995, the Government of British Columbia created a Francophone school board by regulatory means; the trustees were appointed in December 1995 and sworn in in January 1996. The school board was provisionally endorsed by the *Association des parents francophones de la Colombie-Britannique*, although the regulations are not fully satisfactory in light of section 23 of the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*.

Since March 31, 1996

Legal action was taken to obtain amendments to the regulations and a ruling in favour of the *Association des parents* was handed down in July 1996. The Supreme Court called for amendments to British Columbia's *School Act* to meet *Charter* requirements under section 23. It also ruled that the number of children entitled to French-language education warrants giving the Francophone minority the right to manage its schools and control school curricula and facilities.

On March 19, 1997, Canada and British Columbia signed a three-year agreement providing financial assistance for the establishment of a Francophone education authority in British Columbia.

As a result of the bilateral agreement on official languages in education, a number of initiatives were undertaken:

- the *Mesures d'accueil* project, intended for students in the *Programme cadre de français* who require additional French-language skills participate fully in regular classroom activities;
- regional in-service sessions and support materials developed for Francophone teachers and parents in multi-age classroom situations;

- socio-cultural activities for French immersion students organized by Canadian Parents for French, including French family camps, the *Semaine française*, a public speaking contest, and cultural activities in 47 school districts;
- the establishment of a stand-alone school dedicated to *Programme cadre de français* students in the Powell River School District;
- the translation, printing and distribution of the publication entitled *Career and Personal Planning 8 to 12 - A Resource Package for Schools*, a comprehensive resource manual that provides teachers, students and administrators the necessary information to implement the new provincial curriculum.

- The 1995-96 school year marks the first year of implementation of the Ministry of Education policy which makes study of a second language compulsory in grades 5 through 8 in all British Columbia schools. The policy provides that it is up to the school district to choose the second language. If the school district does not specify a choice, the second language taught will be French.

Community Development

- The Canada-community agreement between the Department of Canadian Heritage and the Francophone community of British Columbia, represented by the *Fédération des francophones de la Colombie-Britannique*, was signed in March 1996. The strategic issues identified by the community were institutionalization, human resources training and management, networking and visibility, partnership and alliance-building, culture, pride and identity.

- The *Fédération des francophones de la Colombie-Britannique* celebrated its 50th anniversary in the company of its 30-odd member associations and representatives of several federal and provincial government departments. At its October conference, the organization, which speaks for the Francophone community of British Columbia, unveiled its overall development plan for the 1995-2000 period. The plan had been put together over the year based on a series of regional and sectoral consultations, and served as the basis for the negotiations on the Canada-community agreement ratified in March 1996.

- The *Association des parents francophones de la Colombie-Britannique* celebrated its 15th anniversary in October. Its convention,



held together with its annual general meeting, was conducted under the theme *L'École au coeur de la communauté*. One of the questions discussed at the convention was how to spread this vision of the school as the heart of the community, and how to foster a vigorous social and cultural life within the school, so that it becomes a meeting place of talents and ideas, open to all generations. The Francophone population of British Columbia now has a school and pre-school system covering 25 school districts.

- The *Festival Théâtre-Jeunesse de Colombie-Britannique* was held in Gibsons, on the Sunshine Coast. More than 150 people took part in the event. Students in the immersion program and in the French program performed plays before a jury. First prizes went to the Millside elementary school in Coquitlam and the Mission high school.

- At the French theatre gathering held in Ottawa in the spring of 1996, Vancouver's *Troupe de la Seizième* signed a contract for 80 performances of its play *Le petit prince* in Ontario from January to May, 1997.

- The Maillardville *Festival du Bois*, which pays tribute to the Francophone pioneers who came to work in the logging industry at the beginning of the century, drew thousands of visitors this year. A triathlon consisting of a foot race, a canoe race and a sawing contest was a great success. The festival makes an important economic and touristic contribution to the municipality of Maillardville/Coquitlam.



The Festival du bois in Maillardville

- Despite experiencing financial difficulties, *La Boussole*, an organization which serves needy Francophones on Vancouver's east side, has now found its stride. With help from *Éducacentre* and financial support from the Department of Canadian Heritage, *La Boussole* will continue to offer drop-in, interpreting and popular education services for those in this downtown area. In December, the generous support of students in the hospitality program at Vancouver Community College made it possible to serve Christmas dinner to a hundred people.

Federal-Territorial Cooperation

- A referendum on the creation of a French-language school board was held in the Yukon on June 7, 1995. The results speak for themselves: 65 parents voted for the new school board and 18 voted against. On December 4, the five trustees who had been elected by acclamation were sworn in at a ceremony in the presence of the Minister of Education.

Since March 31, 1996

The new school board, the first in the Yukon, started operating on June 30, 1996 and proceeded to hire a general manager.



Kristiane Sormany-Albert, the first graduate of the École Émilie-Tremblay, with Mavis Fisher, Superintendent

- In addition to classrooms, *École Émilie-Tremblay* has a gym, a library, a computer lab, and an arts and music room.

Since March 31, 1996

About 110 students, in kindergarten through Grade 12, are attending the new facility, which was officially inaugurated on September 12, 1996. The school produced its first Grade 12 graduate in June 1996.

- A number of initiatives were undertaken under the Canada-Yukon agreement on the development, improvement and implementation of French-language rights and services (1993-94 to 1997-98), such as:
 - development of French-language services with the Yukon hospital board;
 - delivery of services in French at the motor vehicle bureau;
 - production of educational material on the gold rush in French;
 - improvement of French-language content in Yukon public libraries;
 - production of travel brochures and tourist information signs;
 - trials in French and other efforts related to legal proceedings.

Community Development

- On March 29, 1996, a Canada-community agreement was signed with the Francophone community of the Yukon, represented by the *Association franco-yukonnaise*.
- To involve and better represent the Francophone community of Dawson, a representative of that town now sits on the Board of the *Association franco-yukonnaise*.
- For the first time, the *Espoir-Jeunesse* group received funding from the *Association franco-yukonnaise* for its activities. The group adopted a mission and decided to focus its efforts on recreational activities for local Francophones and Francophiles, with the help of a part-time organizer.

- In 1995, Whitehorse hosted the National Science Fair. The *Association franco-yukonnaise* played an important role in the organization and conduct of this national event (e.g. Francophone jury members, Francophone guides for guided tours).

- *Les EssentiElles* prepared a five-year plan and worked more closely with majority-language groups in activities involving women.



NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

Federal-Territorial Cooperation

- The purpose of the Canada-Northwest Territories Cooperation Agreement, signed in March 1995, is to support and reinforce French and Aboriginal languages in the Northwest Territories. The Agreement enables the territorial government to deliver various services and programs in French to Francophone communities and to preserve, promote and strengthen Aboriginal languages.

- Within the framework of the Canada-Northwest Territories agreement on official languages in education, the following projects and activities were undertaken:

- library material was purchased for three immersion schools;
- curricular materials, including the FSL teacher's guide and the civics program for students in grades 1 to 6, were translated and revised;
- instructional assistants were hired to help with students with little or no previous instruction in French as a second language;
- French educational CD-ROMs, diskettes and video cassettes were purchased;

- one French module in Career and Technology Studies was developed.

- Parents are not convinced that their rights with respect to the management of schools are adequately recognized in the new *School Act*, passed on June 25, 1995 (the regulations came into force in July 1996). Parents are of the view that too much is left to the discretion of the Minister or that of majority-language educational institutions.

Since March 31, 1996

The first summit conference on French education in the Northwest Territories was held in Yellowknife on November 21 to 23, 1996. The issue of full control over school management was dealt with. A request for the creation of a territorial school board will probably be submitted to the Department of Education. If it is turned down, legal action could follow.

- Parents in Iqaluit elected their first school board in January 1996. A French program from kindergarten through Grade 7 is being offered in three classrooms in the Inuit English-language Nakasuk school.
- Yellowknife parents have had a school board since February 1996. By-elections were held in September 1995. A French program from kindergarten through Grade 9 is offered in six portable classrooms at *École Allain Saint-Cyr*. The two school boards are working together to obtain full management con-

trol and acquire adequate, separate premises for their schools.

- Northwest Territories school trustees attended a training session on school management in Iqaluit in December 1995.

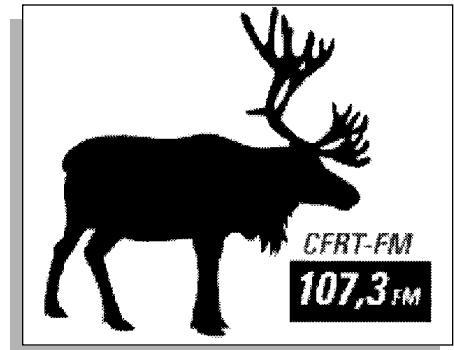
Community Development

- On November 4, 1995, the *Fédération franco-ténoise* signed a Canada-community agreement on behalf of the Francophone community of the Northwest Territories. The agreement covers a four-year period (1995 to 1999) and will enable the community to develop activities in spheres such as culture, education, refrancization and economic development.
- The *Grand Nord* project was launched. It will enable the community to increase its self-financing capabilities by setting up four corporations, which will operate in the areas of communications, marketing, and tourism research and development. *Grand Nord* hired a general manager in September 1996, and the firm *Boréal Consultants* has already landed its first contracts.
- During the *Semaine de la Francophonie*, the Francophone associations of Fort Smith and Yellowknife held sugaring off parties; the duo *L'envolée* went on tour, giving a number of performances in Yellowknife, Fort Smith and Hay River; and a puppet show was staged in French, English and Inuktitut for children and parents in Iqaluit.

- The *Fondation franco-ténoise* launched the *Au-delà du 60^e parallèle* literary award. Writing workshops were held in various communities to encourage submissions. Awards were handed out in the children's and adult categories.

- The territorial government introduced a language promotion award to recognize the efforts of those who are dedicated to promoting their language. In March 1996, Suzanne Lefebvre of Iqaluit won the award for promotion of the French language.

- CFRT, the community radio station of the *Association francophone d'Iqaluit*, offers the Iqaluit community daily programming in French. The *Association franco-culturelle de Yellowknife* produces a program called *À propos d'autre chose*, providing one hour of French-language programming per week, with plans to expand to two hours in the fall of 1996.



- *La Bottine souriante* gave an outdoor concert in Yellowknife in July 1995.

B. On the national scene

A number of important activities that took place in 1995-96 were national in scope and did not involve specific regions of Canada to the exclusion of others. These activities involved Canada's official-language minority communities in a number of areas, including

education, economics, communications and culture. Provided below are brief descriptions of these activities; others are included in the sections "Promotion of Linguistic Duality" and "Information Highway."

Federal-Provincial/Territorial Cooperation

- The second federal-provincial/territorial meeting of ministers responsible for official languages and services to official-language minorities was held in Winnipeg, Manitoba on February 15-16, 1996. This forum, which is now held regularly, focuses on sharing information and expertise related to minority-language services. Projects to pool existing resources, create an information network on the Internet and carry out exchanges between majority and minority communities were discussed. These projects will contribute to recognition of official-language minority communities as an asset to Canadian society.
- Negotiations with the Council of Ministers of Education, Canada, with a view to concluding a new *Protocol of agreement on minority-language education and second-language instruction* continued in 1995-96. The previous Protocol, which expired in 1993, established the conditions of federal support to the provinces and territories for retaining and developing minority-language education and second-language instruction programs. In the absence of a Protocol, the Department concluded bilateral agreements with each province and territory again this year to continue extending support under the Official Languages in Education Program.

Since March 31, 1996

One of the main projects that resulted from the Winnipeg meeting was a series of regional economic forums (held in Manitoba for the West, in New Brunswick for the Atlantic provinces, and in Ontario). These were followed by the first *Forum national des gens d'affaires et des élus municipaux francophones du Canada*: over 300 elected municipal officials and business people met in Ville Saint-Georges in Quebec's Beauce region from October 31 to November 3, 1996. The purpose of the forum was to highlight the economic vitality of all the regions' Francophone communities and help them develop business ties with each other. This project was carried out with the support of various federal and provincial government departments, the Manitoba Association of Bilingual Municipalities, and the Beauce-Sartigan regional county municipality in Quebec.

Since March 31, 1996

A new Protocol was ratified by the Honourable Sheila Copps, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Canadian Heritage, and the Honourable Gordon MacInnis, Chair of the Council of Ministers of Education, Canada and Minister of Education of Prince Edward Island on September 30, 1996. The new Protocol covers the 1993-94 to 1997-98 period.

Several nation-wide projects relating to

Second-Language Instruction

English or French second-language instruction were carried out in 1995-96. Here are a few examples:

Bilingual Higgins Makes First Hit

It didn't take Matt Higgins long to win over Canadiens fans - not to mention the French media - after being the team's first pick ... at yesterday's National Hockey League entry draft in St. Louis. After donning the Habs' bleu, blanc et rouge, Higgins - a 6-foot-2, 175-pound centre with the Western Hockey League's Moose Jaw Warriors - went to meet the press. When he opened his mouth, the words came out en français, leaving the French media with a few puzzled looks. After all, this is a kid who hails from Vernon, B.C.

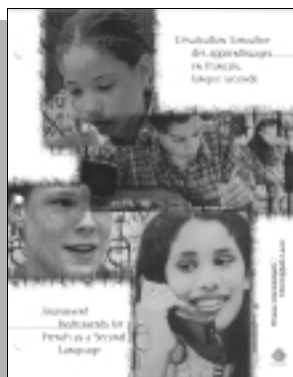
"I took French immersion from Grade 1 to 11 in Vernon", Higgins told The Gazette, in a telephone interview. "It paid off." Sure did. Making a good impression with the French media in this city doesn't hurt"

(The Gazette, Montreal, June 23, 1996)

The Canadian Association of Second Language

- Teachers began its three-year National Core French Assessment Project by developing a prototype instrument which will serve as a reference document in formative evaluation by teachers of core French at the intermediate level (grades 7 to 9 with at least three years of previous French instruction). Beginner and advanced levels will be developed

in the next two years.



The Association promoted its leadership in the field of second-language education for the last 25 years through a silver anniversary special publication. It included the achievements, history and evolution of second-language teaching as a Canadian success story.

- The Canadian Modern

Language Review publishes literary, linguistic and pedagogical articles, book reviews and other materials of interest to administrators, language teaching and learning. The publication also includes: a calendar of international, national and provincial educational events; articles aimed at teachers; and practical ideas and suggestions to enhance second-language learning, items of educational interest, book reviews and biographical notes on article contributors.

- Simon Fraser University began a comparative study of language immersion approaches around the world. The study aims to show that immersion programs in other countries are often modelled on the Canadian approach. In the first year of this two-year project, a questionnaire was prepared, data was gathered, and the most relevant cases were selected for more detailed analysis.

Since March 31, 1996

Nearly 130 researchers, academics, teachers and provincial education officials attended a Symposium on the Canadian experience in the teaching of official languages on May 22 and 23 in Ottawa. They began by taking stock of minority-language education and second-language instruction in Canada over the past 25 years. Participants then considered the challenges our country faces as a world leader in language instruction at the dawn of the 21st century.

The following topics were discussed by panels of experts and, in some cases, in workshops: the social stakes of English and French teaching in Canada over the past 25 years, evolution of the school/community/family linkages, major trends in the teaching of French and English as second languages, the challenges of English and French teaching in a minority situation, teacher training on the eve of the 21st century, and the impact of globalization and technology on language learning.

Community Development and Cooperation with National Francophone Organizations

Numerous activities of a national scope were carried out in 1995-1996 with the support of the Department of Canadian Heritage by national organizations working for the

advancement of Francophone communities in Canada. A number of examples of these efforts are listed below, organized by sphere of activity.

Associations and Strategies

- Within the framework of the repositioning begun in 1994, negotiations with a view to concluding a Canada-community type agreement led to the signing of a four-year agreement (1995-96 to 1998-99) with the 18 national Francophone organizations on February 9, 1996. The system set up guarantees the national organizations long-term funding and a larger role in the decision-making process.

The agreement provides for a formal meeting to be held each year at which the signatory national organizations will meet to identify the common challenges, strategic goals and development priorities of Francophone communities at the national level. A joint committee composed of representatives of the Department and the organizations is responsible for administering the agreement and making a proposal to the Minister of Canadian Heritage for the allocation of the funds provided in the agreement.

The *Fédération des communautés francophones et acadienne du Canada* (FCFA) will chair the formal meeting of the organizations and co-chair the joint committee for the first two years of the agreement.

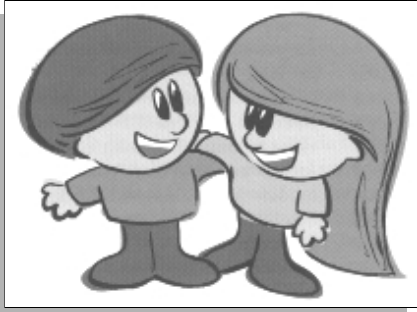
- The FCFA conducted a major promotional campaign - *Un million de voix ... ça porte loin !* - which aimed to raise majority language groups' awareness of the existence of Francophone and Acadian communities, to

highlight their concrete contributions to Canadian society in the economic, political and cultural spheres, and to present their view of the future. The *Hart Rouge* group from Saskatchewan and provincial spokespersons conveyed messages in the electronic and print media.

- The *Comité d'adaptation des ressources humaines de la francophonie canadienne*, sponsored by the FCFA and the *Conseil canadien de la coopération*, submitted its master plan to the Minister of Human Resources Development in August 1995. The plan contains recommendations preceded by a statistical and socio-economic analysis of the main Francophone regions in Canada. It puts forward a model for local economic development and labour adjustment for the benefit of Francophone communities in Canada. A *Comité national de développement des ressources humaines de la francophonie canadienne* consisting of community representatives and Department of Human Resources Development officials is being set up.

Education

- The *Commission nationale des parents francophones* (CNPf) produced 1,000 copies of the *Modèle de francisation* kit, which contains teaching materials designed for the francization of pre-school children from mixed marriages in which English predominates. The story of the two main characters, Paul and Suzanne, is used to make learning



Paul and Suzanne, stars of the CNPF's
Modèle de francisation

French a game. The children learn a vocabulary of 4,000 to 5,000 words from an audiocassette of songs and 2,000 pictures in 20 colourful, large-format books. The kit also includes guides and videocassettes for parents, educators and teachers. It could reach

40,000 children. The kit will be useful both at the pre-school level and in the lower grades and transition classes in French schools.

The CNPF's *Module d'expertise*, a committee of legal experts, considered the nature of and potential for constitutional reparation under section 23 of the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*, the right to equivalence in education, and the right to additional costs. In addition, legal opinions and analyses of rulings were obtained with respect to the Northwest Territories bill, the *Public Schools Act* and the situation at *École Laurier* and *École St-Claude* in Manitoba, the situation at *École St-Edmond* in Windsor, Ontario, the bill affecting school management in Nova Scotia, and the constitutional amendments requested by Newfoundland.

A *Fonds national de francisation* was created by the CNPF for purposes of self-financing. In the future, it will fund special projects related to the learning of French by the children of eligible parents under section 23 of the *Charter*.

- The *Réseau des cégeps et collèges francophones du Canada* is setting up a virtual network to promote information sharing among colleges, establish discussion forums for staff, and showcase French-language college education. A conference on new information

technologies and communications gave principals and presidents an opportunity to discuss the use of technology in colleges.

Since March 31, 1996

On November 1, 1996, at the *Forum national des gens d'affaires et des élus municipaux francophones du Canada*, the *Cégep Beauce-Appalaches* signed two cooperation agreements with two Ontario colleges - *Collège Boréal* in Sudbury and *La Cité collégiale* in Ottawa - on curriculum development, the harmonization of vocational and technical training programs, and the sharing of expertise in continuous and customized training.

- The *Association canadienne d'éducation de langue française* (ACELF) published two issues of the journal *Éducation et francophonie*. The first was entitled *L'éducation interculturelle en francophonie canadienne* and the second *Inforoutes et éducation*. Under the *Programme d'échanges à l'intention des élèves francophones*, eight Quebec schools were twinned with eight French-language schools outside Quebec, and 258 students shared their cultural wealth with each other. The ACELF convention was held in August 1995 under the theme *École, famille, communauté : partenariat et complémentarité*. Discussion centred on the ties that French-language schools can forge in local communities.

In partnership with universities, ACELF organized four regional symposiums on French schools and cultural identity in order to examine the school's role and responsibilities, and to identify the means by which teaching staff can pass on French culture and the resources they need to do so. Between 25 and 40 educators attended each symposium.

The *Fédération canadienne pour l'alphabétisation en français* (FCAF) celebrated its fifth anniversary in the spring of 1996. It honoured its founders by presenting them with plaques and *Étoile* trophies. The Department of Canadian Heritage received an award in recognition of its support. The event also featured a cultural evening. Daniel Lavoie, special literacy ambassador, charmed the audience with his songs, including one he had written to pay tribute to literacy educators.

After five years of existence, the FCAF assessed its relevance, its effectiveness and response to its efforts. The results were strongly positive. Among other things, the FCAF's national character emerged as a clear advantage which allows synergy among the literacy movements in Francophone and Acadian communities and Quebec.

- In October 1995, the *Réseau national d'action éducation femmes* organized the fifth *Semaine nationale de l'éducation des femmes francophones*. A new poster was mounted on wood and presented to the Minister of Canadian Heritage. The week featured exhibitions, panel discussions and conferences in all the provinces.
- The *Fédération de la jeunesse canadienne-français*

A workshop on self-financing was offered at the annual meeting in order to help professional Francophone theatre companies operating in a minority environment broaden their knowledge of various fundraising avenues and possibilities. Fundraising methods specifically suited to theatre companies were studied.

- The *Association de la presse francophone*



- The *Association des scouts du Canada* has implemented mechanisms for progressive self-financing. This project involves continuing the efforts already under way to implement lasting and effective measures to achieve financial independence.

Women

- The *Fédération nationale des femmes canadiennes-françaises* (FNFCF) celebrated its 80th anniversary at its fall 1995 convention. A play dramatizing the leading role played by founder Almanda Walker-Marchand was performed. The celebration coincided with a change in direction; the organization has decided to make room for local activities and emphasize member services.
- The FNFCF is studying the viability of resuming publication of its magazine *Femmes d'action* as a national magazine dedicated to current issues, including women's issues. This activity is part of a self-financing effort.
- After consulting their memberships, the FNFCF and the *Réseau national d'action éducation femmes* (RNAEF) prepared and presented a brief on Bill C-12, the *Employment Insurance Act*, to the Standing

Committee on Human Resources Development.

- On March 8, 1996, International Women's Day, the *Réseau socio-action des femmes francophones* organized a fundraising dinner, with proceeds going to the RNAEF's *Fondation ACCéd femmes*.
- The RNAEF published the final report on an action-research project with the support of Health Canada in 1995. A popular version of this report, *Vers l'équité en éducation physique, Partenariat et création d'un milieu non sexiste pour les jeunes francophones*, was released. After this study, a training session for people in the field was held in October 1995. They proposed action strategies to create a non-sexist environment which offers girls from minority communities the same opportunity as boys to take part in and derive fulfilment from physical education courses.

Senior Citizens

- The *Assemblée des aînés et aînées francophones du Canada* prepared a survey on the degree of inclusion of at-risk senior citizens (people who are illiterate, incapacitated or have other disabilities) in projects organized by provincial senior citizen associations and senior citizen centres.

V. Appendixes

A. Publications and Promotional Material

Publications

1994-1995 Annual Report on Official Languages (with Supplement)

- Seventh annual report to Parliament on official languages, as required by the *Official Languages Act*, describing key official languages issues including special emphasis on the initiative relating to the implementation of sections 41 and 42 of the *Official Languages Act*. New format and design with emphasis on the regional perspective. Includes a supplement containing action plans prepared by key federal institutions for the 41-42 initiative.

Where to Learn English or French in Canada (second edition)

- Directory of Canadian institutions offering programs for adults to learn French or English as a second language. The information is based on questionnaires that were filled out by institutions across Canada and compiled by province for easy consultation. Wide distribution, including employment offices, immigration offices, citizenship courts, Canadian embassies abroad, foreign embassies in Canada and student placement offices at universities and colleges.

Francophones in Canada: A Community of Interests

- Publication in the *New Canadian Perspectives* series describing the ties that bind Francophones across Canada, from the more traditional family and kinship networks to the electronic communication networks.

Status Report: Minority-Language Educational Rights

- A second publication in the *New Canadian Perspectives* series dealing with the current situation in Canada with respect to minority-language instruction and the management of educational facilities by official-language minority groups.

Official-Language Monitor Program 1996 (with the Council of Ministers of Education, Canada)

- Brochure describing the Program, its purpose, conditions of placement and other pertinent information for interested individuals.

Programme de bourses pour francophones hors Québec 1996 (with the Council of Ministers of Education, Canada)

- Brochure describing the grant program aimed at Francophones outside Quebec, its purpose, admissibility criteria and other pertinent information.

Summer Language Bursary Program 1996 (with the Council of Ministers of Education, Canada)

Brochure describing the Program aimed at students who wish to learn either English or French as a second language and enhance their knowledge of the culture represented by that language.

Promotional Material

41-42

Newsletter addressed to the official-language minority communities and those public servants in every region of the country who have a role to play in the initiative concerning the implementation of sections 41- 42 of the *Official Languages Act*. Two new issues were produced in 1996 with a distribution of over two thousand for each issue.

Write it up! 1995 Report

- Report on the results of the 1995 contest asking students to write a letter to Prime Minister Jean Chrétien telling him about the importance of English and French in Canada. Includes winning submissions and interesting quotes from contestants across the country.

Official Languages Support Programs - Sharing Two Languages: A reflection of our identity

- Pamphlet describing the goals of the Official Languages Support Programs and its involvement in establishing partnerships with the provinces and territories, official-language minority community development, and activities relating to the promotion of linguistic duality.

Canada and La Francophonie

- Bilingual brochure for the *Semaine nationale de la Francophonie*.
- Bilingual poster to mark the 1996 *Semaine nationale de la Francophonie*; distribution within all federal departments and agencies.
- Bilingual fact sheet, providing information on Canada's *Francophonie* and the *Francophonie* throughout the world.
- Large poster illustrating the Canadian and international *Francophonie*.

Pamphlet on publications

- Fold-out pamphlet describing the current publications on official languages. Order form included. For distribution at kiosks and for mailing with publications.

Pamphlet and card on the Official Languages Support Programs Internet site

- Card and pamphlet pointing out the highlights of the Internet site. For distribution at kiosks and for mailing with publications.

Bookmarks

- An assortment of colourful bookmarks containing interesting slogans from the 1995 Write it up! contest; also promoting French and English in business on the world scene and in various fields of activity.

Action Plan: Implementation of Section 41 of the Official Languages Act (1995-96)

- This 1995-96 action plan is the first prepared by the Department of Canadian Heritage to support the cultural, economic and human resource development of the official-language minority communities in Canada.

Official Languages and the Economy: New Canadian Perspectives - Synopsis

- A summary of the proceedings of a colloquium on the relationship between official bilingualism and the economy which was held in Ottawa in May 1995 and hosted by the Official Languages Support Programs Branch of the Department of Canadian Heritage. Some 80 participants from the public sector, the university milieu and the private sector were brought together for this meeting.

- A summary of the highlights of a session on the information highway held in Ottawa in June 1995 and hosted by the Department's Official Languages Support Programs Branch. Representatives of the federal and provincial governments and educational institutions and community groups discussed present tendencies and future orientations on the use of new technologies and the major stakes and problems for official-language minority communities.

B. Budget Data

OFFICIAL LANGUAGES SUPPORT PROGRAMS

Expenditures 1995-1996 (in millions of \$)

Federal-provincial cooperation on official languages	206.07
Support to official-language community organizations and institutions	33.70
Promotion and dialogue	28.27
TOTAL	268.04
Source: Official Languages Support Programs Branch, Department of Canadian Heritage	
Note: Due to rounding, totals may not agree.	
NOT INCLUDED: operating expenditures: \$5.9M	

FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL COOPERATION ON OFFICIAL LANGUAGES

Approved Contributions 1995-1996 (in millions of \$)

Province or territory	Agreements - Education			Special Measures Management and Post-secondary	Agreements Services / Promotion	TOTAL
	Minority	Second Language	Total			
Newfoundland and Labrador	0.91	1.94	2.85	0.20	0.21	3.26
Prince Edward Island	0.91	0.69	1.60	---	1.38	2.98
Nova Scotia	3.77	3.77	7.54	1.00	0.40	8.94
New Brunswick	17.33	2.82	20.15	0.50	1.35	22.00
Quebec	44.21	9.71	53.92	---	0.46	54.38
Ontario	29.42	17.28	46.70	8.60	1.14	56.44
Manitoba	3.16	3.86	7.02	3.26	0.94	11.22
Saskatchewan	5.69	2.93	8.62	5.75	0.28	14.65
Alberta	1.79	5.98	7.77	6.05	---	13.82
British Columbia	1.99	7.47	9.46	---	---	9.46
Partial total (provinces)	109.18	56.45	165.63	25.36	6.16	197.15
Yukon	3.02	0.95	3.97	---	1.38	5.35
Northwest Territories	0.52	0.60	1.12	---	2.45	3.57
Partial total (territories)	3.54	1.55	5.09	---	3.83	8.92
TOTAL	112.72	58.00	170.72	25.36	9.99	206.07
Source: Official Languages Support Programs Branch, Department of Canadian Heritage						
Note: Due to rounding, totals may not agree.						

SUPPORT TO OFFICIAL-LANGUAGE COMMUNITIES

Expenditures 1995-1996 (in millions of \$)

Province or territory	Total
ATLANTIC	
Newfoundland and Labrador	0.82
Prince Edward Island	0.66
Nova Scotia	1.40
New Brunswick	1.88
Partial total	4.76
QUEBEC	2.56
ONTARIO	5.57
PRAIRIES AND NORTHWEST TERRITORIES	
Manitoba	2.09
Saskatchewan	3.04
Northwest Territories	0.58
Partial total	5.71
ALBERTA	3.46
PACIFIC	
British Columbia	1.62
Yukon	0.36
Partial total	1.98
National organizations / projects	9.66 (1)
TOTAL	33.70
<p>Source: Official Languages Support Programs Branch, Department of Canadian Heritage. Note: Due to rounding, totals may not agree. (1) Included: an amount of \$ 4,475,000 from the Supplementary Estimates for initiatives related to the promotion of Canadian Identity.</p>	

PROMOTION AND DIALOGUE

Expenditures 1995-1996 (in millions of \$)

Component	Total
Summer language bursaries	10.58
Official-language monitors	7.38
Language acquisition development	1.39
Administration of justice in the two official languages	0.76
Support for linguistic duality	6.73 ⁽¹⁾
Cooperation with the voluntary sector	1.43
TOTAL	28.27
<p>Source: Official Languages Support Programs Branch, Department of Canadian Heritage</p> <p>Note: Due to rounding, totals may not agree.</p> <p>⁽¹⁾ Included: an amount of \$ 4,810,000 from the Supplementary Estimates for initiatives related to the promotion of Canadian Identity.</p>	