



Canadian Heritage
Patrimoine canadien

OFFICIAL LANGUAGES

**INTERDEPARTMENTAL
COORDINATION:
1998-99**

Canada 

Table of Contents

Interdepartmental Coordination: Tangible Results

Context	1
I. CULTURAL SECTOR	
✦ Parks Canada Agency	1
✦ National Arts Centre	1
✦ National Capital Commission	1
✦ Canada Council of the Arts	2
✦ National Film Board of Canada	2
✦ Canadian Heritage	2
✦ Canadian Broadcasting Corporation	3
✦ Telefilm Canada	3
II. ECONOMIC SECTOR	
✦ Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency	4
✦ Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada	4
✦ Business Development Bank of Canada	4
✦ Economic Development Canada	4
✦ Western Economic Diversification	5
✦ Industry Canada	5
✦ Public Services and Government Services Canada	5
III. HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT SECTOR	
✦ Canadian Centre for Management Development	6
✦ Status of Women Canada	6
✦ Social Sciences Research Council of Canada	6
✦ Human Resources Development Canada	6
✦ Health Canada	7
✦ Canada Post Corporation	7
IV. INTERNATIONAL SECTOR AND CENTRAL AGENCIES	
✦ Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade	7
✦ Canadian International Development Agency	8
✦ International Development Research Centre	8
✦ Citizenship and Immigration Canada	8
✦ Justice Canada	8
✦ Treasury Board Secretariat	9
✦ Statistics Canada	9



Interdepartmental Coordination: Tangible Results

Context

The following is a summary of the main achievements by key federal departments and agencies in support of the development of official-language minority communities in 1998-99. These accomplishments are derived from the measures included in the action plans prepared annually or for several years by these same departments and agencies. The documents are a feature of the accountability framework instituted by the Government of Canada in 1994. The reader can contact the department or agency directly to consult these action plans.

CULTURAL SECTOR

Parks Canada Agency

Parks Canada sought to provide, in both official languages, heritage presentation and external dissemination products which respect and include official-language minority communities throughout the network of national parks, national historic sites and related protected areas. To achieve this, the Agency used the media in the local minority language, provided educational and interpretation programs in both official languages, recruited bilingual employees through the Young Canada Works program, recruited candidates from official-language minority communities for bilingual positions, offered ongoing linguistic training to employees to better serve the members of these minorities, and contributed to the development of communities by consulting them and ensuring their participation in its activities. Locally, Parks Canada supported and promoted official-language minority communities by taking part in economic development issues of interest to them (service delivery, sale of products, advertising, promotion at professional fairs), by becoming involved in their cultural events (festivals and heritage celebrations) and by finalizing new products which reflect these communities (exhibitions, tourism, historic re-enactments). Partnerships were concluded with these communities, and products (videos, educational kits) were finalized for use by minority language school groups.

National Arts Centre

The National Arts Centre (NAC) maintained its support for professional theatre companies from minority Francophone communities. Together with the Department of Canadian Heritage, the Canada Council for the Arts and the *Association des théâtres francophones du Canada* (ATFC), it prepared the second edition of *Les quinze jours de la dramaturgie des régions*, an event to which it invited Francophone theatre groups from all parts of Canada and from abroad to meet in the nation's capital. The NAC was also one of the partners in the launch of the *Rendez-vous de la Francophonie*, on March 15, 1999 as part of the Year of *La Francophonie* in Canada.

National Capital Commission

The National Capital Commission (NCC) continued its efforts to reach out to official-language minority communities. It distributed educational documents to schools in these communities to share information about the capital, and held shows and promotional events, primarily for young people from these communities, allowing them to participate more than in the past. A youth summit was held in October 1998, with the participation of the *Fédération de la jeunesse*

canadienne-française. The NCC prominently featured artists from these communities at events such as Winterlude, Christmas Lights Across Canada, the *Chez Nous* Program and Canada Day. It continued its cooperation with the *Alliance des radios communautaires* (ARC), spreading its message to all Francophone radio stations in the country, with the TVA network, for television programs intended for Francophones outside Quebec, and with Anglophone minority stations in Quebec. It provided assistance in planning the *La Francophonie*, the Year of *La Francophonie* in Canada and the 2001 Games of *La Francophonie*.

Canada Council for the Arts


The Canada Council for the Arts continued to incorporate section 41 of the *Official Languages Act* into its organizational culture, in order to develop artistic expression in official-language minority communities. The multilateral agreement signed in 1998 by the Department of Canadian Heritage, the National Arts Centre, the *Fédération culturelle canadienne-française* and the Council reinforces this strategic commitment by providing a strategic framework and coordination mechanisms. The Council supported several important activities, in particular, *Les Quinze jours de la dramaturgie des régions* at the National Arts Centre, and the *Symposium d'art actuel* in Moncton. It continued to implement memorandums of agreement it had signed in 1997-98, with regard to Francophone theatre and publishing in Canada, and began discussions with the visual arts sector to finalize a concerted approach to providing support for visual artists and their organizations. It will continue to bear in mind the needs and priorities of official-language arts communities by consulting them in the field and inviting them to take part in its consultative and evaluation committees. It disseminates information on its programs through regional official-language minority agencies and seeks to include them in its international development initiatives, such as the Theatre International Pilot Program. Finally, it began discussions with the *Fédération culturelle canadienne-française* (FCCF) on the dissemination of the arts.

National Film Board of Canada

The National Film Board of Canada (NFB) participated in the production of new films in its documentary studios in Acadia, Quebec, in the West and in Ontario, in cooperation with filmmakers from official-language minorities. It provided for the distribution and promotion of these films across Canada, especially French films in regions outside Quebec and English films in Quebec. Its cyber-bulletin and the Web site, *Francoculture*, the French-Canadian cultural network on the Internet, present its French-language film productions. The NFB signed an agreement with Ciné-Fête, a distributor specializing in the Francophone market outside Quebec, to make its productions more accessible to minority communities. It holds training sessions for young filmmakers from minority communities, as well as competitions for them in Acadia, Ontario and Western Canada.

Canadian Heritage

The Department of Canadian Heritage not only played a role in organizing the National Symposium on Canada's Official Languages, held in Ottawa in September 1998, and contributed to the *Entente de collaboration multipartite sur le développement artistique et culturel des communautés francophones et acadiennes du Canada*, it also renewed the Government's commitment to the teaching of official languages, through measures which affect three million young Canadians, by granting the provinces and territories \$835 million over five years. It also renewed linguistic exchange programs and made a \$90 million contribution under the special five-year agreement with the government of Ontario, with a view to completing the province's system of Francophone school governance. The Department cooperated with the provinces and territories in providing minority-language services and promoting linguistic duality. It took part in a series of events which will have a positive impact on the development of its official languages support programs: the launch of the Year of *La Francophonie* in Canada on March 18, 1999, which will highlight the dynamic character and contributions made by Francophone communities across the country; preparation of the Summit of *La Francophonie* in Moncton, which will enhance the visibility of Canada's Francophonie internationally. The government program "Young Canada Works" has, since the summer of 1996, created some 4,000 jobs across Canada. In 1998-99, the Department saw to the inclusion of the official languages in Nunavut, launched initiatives for the promotion abroad of second languages and Canadian language industries, created a national, French-language training centre for health care workers, an interdepartmental working group on research on official languages, and maintained its financial contribution to the administration of justice in both official languages. It supported ten or so festivals held for official-language communities, *Les quinze jours de la dramaturgie des régions*, developed French terminology for the museum community, as well as bilingual exhibitions on the Internet, and promoted the culture and heritage of minority Francophone and Anglophone communities across the country.



The regions are responsible for enforcing departmental policies at the regional and local level, including: developing the concept of the telecommunity and the rural development in the Atlantic region, preparing the Summit of *La Francophonie* in Moncton, developing initiatives to provide better access to federal services for the Anglophone minority in Quebec, renegotiating the inter-governmental agreement on the provision of French-language services in Ontario, promoting linguistic duality, providing services in both official languages, expanding infrastructures and creating community institutions in the Prairies and the West.

Canadian Broadcasting Corporation

The Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (CBC) continued its work to reach out to official-language minority communities, in particular by listening to these communities at CRTC public hearings and through regional consultations. The French-language radio station concluded an agreement with the Alliance des radios communautaires (ARC) in 1998 to take part in an exchange of services in journalism and the production and dissemination of radio programs. The CBC trained young people from minority regions and its English-language services in Quebec were especially attentive to the needs of the Anglophone minority. French-language television broadcast programs created by independent Franco-Ontarian producers and presented artists from various regions of the country. Its RDI network reports daily events from the various regions to the entire country. The same is true of its French-language radio, especially through its cultural and arts magazine, *Infoculture*.

Telefilm Canada

As in previous years, Telefilm Canada undertook a consultation across the country, with regard to the Television Production Fund (TPF) and maintained its participation in the *Groupe de travail sur les arts médiatiques*. These meetings help define avenues for action to better respond to the needs of minority production communities and to ensure that production funds are allocated while considering, to the greatest extent possible, the realities of producers from these communities. The production estimates for French-language projects outside Quebec increased by 49% since last year, while the English-language production volume in Quebec was four times higher than for the same period. Telefilm also provided dubbing contributions for four festivals presenting official-language minority films in Winnipeg, Moncton and Sudbury.

ECONOMIC SECTOR

Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency

The activities of the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency (ACOA) sought to promote economic development in Atlantic Canada, in accordance with four strategic priorities: defence of community interests and coordination, trade, technological innovation and entrepreneurship. The focus is on the creation and growth of small and medium-sized businesses in a context favourable to development in promising sectors. The ACOA therefore developed projects related to tourism, like the Acadian Pubnoco Village and the Grand Pré historic site in Nova Scotia, and to the use of information technology in Acadian communities. It promotes enterprises through televised programs and funds agencies responsible for economic expansion and diversification, especially in rural communities. It provides funding assistance to Francophone communities by offering subsidies to university centres and regional associations. The Agency created a committee comprised of representatives of federal and provincial economic departments, in order to coordinate economic activities taking place alongside the Summit of *La Francophonie* in Moncton.

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada


Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada ensured that official-language minority communities benefit fully from the Department's policies. In particular, it created partnerships and pilot projects with these communities, with respect to rural and community development, focussing on development cooperatives. For example, it signed a memorandum of agreement with the Manitoba Association of Bilingual Municipalities, and the Quebec Farmers Association benefited from the Department's implementation of a strategy for adjusting to change in rural areas, which was also the subject of national consultation, and the Francophone communities of Saskatchewan benefited from an access to training program, at the community college level, and an information program through the Internet. "*La voix des villages*", a program broadcast on community radio, and the Rural Exhibits Program provided for the exchange of information among rural communities, while the Rural Dialogue program allowed them to take part in the Department's decision-making process.

Business Development Bank of Canada

The Business Development Bank of Canada (BDC) supported the development of official-language minority communities by facilitating the creation and expansion of small and medium-sized businesses in these communities, by providing advice and loans, especially to cultural enterprises. Through an evaluation framework intended to review the implementation of Part VII, mechanisms were created which enabled the Bank to quantify the impact of its programs and services on the communities. A review of programs showed that they are accessible to the communities, for industrial and cultural enterprises alike. The BDC played a significant role in marketing and public relations activities, through agreements with media with economic interests, media originating from official-language communities or intended for them. These agreements pertained to purchasing advertising and producing articles on economic subjects and about BDC programs and services. The Bank presented information about its programs for these communities, on Radio Canada, and about the economy on community radio. In addition, it participated in the activities of economic associations/associations of businesspeople from these communities, in focus groups, in the economic development of the Hearst region, in chambers of commerce of Anglophone ethnic groups in the Montreal region and supported the Saskatchewan provincial economic development forum. It gave loans to several Anglophone and Francophone official-language minority firms or created partnerships with them.

Economic Development Canada

Economic Development Canada (EDC) conducted a review of the agency with regard to its responsibilities under the *Official Languages Act* and passed a declaration in principle on the implementation of section 41. With regard to economic development, the emphasis was placed on awareness and promotional activities in Quebec's Anglophone community. The Estrie office approved local events such as Bishop's University's *Business Partners Symposium* and *International Student Case*



Competition. The Eastern Quebec regional office ensured that bilingual media ads about the Quebec coastal program were placed in the newspaper, *Pêche impact*. The Northern Quebec regional office supported projects intended to have a long-term effect geared to the Aboriginal population, such as implementation of the Youth Strategy for young Aboriginal entrepreneurs, while the region's Montreal agency took part in economic conferences and forums, opening networking opportunities and various services for Anglophone entrepreneurs.

Western Economic Diversification

The Department of Western Economic Diversification (WD) finalized four main focal points of its strategy to provide official-language minority communities with tools and mechanisms for self-directed development. The first point is economic development agencies specifically, one independent agency for each of the four western provinces to which WD provides funding; second, access to capital which WD has committed to create a loan bank for Francophone businesspeople in each province, administered by the province's economic development agency; third, the tourism sector, subsidized by WD through the *Conseil touristique francophone de l'Ouest (CTFO)*; and finally, the promotion of entrepreneurship, in the form of projects and events supported by the Department.

Industry Canada

Industry Canada (IC) implemented a large number of measures and initiatives to promote the growth of official-language minority communities. These efforts had five main focal points: sensitization and support for communities, by disseminating information on Industry Canada's accomplishments and developing a communications plan for the Year of *La Francophonie* in Canada; connectivity, by creating digital collections and community access centres; creating the "*Francommunautés virtuelles*" program, distributing computers and funding SchoolNet projects; economic development, through the funding provided for Francophone agencies in Northern Ontario ("FedNor") and the Third Forum of Francophone Businesspeople in Canada (Bathurst, June 1999); information and training, by disseminating information about official-language minority communities in the context of departmental programs and student training under the Student Connections Program; and finally, interdepartmental coordination, through the Department's participation in the National Committee for Canadian Francophonie Human Resources Development and an agreement signed with Public Works and Government Services to distribute surplus computers to the communities.

Public Works and Government Services Canada

Public Works and Government Services Canada (PWGSC) contributed to the development of official-language minority communities by providing them with services and infrastructure equipment: loaned office space at Ottawa-Carleton's theatre centre, *La Nouvelle scène*; a letter sent to Canadian hotels asking them to extend, to these communities, reduced rates for accommodations available to the federal government; updated the Government of Canada Internet site on the implementation of section 41 of the *Official Languages Act*; gift of computers to community associations; installation of electronic signs showing the countdown to the Games of *La Francophonie* in 2001; offered a one-year subscription to *Terminology Update*; loan of federal lands for non-profit activities; offered premises for occupational training. PWGSC also offered its technical assistance for the *Forum économique 98* in Prince Edward Island and for the Second

Forum of Businesspeople in Winnipeg (February 1998). It played an active role in the National Committee for Canadian Francophonie Human Resources Development and held information sessions for minorities on “How to Do Business with the Federal Government” and “Writing An Effective Proposal”.

HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT SECTOR

Canadian Centre for Management Development

The Canadian Centre for Management Development held forums to sensitize senior government officials to their obligations under the *Official Languages Act* (OLA) and its repercussions on government activities. These management training programs promote a better understanding of official-language minorities in Canada. A survey on service delivery provided feedback from linguistic minorities with regard to public services.

Status of Women Canada

Status of Women Canada (SWC) continued consultations with official-language minority women and released the results to its national and regional offices. SWC provided professional services to these groups to facilitate the funding request process for its programs. It provided funding for group initiatives in the key areas of the Status of Women Program. The Department facilitated access to research funding for women from official-language minorities and shared communication tools relating to special events such as International Women’s Day.

Social Sciences Research Council of Canada

The Social Sciences Research Council of Canada (SSRCC) developed strategic themes, such as social cohesion, health and the knowledge-based economy, which can be consistent with projects relating to official languages. It maintained its support by awarding bursaries and subsidies for research on Canadian linguistic duality and the growth and development of Francophone and Anglophone linguistic minorities in Canada. It created two new programs: the Community-University Research Alliance (CURA) program, which is designed to support, in the interest of the communities’ research needs, the creation of partnerships between universities and community organizations, and the Research Development Initiatives (RDI) program, to help increase discussion and cooperation on research activities.

Human Resources Development Canada

Human Resources Development Canada (HRDC) informed official-language minority communities about its products and services and enquired about their needs. The Department ensured that the provisions of the *Official Languages Act* were an integral part of all negotiations undertaken with the provinces and territories on labour market development in the interest of these communities. It broadened its network of regional coordinators and maintained, primarily by creating the Support Fund, its contribution to two national human resources development committees (for the Francophonie in Canada and the Anglophone minority community in Quebec). It subsidized major national projects, like the program to promote literacy among minority Francophone groups, sponsored by organizations of young Francophones, and subsidized a summer employment program. It is a partner in the second edition of the *Mondial de l’entrepreneuriat jeunesse*.



Health Canada

The Department of Health, with a view to preparing its 1999-2000 action plan, renewed its commitment to official language minorities by creating a rigorous planning process in order to determine the measures to be taken and relevant performance indicators, to ensure that it meets its obligations under Part VII of the *Official Languages Act*. The regional offices added specific measures for minority groups in their province or territory and managers made a special effort to consider the enterprises from these minorities when acquiring goods and services. The Department's Health Promotion and Programs Branch contributed funding to a large number of public health projects intended for official-language minorities in all regions of the country. The Policy and Consultation Branch provided funding to the *Fédération des communautés francophones et acadiennes du Canada (FCFA)*, under the Health Transition Fund, to carry out its project entitled, *Community Health Care in French: A Model for Francophone and Acadian Communities in Canada*, intended to provide relevant information to improve community health services for Francophones. The Health Transition Fund also funded projects intended for Anglophones in Quebec and Francophone communities outside Quebec. Finally, the Department contributed to the *Réseau des intervenants et intervenantes francophones en santé et en services sociaux de l'Ontario (RIFSSSO)*.

Canada Post Corporation

The Canada Post Corporation pursued its commitment to official-language minority communities through its literacy programs, in particular by awarding the Canada Post Literacy Award. It launched the *Canada Post School Program*, to give students a love of writing excellent letters, and promoted the Year of *La Francophonie* in Canada to its employees. It sponsored and provided funding assistance to numerous groups, agencies and educational institutions working for minority communities, including: the *Fédération canadienne pour l'alphabétisation en français (FCAF)*, Literacy Partners of Quebec, *Fédération des parents francophones de la Colombie-Britannique*, *Fondation des oeuvres acadiennes*, Laubach Literacy, *Dictée Paul Gérin-Lajoie*, RECLAIM, *Centre franco-ontarien de ressources en alphabétisation*, Alpha-Toronto, and *Collège Frontière*. It assisted associations representing minority communities, organizations contributing to their well-being, television programs for adults and created the network of radio stations of *Alliance des radios communautaires du Canada (ARC)*. It presented literacy awards at various cultural events, such as magazine and book fairs, as well as achievement awards in journalism.

INTERNATIONAL SECTOR AND CENTRAL AGENCIES

Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade

The Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade focussed its implementation of section 41 activities primarily on preparation for the VIIIth Summit of *La Francophonie* (Moncton, September 1999), and the numerous related activities and conferences. One of the main objectives of the Summit is to promote the Acadian Francophonie and the Francophonie in Canada in general. The Department also offered its assistance for symposia and seminars on the Francophonie at universities outside Quebec (Moncton, Glendon College, Laurentian University). It took part in various cultural, artistic and educational events and offered its assistance to several organizations promoting the Francophonie in Canada (*Conseil de la chanson*, TV5, *Association francophone internationale des directeurs d'établissements scolaires*, *Semaine*

de la Francophonie, the magazine *Confluence*, video on *Consultation Jeunesse au Sommet*, *Concours Galaxie jeune poésie francophone*, *Salon du livre de l'Outaouais*, *Forum francophone des affaires*, *Grand Train de la Francophonie*, *Agence universitaire de la Francophonie*, etc.). It also supported the activities of Canadian and international non-governmental organizations whose purpose is to promote the Francophonie.

Canadian International Development Agency

The Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) made significant subsidies to minority universities and community and technical colleges participating in its institutional or bilateral cooperation programs. It helped graduates from official-language minority communities complete internships in developing countries and promoted the registration of foreign students in Francophone universities outside Quebec. The *Alliance des radios communautaires (ARC) francophones* received funding to create documents on international development. CIDA also provided funding to partners affiliated with community members, through various organizations. It approved minority community projects for the Year of *La Francophonie* and provided funding for the Summit of *La Francophonie*, and the Forum of Francophone Businesspeople in Canada, held in Bathurst in June 1999, to inform communities about its Industrial Cooperation Program.

International Development Research Centre

The International Development Research Centre (IDRC) provided subsidies to universities in official-language minority communities to host guests from less developed countries and to fund sabbaticals. It funded NGOs, learned societies and provided bursaries to help young researchers and future development officers, some of whom are from official-language minority communities. It also helps Canadians from these communities participate in the international training program *Lead Canada*, in order to create an international network of future leaders oriented to sustainable development. The IRDC makes a special effort to make itself known to official-language minority communities.

Citizenship and Immigration Canada

The Department of Citizenship and Immigration strengthened its support for official-language minority communities in all parts of Canada by improving client services, especially in Ontario; by participating in numerous community activities, such as in Quebec, and by providing settlement services as required, specifically, in Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta. In addition, French-language training services were offered in New Brunswick, further to an agreement concluded with this province. Agreements pertaining to settlement services, including a bilingualism clause, were signed with British Columbia and Manitoba. The Department also made a special effort to inform official-language communities of its programs and achievements, using bilingual documentaries and promotional material. The importance of official languages and bilingualism in Canada was stressed to immigrants, especially through the distribution of instructional material and the creation of a website. The communities had access to the Department's offices abroad to distribute promotional material.

Justice Canada

The Department of Justice helped prepare the *National Symposium on Canada's Official Languages*, in cooperation with Treasury Board and the Department of Canadian Heritage. It presented a publication entitled: *Annotated Language Laws of Canada* in the *New Canadian Perspectives Series* by the Department of Canadian Heritage, participated in teaching law and legal drafting at the University of Ottawa for minority-language jurists, worked on the creation of a website providing information on educational sources about the law and legal systems in Canada. It funded the *Fédération des juristes d'expression française de common law*, in order to develop public education and legal information documents to facilitate access to legal services in official-language minority communities, subsidized a pilot project by the government of Manitoba to offer legal and administrative services in a community with a large Francophone element, maintained its contribution to the *National Program for the Integration of Both Official Languages in the Administration of Justice (POLAJ)*, which focuses on developing instruments to improve the administration of justice, and contributed to the promotion of legislative bilingualism, especially with regard to the harmonization of federal laws statutes.



Treasury Board Secretariat

The Treasury Board Secretariat (TBS), as a central agency, increased the program's visibility and support for official-language communities with federal departments and agencies, by including implementation of section 41 of the *Official Languages Act* in the Government's strategic planning process. It sensitized the Regional Councils of Federal Senior Officials to official languages issues, appointed official languages champions in these departments and agencies, published, through an outside working group, a report entitled: "No Turning Back: Official Languages in the Face of Government Transformations", (January 1999), with a view to analyzing the impact of these changes on the implementation of section 41, and hired, in cooperation with the Privy Council Office and Canadian Heritage, a consultant who will write the report entitled: "*Official Language Communities: Promoting a Government Objective*" (November 1998), in order to promote these communities with government departments and agencies. TBS produced a working document for these institutions, entitled "Official Languages Principles for the Preparation and Analysis of Submissions to the Treasury Board by Federal Institutions". It held the National Symposium on Canada's Official Languages, to promote community development, continued to implement its memorandum of understanding with Canadian Heritage on the implementation of sections 41 and 42 of the OLA, actively supported the National Committee for Canadian Francophonie Human Resources Development, held official-language training sessions, promoted the participation of young people from official-language minorities in public service internships and used the media in these communities to promote such opportunities.

Statistics Canada

Statistics Canada took part in a broad-based, nationwide consultation conducted by Canadian Heritage, to determine the needs of linguistic minority communities with regard to statistical data. The Department announced that a CD-ROM intended for the communities would be distributed to allow them access, at a low cost, to the 1996 census data of interest to them. It took part in the Interdepartmental Committee on Research and Analysis, chaired by Canadian Heritage, on quantitative subjects of interest to linguistic minorities and followed up on the 1998 Symposium on linguistic data. It published a study entitled *Languages in Canada-1996 Census* as part of the Canadian Heritage series, *New Canadian Perspectives*, and sensitized its own staff to the needs of official-language minorities.