



Canadian  
Heritage

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canadien

Canada



#### Information sheet:

## Official languages symbol

It is important to create a bilingual atmosphere that lets your members or clients know that your organization offers services in both official languages. Invite members and clients to use the language of their choice by displaying the easily recognizable official languages symbol or by creating your own symbol.

### Use of the official languages symbol

This symbol identifies organizations that are capable of communicating in either of Canada's two official languages.

- When the word "English" is presented over the word "Français" the organization or person has English as a first language and has a capacity of communicating in French.
- When the word "Français" is presented over the word "English" the organization or person has French as a first language and has a capacity of communicating in English.

Make sure that the official languages symbol is readily visible to the public and that it directs them to areas where they may be served in both official languages.

**English first:**



**French first:**



Formats available:

- Surface-mounted sign
- Double-sided ceiling-suspended sign
- Double-sided wall bracket sign
- Counter sign
- Self-adhesive sign (for nameplates or glass)
- Lapel pins

For more information please visit:  
Public Service Human Resources Management Agency of Canada  
Official Languages Symbol  
[www.hrma-agrh.gc.ca/ollo/tools-outils/picto/index\\_e.asp](http://www.hrma-agrh.gc.ca/ollo/tools-outils/picto/index_e.asp)

or contact:  
Pattison Sign Group  
Telephone: (613) 247-7762  
1-800-661-2493

### **Create your own official languages symbol**

Your organization may choose to create its own official languages symbol. Some advantages to this approach include:

- the ability to incorporate your organization's logo into your visual offer of bilingual services;
- the flexibility to indicate the level of service that you provide in both languages. For example, your organization may be able to offer bilingual services:
  - all of the time
  - upon request
  - certain documentation
  - seasonal (for example, tourism)

Refer to the links below to view some innovative approaches developed by other organizations.

"Bonjour!", Réseau national de développement économique et d'employabilité Yukon (a bilingual PDF)  
[www.rdee-yukon.ca/Documentation/Bonjour\\_2005.pdf](http://www.rdee-yukon.ca/Documentation/Bonjour_2005.pdf)

"Ici on parle français", Nova Scotia Department of Tourism, Culture and Heritage  
<http://novascotia.com/partners/ici/ici.htm>

"C'est si bon. Ensemble -Together", Economic Development Council for Manitoba Bilingual Municipalities  
[www.cdem.com/english/sibon\\_eng.htm](http://www.cdem.com/english/sibon_eng.htm)