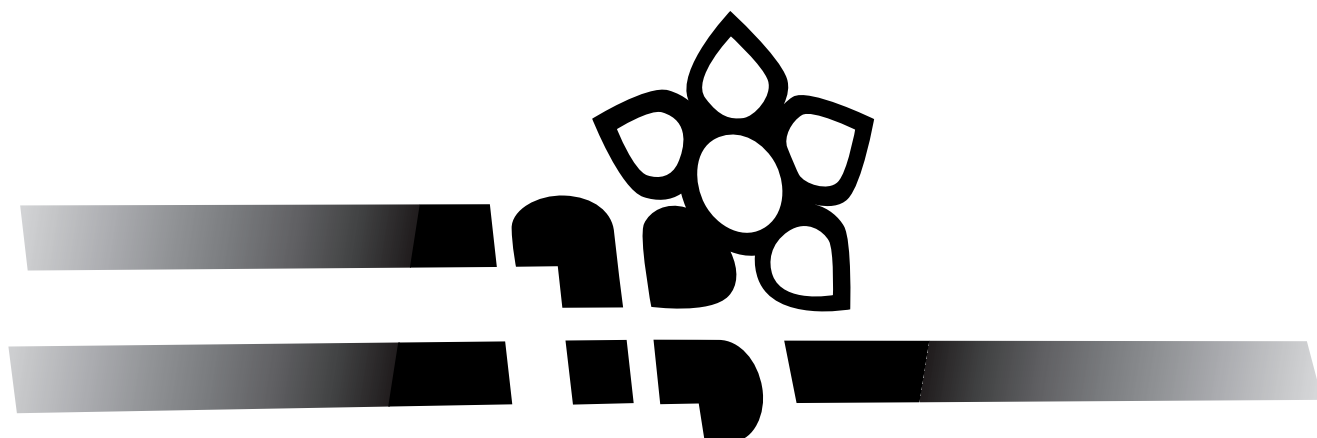


**Final Report of the  
Consultation Committee**  
*on the*  
**Canada-British Columbia General  
Agreement on the Promotion of  
Official Languages**



June 2001

Prepared for: The Minister of State for Intergovernmental Relations

Prepared by: The Consultation Committee on the Canada-British Columbia  
General Agreement on the Promotion of Official Languages

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## Message from the Committee

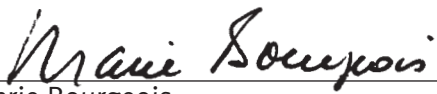


The Committee members are extremely pleased with the consultation results. We wish to congratulate all of the participants for the quality of their presentations and their thorough and profound submissions.

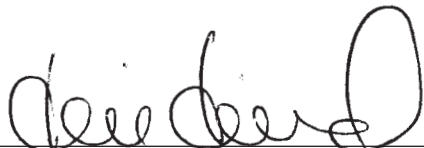
The consultation process has helped us identify and organize several relevant courses of action that will truly allow the two levels of government to strengthen the vitality of the Francophone community in British Columbia. We are aware that our report is content heavy and that it suggests numerous courses of action. We are also aware that it will be impossible to fund all of the recommendations presented in the report from moneys provided for in the general agreement. Several of these recommendations are concerned with existing programs run by provincial ministries. It is evident to us that some of the recommendations should form part of the ministries' annual budgets. Moreover, funds from ministries and from the general agreement could jointly finance some initiatives.

Each of the demands and courses of action appearing in the report was deemed to be valid, realistic and important for the future of our community. As this is the first action plan and general agreement between the governments of Canada and British Columbia, there is a lot to be accomplished and there is a multitude of priorities. We caution all parties involved not to be discouraged by the scope of the task at hand. Clearly, everything will not be achieved within the first action plan. Rapid progress will be achieved on some issues within the framework of the first agreement. For other issues, the speed of progress may depend on variables that are difficult to predict at the present time. However, we believe that actions must be undertaken immediately for progress to be registered in all areas identified in this report. We readily accept that some issues and areas will develop asymmetrically. It will be the responsibility of the evaluators to monitor the progress made, to pinpoint sources of delays, to examine stumbling blocks, and consequently they will be important contributors to the next action plan, set for three years from now.

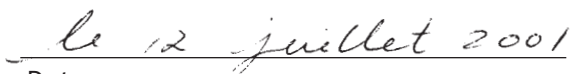
The Committee members would like to assure all parties involved of their continued support during the coming years to facilitate the implementation of the action plan, that will result from the recommendations contained in this report.

  
Marie Bourgeois

  
Claude Provencher

  
Pierre Rivard

  
Pierre Senay

  
Date



# Executive Summary

## Introduction

The Canada-British Columbia General Agreement on the Promotion of Official Languages was signed on April 2, 2001. The purpose of the Agreement is to provide a vehicle for the Governments of Canada and British Columbia to work together to strengthen the vitality of the francophone community in British Columbia especially in areas relating to administration of justice, health, social services and economic and community development.

Following the signing of the Agreement, British Columbia invited four representatives of the province's francophone community to participate in a time-limited Minister's Advisory Committee to provide written input into the development of the province's first action plan required under the terms of the Agreement.

The members of the committee are:

**Marie Bourgeois**, Chair - Executive Director, Maison de la Francophonie de Vancouver.

**Claude Provencher**, President, La Fédération des francophones de la Colombie-Britannique.

**Pierre Senay**, Vice-president, Société du développement économique de la Colombie-Britannique.

**Pierre Rivard**, Director, Centre culturel francophone de Vancouver.

## Consultation Process

Over the past few months the committee conducted consultations with British Columbians and a wide representation of organizations in the francophone community. The basis of these consultations was the newly signed agreement on the promotion of official languages.

These consultations offered several options for providing input and were advertised in a province-wide news release in both official languages and ads were placed in the main newspapers of the province and the francophone newspaper *L'Express du Pacifique*. Interested groups or individuals could write, fax, or e-mail written comments. The consultations included two public information sessions which were well attended by community groups, major francophone organizations, federal and provincial government representatives, the media, as well as members of the public. The committee received around fifty submissions either written or presented. This document outlines the results of these consultations.

## Common Themes

In general there was recognition that while there is much work to be done, it was encouraging to see that progress was being made on provision of services in French. While there were many suggestions on how to ensure the vitality of the francophone community in British Columbia, the general view was that the provincial government should commit to consult with the francophone community in order to identify their specific needs. Moreover, the Province should commit itself to providing a greater number of provincial publications in French, to offering the necessary support for the implementation of identified measures in the key priority areas listed in this report and to promoting and encouraging partnerships in all priority areas between the various stakeholders be they government or organizations.

In addition to the general support of the intent of the agreement, the committee outlined five major themes: information, services, co-ordination, promotion and support, where it felt the government should take action. The committee has made recommendations relating to each of these five themes. The recommendations are then followed by concrete examples of projects, or activities the government could undertake especially in the priority areas of health, social services, administration of justice, adult education and training, economic and community development and culture.

The recommendations are as follows:

- 1. Information provided by the provincial government**  
That the information provided by the provincial government to its citizens be made available in French taking into account the priorities outlined in this report.
- 2. Services provided by the provincial government**  
That the provincial government develop and implement French-language services in its areas of responsibility, in the following priority sectors: health, social services, administration of justice, and employment assistance.
- 3. Co-ordination**  
That the provincial government put in place the necessary structures to assure the co-ordination and the implementation of the Canada-British Columbia General Agreement on the Promotion of Official Languages.
- 4. Promotion**  
That the provincial government contribute to the promotion and visibility of the francophone presence in British Columbia.
- 5. Support**  
That the provincial government use all the means at its disposal to recognize and support the initiatives of the numerous francophone organizations offering French-language services.

The committee wishes that the ideas, suggestions and recommendations expressed in this report be used in designing the action plan for the Agreement on Official Languages.

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# Introduction

The Canada-British Columbia General Agreement on the Promotion of Official Languages was signed on April 2, 2001. (see appendix A) The purpose of the Agreement is to provide a vehicle for the Governments of Canada and British Columbia to work together in strengthening the vitality of the francophone community in British Columbia (see appendix G) especially in areas relating to administration of justice, health, social services and economic and community development.

Achieving an official languages promotion agreement with British Columbia has been a very high priority for Canada since 1992. All other provinces and territories except Alberta have such agreements (Alberta funds its own Francophone Secretariat, has other official language service agreements with Ottawa and is preparing to negotiate their first agreement).

The main features of the Canada-British Columbia Agreement are:

- The Agreement is for three years, from 2001/2002 to 2003/2004.
- Canada agrees to pay two-thirds of eligible costs to a maximum of \$500,000 in any given year.
- The provincial contribution to a maximum of \$250,000 may include in kind expenditures.
- Canada agrees to pay \$50,000 upon signing the agreement for francophone community consultations to support the preparation of an action plan describing the activities to be undertaken under the Agreement.
- The remainder of Ottawa's first year contribution is tied to its acceptance of the action plan. The total federal contribution will be \$1,500,000 over three years.
- British Columbia has six months from the signing of the Agreement to submit the action plan to the federal government for approval.

## Consultation Process

Following the signing of the Agreement, British Columbia invited four representatives of the province's francophone community to participate in a time-limited Minister's Advisory Committee to provide input into the development of the province's first action plan required under the terms of the Agreement. (see appendix B)

The members of the committee are:

**Marie Bourgeois**, Chair - Executive Director, Maison de la Francophonie de Vancouver.

**Claude Provencher**, President, La Fédération des francophones de la Colombie-Britannique.

**Pierre Senay**, Vice-president, Société du développement économique de la Colombie-Britannique.

**Pierre Rivard**, Director, Centre culturel francophone de Vancouver.

The Committee has been meeting since early May and began a consultation process that included receiving written submissions and holding public meetings throughout May and June 2001.

The committee issued a province-wide press release in both official languages and placed ads in the newspapers *The Sun*, *the Province* and *Times Colonist* as well as in the francophone newspaper *L'Express du Pacifique*, asking for written submissions on what services, activities or projects would best meet the needs of the francophone community (see Appendices C and D). The Francophone Education Authority of British Columbia helped with advertising the consultations by sending the press release to all its schools. *La Fédération des francophones de la Colombie-Britannique* distributed the information to all its members and invited the Francophone Affairs Coordinator to speak at their annual general meeting to explain the Agreement. As well, the chair of the committee was interviewed by *Radio-Canada* television and radio before the public consultation.

People were given several options for providing input. They could write, fax or send by e-mail written comments or they could attend one of the public sessions in person and make a presentation. A reminder notice was placed in *L'Express du Pacifique*, prior to the public meetings.

Two public consultation meetings have taken place, the first was June 20th in Victoria at *La Société francophone de Victoria et Éducacentre* and the second was June 21st in Vancouver at the Plaza 500 Hotel. The sessions were open to the public, they started in the early afternoon and continued into the evening. The sessions began with introductory comments from the chair, which were

followed by presentations from representatives of a wide range of francophone organizations and individuals. (see Appendices E and F) Each presentation was followed by a question and answer session and the meetings ended with a general discussion of the issues. There was media coverage by *Radio-Canada* of the public consultations and interviews held with members of the committee as well as those who attended. There was also coverage in *L'Express du Pacifique*.

The committee received approximately fifty submissions either written or oral presentations. Submissions have been kept in a database. The committee would like to extend its warmest appreciation for the thoughtful and helpful comments contributed by all participants.

## Next Steps

The ideas, suggestions and concerns expressed during these consultations have assisted the committee in writing this report, which will be submitted, to the Minister of Intergovernmental Relations. The report will be used in designing an action plan for the Agreement. Upon Minister's approval, the action plan will be submitted to the federal minister and the federal government must approve the plan before the bulk of the first year funding is made available. As per the Agreement, British Columbia has until October 2, 2001 to submit the plan.



# What We Heard

## 1. Information Provided by the Provincial Government

### ***General Findings***

A number of participants from all regions of the francophone community expressed concern about how the agreement will actually assist Francophones in their daily lives. Many organizations came up with examples of requests for information in French that they receive on a regular basis. There was general agreement that the government has a responsibility to ensure that the francophone community of British Columbia is not limited in their daily lives due to a lack of availability of documents in French.

### ***Recommendation***

**That the information provided by the provincial government to its citizens be made available in French taking into account the priorities outlined in this report.**

Therefore the Committee recommends the following actions:

### ***Health/Social Services***

- That a French-language directory be produced listing all provincial services including health and social services, and indicating in both the French and English versions, if and where services are available in French.
- That a French version of the “Seniors Directory” be published, listing all French-language services available to seniors.
- That French translation be made of the material distributed by community health centres. Topics such as these are in popular demand: efficient ways to combat head lice, post-vaccination childcare, protecting toddlers from the sun’s harmful rays, etc.
- That a French version of the “BC Health Guide” be produced, indicating if and where services are available in French.
- That the “Enquiry BC” service be made available in French, with an indication of which services are offered in French in both the French and English versions.
- That the province indicate in all of its publications whether or not a French version is available.

**Administration of justice**

- That legal information pamphlets be translated such as those published by the Ministry of Attorney General: “*Custody access and terminology*”, “*Child Support Initiative*”, “*About Wills and Estates*”, “*Do it yourself divorce in BC*”.
- That pamphlets published by agencies such as the *People’s Law School* and the *Legal Services Society* be translated, for example:
  - “*Tenants Act*”
  - “*Choosing an Executor*”
  - “*Representation Agreements*”
  - “*Learning about the Law*”
  - “*Working; your legal rights in BC*”
  - “*Living Common Law*”
  - “*Getting a work permit in BC*”
  - “*Legal Aid in BC*”

**Economic Development/Tourism**

- That the written information for entrepreneurs (law, business incorporation, taxation), be translated into French, including forms.
- That the information distributed by the BC Enterprise Centre be made available in French including, for example, the various reports and services offered through web sites, BC Stats, etc.
- That more tourism information be available in French. A better promotion of BC aimed at French speaking clientele would increase the number of visits.

**Other areas**

- That “*Bienvenue en Colombie-Britannique*” produced by the *Centre culturel francophone de Vancouver* in collaboration with Multiculturalism BC be updated and distributed on a larger scale.
- That the material for the preparation of the driver’s test be translated into French. Note: The driver’s test may be taken in French but the material for its preparation is not available in that language.

## 2. Services Provided by the Provincial Government

### **General Findings**

The consultation process identified service delivery – direct or indirect – by the government as a key area for action by the provincial government.

Francophones clearly indicated that they must be able to access legal services in their own language.

Access to health services is increasingly important for British Columbia's Francophones and this was reflected in their presentations to the committee.

The difficulties encountered by unemployed people with little money and a limited knowledge of English to learn about available services was mentioned often.

### **Recommendation**

**That the provincial government develop and implement French-language services in its areas of responsibility, with the following priorities: health, social services, administration of justice, and employment assistance.**

Therefore the Committee recommends the following actions:

### **Health/Social Services**

- That there is support from the provincial government for the sectoral roundtable organised by *La Fédération des francophones de la Colombie-Britannique* to determine priorities for French-language services. Below are some of the health priority areas the consultative process helped identify: emergency services, hospital services, palliative care, mental health care, senior services, services related to women health issues and children's health issues.
- That an information line, already in existence, to answer the population's questions related to health offers Francophones the opportunity to be referred to French-speaking nurses.

### **Administration of Justice**

- That there be an active offer of legal services in French at all stages of the process of the administration of justice, regardless of the linguistic ability of individuals. Under section 530 of the Criminal Code, the accused has the right to ask for his or her case to be tried in French or in French and English.

- That an action plan be developed to compensate citizens going to trial for the additional costs incurred when the trials are held in French or both in French and English.
- That French-language training be provided to all staff required for the proper working of the courts and making that personnel available (magistrates, members of the bar, court staff, police services, etc.).
- Improve jury selection services for French-language trials, including a modification to the Elections Act in order to identify Francophones. The current jury selection procedures do not allow for the creation of a sufficient pool of potential francophone jury members.
- Evaluate the French-language justice system so that the required improvements mentioned above can be identified.

***Employment Assistance***

- That the development of French-language post-secondary programs be supported.
- That the provincial government facilitate the accreditation of out-of-province early childhood education diplomas issued to Francophones.
- That the provincial government promote restaurant/hotel/hospitality industry training in French.
- That the provincial government co-ordinate the provision of services and programs which are offered to people to prepare them for entry or re-entry into the work force. Note: As they are under federal jurisdiction, employment insurance recipients have access to work entry programs in French. However, welfare recipients are under provincial jurisdiction and they do not have access to similar services in French.
- That francophones moving to BC from another province be eligible for English language training services offered by the provincial government to francophone immigrants.



### 3. Co-ordination

#### **General Findings**

The need for a permanent office to act as a link between the francophone community and the provincial government was identified as one of the most important issues during the consultations.

It was also noted that the government should play a larger role in identifying where French services are available in government and in sharing this information with the francophone community.

The participants also expressed a desire for ongoing consultation between the community and the government and for the establishment of a permanent mechanism of consultation on the implementation of the agreement.

#### **Recommendation**

**That the provincial government put in place the necessary structures to assure the co-ordination and the implementation of the Canada-British Columbia General Agreement on the Promotion of Official Languages.**

The committee suggests the following actions:

- Creation of a permanent Francophone Affairs office. This office would act as the point of contact for the francophone community to have access to various ministries.
- Creation of a permanent position of a Francophone Affairs Co-ordinator.
- Maintain the responsibility for Francophone Affairs within the Intergovernmental Relations Secretariat.
- Identification of French speaking public servants working throughout government and government agencies.
- Consultation of the francophone community regarding the research projects it undertakes in various sectors for example the research done on health issues by *La Fédération des francophones de la Colombie-Britannique*.
- Encouraging the sectoral and regional participation of the francophone community in the development, implementation and evaluation process of the action plan; this includes, among others the possibility of establishing a permanent consultation committee as mentioned above.
- Invitation of Francophones to participate in policy development, especially with regard to government cultural policies.
- Assignment of Ministry representatives to liaise with the francophone community regarding problems and potential solutions about service delivery in French. This could follow the model used by the federal government for setting up co-ordinators for section 41 of the Official Languages Act in various federal departments.

## 4. Promotion

### **General Findings**

Cultural activities such as festivals contribute to the vitality of the Francophone community and demonstrate that Francophones are alive and well in British Columbia. These activities represent a crucial tool for the development and growth of the francophone community and culture.

### **Recommendation**

**That the provincial government contribute to the promotion and visibility of the francophone presence in British Columbia.**

The committee suggests the following actions in this area:

- That the provincial government support francophone cultural activities, especially those on a large scale.
- That the provincial government support marketing initiatives relating to francophone cultural events.
- That the contribution of BC Francophones to British Columbia's society be enhanced by building on the benefits associated with the francophone presence in generating economic activities in the province.

## 5. Support

### **General Findings**

In British Columbia, as in all modern societies, services essential to the lives of citizens are not all provided by the state. Throughout the province there are numerous francophone organizations offering services in French to the community. These services are essential for BC Francophones to live and flourish in French at all stages of their lives.

### **Recommendation**

**That the provincial government use all the means at its disposal to recognize and support the initiatives of the numerous francophone organizations offering French-language services.**

The committee suggests the following actions in this area:

- That a general agreement be signed between the francophone community and the BC Arts Council concerning the assistance to be provided to the francophone cultural sector.
- That the government recognize the specific needs of Francophones with regard to early childhood, after school care, family services, youth movements such as "Scouts francophones".

- That the provincial government provide francophone community centres with the same level of support it gives to other municipal community centres.
- That the community status of francophone schools be recognized and financed in the same way it is for BC's community schools.
- That the provincial government support the development of extracurricular activities in French.
- That organizations providing services to poverty-stricken youth be recognized.
- That the development of a French-language Adult Basic Education (ABE) program be supported.
- That the development of a French-language Early Childhood Education (ECE) training program be supported in British Columbia.
- That partnerships, service delivery contracts, pilot projects, etc. be established with francophone agencies offering specialized services such as La Boussole, Éducacentre, Réseau-Femmes Colombie-Britannique, and with community centres.

## Conclusion

### Summary of Recommendations:

- 1. Information provided by the provincial government**

That the information provided by the provincial government to its citizens be made available in French taking into account the priorities outlined in this report.
- 2. Services provided by the provincial government**

That the provincial government develop and implement French-language services in its areas of responsibility, in the following priority sectors: health, social services, administration of justice, and employment assistance.
- 3. Co-ordination**

That the provincial government put in place the necessary structures to assure the co-ordination and the implementation of the Canada-British Columbia General Agreement on the promotion of official languages.
- 4. Promotion**

That the provincial government contribute to the promotion and visibility of the francophone presence in British Columbia.
- 5. Support**

That the provincial government use all the means at its disposal to recognize and support the initiatives of the numerous francophone organizations offering French-language services.



**CANADA-BRITISH COLUMBIA  
GENERAL AGREEMENT ON THE PROMOTION OF OFFICIAL LANGUAGES**

**THIS AGREEMENT** made this 2<sup>nd</sup> day of April, 2001

**BETWEEN:** **HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN IN RIGHT OF CANADA**, hereinafter referred to as “Canada”, represented by the Minister of Canadian Heritage

**OF THE FIRST PART**

**AND:** **HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN IN RIGHT OF BRITISH COLUMBIA**, hereinafter referred to as “British Columbia”, represented by the Minister of Intergovernmental Relations.

**OF THE SECOND PART.**

**WHEREAS** the Constitution of Canada, in particular the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, and the Official Languages Act (Canada), recognize English and French are the official languages of Canada and the Government of Canada recognizes its responsibilities and undertakings with respect to those languages;

**WHEREAS** the Department of Canadian Heritage has the mandate on behalf of the Government of Canada to co-operate with provincial and territorial governments in order to foster the full recognition and use of English and French in Canadian society and to enhance the vitality and support the development of official language minority communities across Canada, and to promote a coordinated approach by federal institutions in pursuit of these objectives.

**WHEREAS** Canada and British Columbia wish to cooperate to support the development of the French language community of British Columbia.

**NOW THEREFORE** the parties agree as follows:

**1.0 DEFINITIONS**

1.1 The following definitions apply to this Agreement:

- a) “Federal Minister” means “Minister of Canadian Heritage or anyone authorized to act on her behalf”;
- b) “Provincial Minister” means “Minister of Intergovernmental Relations“;
- c) “Ministers” means “the Federal Minister and the Provincial Minister as well as any other Ministers of the Governments of Canada and British Columbia involved in implementing this Agreement“;
- d) “Official languages” means “the English and the French languages“;
- e) “Fiscal year” means “the period commencing on April 1st of any year and terminating on March 31st of the year immediately following”;

- f) “Eligible expenses” means “expenditures related to the planning, study, research, development and implementation of activities supporting the provincial action plan related to this Agreement”;
- g) “Action Plan” means “a document describing the objectives and expected outcomes relating to the activities to be carried out by British Columbia in the context of this Agreement and giving the proposed allocation for Canada’s total contribution and that of British Columbia”.

## **2.0 PURPOSE**

- 2.1 The purpose of this Agreement is to provide multi-year funding through a mechanism for consultation, coordination, and joint planning of initiatives aimed at strengthening the vitality of the Francophone community.

## **3.0 OBJECTIVES**

- 3.1 The general objectives of this Agreement are:
  - a) to strengthen relationships between Federal and Provincial governments, and between the Provincial government and the Francophone community, and improve understanding on issues and concerns of all parties;
  - b) to communicate and consult with the French language community through formal and informal means;
  - c) to consider translation services that meet the critical needs of the Francophone community and support provincial government departments and agencies in their activities;
  - d) to work in partnership with other provinces and territories and the Federal government to facilitate the provision of French-language services in British Columbia.

## **4.0 ACTION PLAN**

- 4.1 British Columbia shall develop and present an action plan, based on consultation with the Francophone community of British Columbia, within six months after the signing of this agreement for approval by the Federal Minister. The action plan, which will cover 3 years, will include:
  - a) a description of objectives;
  - b) a description of the types of activities that could be undertaken to meet the objectives of this Agreement;
  - c) a description of expected outcomes;
  - d) a description of performance indicators by which British Columbia will measure attainment of the objectives; and
  - e) the proposed allocation of Canada’s total contribution and that of British Columbia for each objective.

## **5.0 CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION**

- 5.1 An Agreement Management Committee will be established and will be co-chaired by a federal official designated by the Federal Minister and by a provincial official designated by the Provincial Minister.
- 5.2 The Management Committee's co-chairs may designate an official to replace them at the Committee's meetings and may invite officials from other federal or provincial departments to attend the meeting as needed.
- 5.3 The Management Committee shall meet as required and at least once annually to:
- a) review the objectives and priorities of the action plan as well as progress made on expected outcomes;
  - b) review the measures and activities that British Columbia expects to implement to achieve the objectives of the action plan;
  - c) examine the annual activity reports, financial statements and other notices submitted by British Columbia in accordance with the terms of this Agreement, including transfers between objectives, and agree upon amendments to the action plan as required;
  - d) ensure a full exchange of information between the two parties;
  - e) meet representatives of federal and provincial departments or agencies, members of the French-language community or other appropriate individuals in order to encourage the co-operation and participation of all concerned;
  - f) ensure the performance of other duties or tasks set out in this Agreement or assigned by the Ministers.
- 5.4 The federal and provincial co-chairs of the Agreement Management Committee will approve, for the purposes of this Agreement, on behalf of their respective governments, the annual activity reports, the financial statements, the other notices, the transfers between the objectives of the action plan and any amendments to the action plan.

## **6.0 CANADA'S CONTRIBUTION**

- 6.1 Subject to an appropriation of funds by the Parliament of Canada, to the maintenance of the current and forecasted budget levels of the Intergovernmental Co-operation component of the Official Languages Support Programs and to the terms of this Agreement, Canada agrees to pay up to two-thirds of the eligible costs incurred by British Columbia in implementing the action plan mentioned in section 4.1 according to the terms of the Agreement. To that end, Canada's maximum contribution to British Columbia for each year of the Agreement shall be as follows:

2001-2002	\$500,000
2002-2003	\$500,000
2003-2004	\$500,000

- 6.2 The provincial contribution to a maximum of \$250,000 per year may include in kind expenditures as will be described in an appendix to the action plan mentioned in section 4. 1.

- 6.3 Notwithstanding any other provision of this Agreement the payment of money by British Columbia under this Agreement is subject to:
- a) there being sufficient monies available in an appropriation, as defined in the Financial Administration Act (British Columbia) (the “FAA”), to enable British Columbia, in any fiscal year when any payment of money by British Columbia pursuant to this Agreement is required, to make that payment; and
  - b) Treasury Board, as defined in the FAA, not having controlled or limited, pursuant to the FAA, expenditure under any appropriation referred to in subparagraph (a) of this paragraph.
- 6.4 Subject to section 5.4 of this Agreement, British Columbia may transfer funds between objectives of the action plan.
- 6.5 For each fiscal year covered by this Agreement, Canada could provide, in addition to the amounts provided for in section 6.1, financial support for one time measures and projects proposed by British Columbia, subject to the prior approval of the Federal Minister. The purpose, the anticipated costs and the expected results of the approved measures or projects shall be described in a document which shall be appended annually to this Agreement and constitute an integral part of it. The Federal Minister could require that such measures or projects be subject to financial statements, activity reports and evaluation mechanisms that are separate from those for other activities funded under this Agreement.
- 6.6 British Columbia shall not transfer funds approved by the Federal Minister under section 6.5 for implementing one time measures or projects to funds approved under section 6.1 for implementing British Columbia’s action plan without the written authorization of the Federal Minister. In order to request this authorization, British Columbia shall submit a written request to the Federal Minister before March 15 of the year in question.
- 6.7 In the event of an injection of funds into the Intergovernmental Co-operation component of the Official Languages Support Programs over and above the current and forecasted budgetary levels, Canada undertakes to review increasing its total contribution under this Agreement.

## **7.0 PAYMENTS**

- 7.1 Canada’s contributions to British Columbia shall be made as follows:
- a) For 2001-2002, a first payment of \$50,000 will be made on or about April 15 to ensure consultations with the Francophone community and the preparation of the provincial action plan;
  - b) For 2001-2002, a second payment of \$200,000 for that year will be made after the reception and the acceptance by the federal Minister of the provincial action plan along with a detailed activity report for the first payment of \$50,000;
  - c) For 2001-2002, a third payment representing the balance of Canada’s contribution that year will be made after the reception and the acceptance of an interim certified financial statement reporting actual expenditures incurred for the period ending November 30 of the current year and anticipated expenditures up to March 31 of the same fiscal year;



- d) For each subsequent fiscal year, the initial payment, representing one half (50 percent) of Canada's contribution for that year, shall be made after the reception and the acceptance by the co-chairs of the Management Committee, on behalf of their respective governments, of a detailed activity report on the progress accomplished in meeting the objectives of the action plan for the preceding fiscal year and, where necessary, an updated action plan, provided that the requirements for the preceding payments have been met;
- e) For each subsequent fiscal year for each year of the Agreement, a second and final payment, representing the balance of Canada's contribution for that year, will be made after the reception and the acceptance of:
  - i) a certified final financial statement for Canada's contribution for the previous year; and
  - ii) an interim certified financial statement reporting actual expenditures incurred for the period ending November 30 of the current year and anticipated expenditures up to March 31 of the same fiscal year.

7.2 Should payments made under this Agreement exceed the amounts to which British Columbia is entitled in accordance with this Agreement, Canada may deduct from subsequent contributions to British Columbia an amount equivalent thereto.

7.3 Where payments made under section 7.1 are based on anticipated expenditures, such payments shall be debts owed to Canada until such time as British Columbia has accounted for the said expenditures in accordance with the terms of the Agreement and to the Federal Minister's satisfaction.

## **8.0 ACCOUNTABILITY**

8.1 Canada and British Columbia agree that the financial assistance British Columbia receives from Canada under this Agreement must contribute to the attainment of the objectives set out herein. To this end, the Provincial Minister agrees to provide the Federal Minister with information each year which demonstrates that Canada's contributions are related to the costs incurred in implementing the objectives of the Agreement.

## **9.0 ACCOUNTS AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

9.1 British Columbia agrees to keep accounts and records of the revenues and expenditures for the subject matter of this Agreement.

9.2 For each fiscal year, British Columbia shall provide certified final statements of expenditures for Canada's contribution within six months following the end of each fiscal year.

9.3 For the purposes of this Agreement, a senior financial officer, so authorized by British Columbia, shall certify statements of expenditures provided by British Columbia to Canada, similar in format to the example of the interim statement of expenditures found in Appendix I of this Agreement.

## **10.0 FINANCIAL AUDIT**

- 10.1 Canada reserves the right to undertake, or cause to have undertaken, a financial audit of the accounts and records of the British Columbia concerning the measures and projects funded by Canada's contribution, and British Columbia shall make available to such auditors any records, documents and information that the auditors may require. The scope, coverage and timing of such financial audits shall be as determined by Canada and, if conducted, may be carried out by officials of the Department of Canadian Heritage or their agent(s).
- 10.2 Canada agrees to inform British Columbia of the financial results of any audit, and to pay British Columbia as soon as possible after the completion of the audit, any monies which the audit may show to be due and owing to British Columbia. Likewise, British Columbia agrees to inform Canada of the results of an independent financial audit and pay any monies that the audit show may be due and owing to Canada.

## **11.0 EVALUATION**

- 11.1 Canada and British Columbia are jointly responsible for evaluation of the measures and projects funded under this Agreement and shall determine the scope of the evaluation and the methodology and procedures to be used. The two parties shall fund the evaluation on an equal basis.
- 11.2 The Management Committee established under section 5.1 may develop, within twelve months of the signing of this Agreement, a mechanism for evaluating the measures and projects undertaken under this Agreement.
- 11.3 The Management Committee will, as necessary, review the evaluation mechanism and the data and information arising from it.

## **12.0 OTHER FEDERAL DEPARTMENTS**

- 12.1 The Department of Canadian Heritage, in fulfilling its mandate to promote a coordinated approach by federal departments and agencies to the development of official language communities and the promotion of official languages, shall encourage them to collaborate with their counterparts in British Columbia by participating in discussions and adopting courses of action that may enhance French-language services.

## **13.0 PUBLIC INFORMATION AND CONSULTATION**

- 13.1 Canada and British Columbia agree that the text of this Agreement and the action plan shall be made available to the Canadian public and agree to acknowledge each other's contribution in its publicity pertaining to activities arising from this Agreement (see Appendix II to this Agreement).
- 13.2 Canada and British Columbia agree on the importance of providing sufficient information to the various publics served by this Agreement and of taking measures considered appropriate to ensure consultation with interested parties.
- 13.3 British Columbia also agrees to encourage organizations receiving financial assistance under this Agreement through British Columbia, to acknowledge, where appropriate, Canada's and British Columbia's contributions for the implementation of French language services.

#### **14.0 CO-OPERATION WITH THE OTHER PROVINCES AND THE TERRITORIES**

14.1 Canada and British Columbia agree on the importance of exploring possibilities of cooperation between Canada, British Columbia and other provinces as well as the territories in the area of official languages.

#### **15.0 GENERAL**

15.1 This Agreement will be effective as of the date of signing and will terminate on March 31, 2004.

15.2 This Agreement may be renewed for a further period upon written agreement of both Ministers or their designated representatives.

15.3 This Agreement may be amended on written agreement of both Ministers or of their designated representatives. This agreement may be terminated with a prior notice of six months from either Ministers or from their designated representatives.

15.4 Notwithstanding any other provision of this Agreement, should British Columbia fail to comply with any of the terms of the Agreement, Canada may, upon reasonable notice given to British Columbia and reasonable time to cure the defaults complained of, terminate the Agreement.

15.5 The parties acknowledge that this Contribution Agreement does not constitute an association for the purpose of establishing a partnership or joint venture and does not create an agency relationship between Canada and British Columbia.

15.6 No official or employee of Canada or British Columbia shall be admitted to any share or part of this Agreement or to any benefits arising therefrom without a written consent of the official's or employee's minister.

15.7 No member of the House of Commons or the Senate or British Columbia Legislative Assembly shall be admitted to any share or part of this Agreement or to any benefits arising therefrom.

#### **16.0 LIABILITY**

16.1 Canada shall not be liable for any injury including death to the person, or for loss or damages to the property of British Columbia or of anyone else, occasioned by or in any way attributable to British Columbia under this Agreement, unless such injury, loss or damage is caused by the negligence of an officer or agent of Canada acting within the scope of his employment.

#### **17.0 DISPUTES**

17.1 Notwithstanding anything else in this Agreement, in the event of any dispute of any kind whatsoever arising under or out of this Agreement, the parties will make best efforts first to settle such dispute by negotiation in good faith. If any such dispute cannot be resolved through such negotiation, the parties will seek mediation by appointment of an independent mediator and no remedy or other action provided for or contemplated by this Agreement in respect of such dispute may be taken by either party until the mediator appointed for the purposes of such mediation has submitted a written statement to both parties that, despite the parties having made all reasonable efforts in good faith, the mediator is of the opinion that the dispute in question cannot be resolved. Thereafter the parties may pursue any remedy provided for under this Agreement or available to them at law.

**18.0 ASSIGNMENT**

18.1 This Contribution Agreement and the benefits arising from it are not assignable, except with the prior written consent of the Minister.

**19.0 NOTICES AND COMMUNICATIONS**

19.1 Any notice to Canada in connection with this Agreement may be sent by letter or facsimile to :  
Director, British Columbia/Yukon District  
Department of Canadian Heritage  
400-300 West Georgia Street  
Vancouver, British Columbia  
V6B 6C6  
Fax: (604) 666-6040

19.2 Any notice to British Columbia in connection with this Agreement may be sent by letter or facsimile to: Intergovernmental Relations Secretariat 421 Menzies Street, Second Floor Victoria, British Columbia V8V 1X4 Fax: (250) 387-1920 Any notice so given shall be deemed to have been received at the time when, in the ordinary course of events, such a letter or facsimile would have reached its destination.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF** the parties have executed this Agreement on the day first written above, by their proper officers or representatives, as the case may be, duly authorized in that behalf.

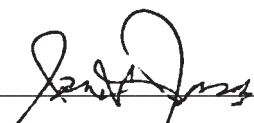
**IN THE PRESENCE OF:**

ON BEHALF OF CANADA

ON BEHALF OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Minister of Canadian Heritage

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Witness

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Witness

**MINISTER'S ADVISORY COUNCIL  
CANADA-BRITISH COLUMBIA GENERAL AGREEMENT  
ON THE PROMOTION OF OFFICIAL LANGUAGES**

**Terms of Reference**

**Background:**

***Purpose of the Agreement***

The purpose of the Canada-British Columbia General Agreement on the Promotion of Official Languages is to provide multi-year funding through a mechanism for consultation, coordination, and joint planning of initiatives aimed at strengthening the vitality of the Francophone community.

***General Objectives of the Agreement***

The general objectives of this Agreement are:

- a) to strengthen relationships between Federal and Provincial governments, and between the Provincial government and the Francophone community, and improve understanding on issues and concerns of all parties;
- b) to communicate and consult with the French language community through formal and informal means;
- c) to consider translation services that meet the critical needs of the Francophone community and support provincial government departments and agencies in their activities;
- d) to work in partnership with other provinces and territories and the Federal government to facilitate the provision of French-language services in British Columbia.

**Terms of Reference:**

The mandate of Minister's Advisory Council will be on matters other than education. Education is covered in the *Official Languages in Education Protocol* and other federal-provincial agreements.

The terms of reference for the Minister's Advisory Council are to consult with representatives of British Columbia's Francophone community and provide written advice to the Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs with respect to the following:

- a) What types of activities could be undertaken within the funding provided by the Agreement to meet the objectives of the Agreement as identified above?
- b) What, if any, one time measures and projects could be undertaken to meet the objectives of this Agreement that the Francophone community would like British Columbia to propose that Canada fund in accordance with section 6.5 of the Agreement?
- c) What are the expected outcomes of these activities (and one time measures and projects)?
- d) What are performance indicators by which British Columbia will measure attainment of the objectives?

The written report prepared by the Council will be used to inform the Government of British Columbia in developing an Action Plan required under the Agreement.

**Time Frame and Written Report:**

The Council will submit its written report to the Minister of Intergovernmental Relations by June 29, 2001.

**Budget and Government Liaison:**

The budget is \$20,000.

Government remuneration policy as set out in Treasury Board Directive 1/00 (Compensation for Appointees to Government Agencies, Boards and Commissions) issued pursuant to the Financial Administration Act will apply to members of the Minister's Advisory Council.

The Intergovernmental Relations Secretariat will act as the government liaison for the Council.



## INFORMATION BULLETIN

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Intergovernmental Relations

May 24, 2001

### **COUNCIL TO ADVISE ON OFFICIAL LANGUAGE AGREEMENT**

VICTORIA--An advisory council will consult B.C.'s francophone community and advise on the Canada-British Columbia General Agreement on the Promotion of Official Languages.

Marie Bourgeois, chair of the council, is executive director of La Maison de la francophonie de Vancouver. Other council members include Claude Provencher, president of La Fédération des francophones de la Colombie-Britannique; Pierre Senay, vice-president of La Société de développement économique de la Colombie-Britannique; and Pierre Rivard, executive director of Centre culturel francophone de Vancouver.

The advisory council's report will guide the development of British Columbia's first action plan under the official languages agreement. The report is due by the end of June.

The three-year cost-shared agreement, which covers 2001 to 2003, enables the governments of British Columbia and Canada to work together on strengthening the vitality of the province's francophone community. Education is not included in this agreement.

The federal government will provide the government of British Columbia with \$1.5 million. The province's total contribution will have a value of up to \$750,000 over the three years.

The committee is inviting ideas and comments on what services, activities, or projects would best meet the needs of the francophone community. The committee will accept written submissions until June 15, 2001, at the address below.

The committee will also hold two public information sessions. The first is in Victoria June 20 at La Société francophone de Victoria et Éducacentre from 4 to 8 p.m. The second is June 21 in Vancouver at the Hotel Plaza 500, from 4 to 8 p.m.

Forward submissions to:

Marie Bourgeois, chair c/o Intergovernmental Relations Secretariat  
2nd floor, 421 Menzies Street Victoria, B.C. V8V 1X4  
Fax: 250-387-1920 E-mail: [igrs@gems4.gov.bc.ca](mailto:igrs@gems4.gov.bc.ca)

Contact: Mark Collins  
Intergovernmental Relations Secretariat  
250 387-0744





## Public Consultation

*On the Canada-British Columbia  
General Agreement on the Promotion of  
Official Languages*

The advisory committee invites you to help develop an action plan to support the development of the French language community.

## Consultation Publique

*Sur L'Entente cadre Canada-Colombie-  
Britannique sur la promotion  
des langues officielles*

Le comité consultatif vous invite à l'aider à développer un plan d'action pour le développement de la communauté de langue française.

Members of the committee are / Les membres du comité sont:

Marie Bourgeois Directrice Générale, La Maison de la francophonie de Vancouver  
Claude Provencher Président, La Fédération des francophones de la Colombie-Britannique  
Pierre Senay Vice Président La Société de développement économique  
Pierre Rivard Directeur, Centre culturel francophone de Vancouver.

Your ideas and comments on what services, activities, or projects (outside of education) would best meet the needs of the francophone community can be sent, by June 15th 2001, to:

Vous pouvez envoyer vos suggestions et commentaires sur le type de services, activités ou projets (hors du domaine de l'éducation) qui seraient le plus en mesure de satisfaire les besoins de la communauté francophone, au plus tard le 15 juin, 2001, à l'adresse suivante:

Marie Bourgeois Chair c/o Intergovernmental Relations Secretariat  
2nd floor, 421 Menzies Street, Victoria, B.C. V8V 1X4  
by fax to: 250-387-1920 or by e-mail to: [igrs@gems4.gov.bc.ca](mailto:igrs@gems4.gov.bc.ca)  
or attend a public meeting / ou assistez à une réunion publique  
Victoria: June 20th, 4:00 - 8:00 PM,  
La Société francophone de Victoria et Éducentre (200-535 Yates Street)  
Vancouver: June 21st, 4:00 - 8:00 PM, Plaza 500 Hotel (500 West 12th Avenue)





## Table des Soumissions

<b>PROVENANCE DE:</b>	<b>SUJET:</b>	<b>PRÉSENTATION:</b>
<b>Organismes:</b>		
Éducacentre Victoria- Andrée Chenier	Formation des adultes	Victoria
Comité culturel de la Société francophone de Victoria - Denise Gagnon-Branter	culture	Victoria
L'Association historique des francophones de Victoria - Marie Robillard	Soins de santé pour les aîné(e)s	Victoria
L'Association des francophones de Nanaimo - Nicole Langlois, Directrice générale	Bureau des affaires francophones Traduction Petite enfance , culture	Victoria
La Société Francophone de Victoria-Monique Clébat Directrice générale	Services pour les aîné(e)s Services sociaux, bien-être social La culture	Victoria - Gaetan Tremblay Directeur Intérimaire
Le Centre d'accueil et deservices à l'emploi - Jean-Sébastien Garon Coordonnateur	Services sociaux recherche d'emploi	Victoria
Réseau-Femmes - Louise Coté-Madill - Directrice générale	D'être inclu dans les processus de consultation Bureau des affaires francophones Moyen privilégié, femmes rurales, femmes immigrantes	Vancouver
Association des juristes d'expression française de la Colombie-Britannique - Sonia Desaulniers - Coordinatrice	L'administration de la justice en français	Vancouver
Éducacentre Vancouver - Paulette Bouffard - Directrice générale	L'éducation des adultes en français	Vancouver
La Fédération des parents francophones de C.-B. Marie Andrée Asselin - Directrice administrative	Petite-enfance Services à la famille	Vancouver
La Boussole - Christine Sotteau - Directrice générale	Services sociaux	Vancouver
Le Conseil culturel et artistique francophone de la C.-B. Sylvain Aumont - Directeur général	Politique viser à faciliter le financement des artistes et des intervenantes culturels	Vancouver

## Table des Soumissions

<b>La Fédération des francophones de la Colombie-Britannique - Yseult Friolet - Directrice générale</b>	Le santé Les services sociaux La petite-enfance Le droit civil	Vancouver - Serge Corbeil
<b>Société du développement économique - Louis Besner - Directeur général</b>	Traduction de textes concernant le domaine économique Information touristique	Vancouver- Veronique Biollay
<b>L'Express du pacifique - Marie-Claude Poulin- Directrice générale</b>	Gouvernement provincial d'annoncer dans les deux langues officielles	Vancouver
<b>La Garderie L'isle aux enfants Jean-Pierre Gauthier</b>	Besoins des garderies françaises	Vancouver
<b>Par écrit:</b>		
<b>Garderie Saute-Mouton Odette Cloutier - Présidente</b>	Des services de garde de qualité en français	
<b>Gérald Moreau Henriette Moreau L'Association historique francophone de Victoria</b>	L'éducation La santé Les services sociaux - les foyers pour les aîné(e)s La justice	
<b>Le Cercle des Canadiens Français Claire Green - Présidente</b>	Services axés sur le développement communautaire	
<b>Scouts Francophones de Maillardville Nicole Chabot</b>	Aide pour ouvrir leurs portes aux jeunes francophones de tous les environs	
<b>Centre culturel francophone de Vancouver - Jocelyne Lawson Présidente</b>	La culture Le tourisme culturel Les services communautaires Nouveaux arrivants Bureau des affaires francophones	
<b>L'Association francophone de la vallée de Comox - Lise Laguë Présidente</b>	Importance de la francophonie en région Bureau des affaires francophones	
<b>Individus:</b>		
<b>Gisele Samson</b>	Visibilité de la culture française	Victoria
<b>Jean-Pierre Fournier</b>	Traduction - santé	Victoria
<b>Chantal Lefebvre</b>	La vitalité francophone à Victoria	

## Table des Soumissions

M Ruel	Programme avancé para-scolaire	
Ihor Zalubniak	Éducation	
Mary Jane Werishora	Éducation post secondaire	
René Jacob	Soutien pour les francophones hors Québec	
Patricia Howell	Visibilité de la culture française	
Jean-Louis Denux	Visibilité de la culture française	
Jean Laberge	Traduction de la documentation pour les entrepreneurs	
3 individus	Commentaires divers	
<b>Autres:</b>		
Rencontre des partenaires dans le cadre du plan d'action national pour les enfants	La petite enfance	
<b>Présentations sans texte:</b>		
Maillardville-Uni, Johanne Dumas - Directrice générale	Culture Festival du bois	Vancouver
M. Martine	Vitalité de la communauté francophone	Vancouver
Josette Berne	Santé Des postes bilingues - Air Canada	Vancouver
Margo Landry	Troupe théâtre cabole	Victoria



*L'Ordre du Jour*

## Consultation Publique

*Pour L'Entente cadre Canada - Colombie-Britannique  
Sur la promotion des langues officielles*

*Victoria, le 20 juin, 2001. 16h à 20h  
La Société francophone de Victoria et Éducentre*

**16h** accueil - inscription - du café, du thé

***Présentations des memoires:***

Educentre - Victoria

Comité culturel de la société francophone de Victoria

Groupe des aînés et des aînées

L'Association des francophones de Nanaimo

La Société francophone de Victoria

Le Centre d'accueil et de services à l'emploi

Commentaires des individus et une discussion générale

**20h** Ajournement

***L'Ordre du Jour***

## **Consultation Publique**

***Pour L'Entente cadre Canada - Colombie-Britannique  
Sur la promotion des langues officielles***

***Vancouver, le 21 juin 2001, 16h à 20h  
Plaza 500 Hotel - 500 West 12th Avenue***

Accueil - Inscription - du café, du thé

- 16h** Bienvenue
- 16:15** Association des juristes d'expression française de la Colombie-Britannique
- 16:30** Éducacentre
- 16:45** La Fédération des parents francophones de Colombie-Britannique
- 17h** La Boussole à Vancouver
- 17:15** Le Conseil culturel et artistique de la Colombie-Britannique
- 17:30** La Fédération des francophones de la Colombie-Britannique
- 17:45** Société de développement économique de la Colombie-Britannique
- 18h** Pause
- 18:15** L'Express du Pacifique
- 18:30** Société Maillardville-uni
- 18:45** commentaires des individus
- 19h** La Garderie L'isle aux enfants
- 19:15** commentaires des individus
- 19:30** Conseil jeunesse de la Colombie-Britannique
- 19:45** commentaires des individus
- 20h** Ajournement

\*Rencontre privée avec le comité à 14:00h - Réseau-femmes



## Profile of the Francophone Community in British Columbia

- **Size:**

According to the 1996 Statistics Canada census:

  - Nearly 61,000 or 1.6 percent of B.C.'s total population are francophone.
  - The francophone community of B.C. is the third largest outside of Quebec, after Ontario and New Brunswick.
  - Approximately 250,000 British Columbians can speak French, which makes up about 7 percent of the population.
  
- **Location:**
  - The francophone population is dispersed throughout British Columbia.
  - 55 percent of the francophone population live in the areas of Greater Vancouver and Victoria.
  - There are community centres across the province including: Victoria, Vancouver, Kelowna, Comox, Campbell River, Kamloops, Maillardville, Powell River, and Prince George.
  
- **Origins:**
  - The francophone population of B.C. is “new” having been established for a fairly short time. 22 percent of the province’s francophones did not live in B.C. five years before the 1996 census.
  - 10 percent of francophones were born in B.C., people born elsewhere in Canada make up the majority of B.C. francophones at 78 percent, and 12 percent come from outside of Canada.
  
- **Education:**
  - Nearly 3,000 students are enrolled in francophone programs at the primary and secondary levels.
  - French immersion programs have been very popular over the last two decades. Approximately 30,000 students are enrolled in such programs.
  
- **Communications:**
  - *Radio-Canada* television and radio stations broadcast from Vancouver.
  - There are three community newspapers, *L'Express du Pacifique*, the Community Digest and *La Source*.
  - *La Fédération des francophones de la Colombie-Britannique* is the umbrella organization for francophone groups in B.C. and has 40 member associations located throughout B.C.
  - There is a network of French cultural associations and several festivals such as *Le Festival du bois de Maillardville* and *Le Festival d'été de Vancouver*.

Source: Information comes from *La Fédération des francophones de la Colombie-Britannique* web site (<http://www.ffcb.bc.ca>) and from Statistics Canada.

