



Canadian Heritage Patrimoine canadien



Canadian Heritage

# OFFICIAL LANGUAGES

Interdepartmental Coordination: 2000-2001

## Implementation of section 41 of the *Official Languages Act*

The Government of Canada is committed to enhancing the vitality of the English-speaking and French-speaking minority communities in Canada and supporting their development (section 41). The Department of Canadian Heritage, in consultation with other departments and agencies, encourages and promotes a coordinated approach to the implementation by federal institutions of these commitments (section 42).

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1. Parks Canada, by P. St Jacques

# Interdepartmental Coordination:

## Partners working for the well-being of the official-language minority communities

This insert in the Minister of Canadian Heritage's *Annual Report on Official Languages* presents a summary of the main achievements resulting from the 2000-2001 action plans of the 28 key federal departments and agencies covered by the accountability framework that the federal government established in August 1994 for the implementation of section 41 of the *Official Languages Act*. This section sets out the Canadian government's commitment to enhancing the vitality of Canada's French-speaking and English-speaking minorities, supporting their development and promoting the full recognition and use of French and English in Canadian society. The current fiscal year coincides with the signing of the first Memorandums of Understanding under the Interdepartmental Partnership with the Official-Language Communities (IPOLC). This is an initiative of the Department of Canadian Heritage that allows federal departments and agencies to undertake new activities designed to promote the long-term development of the official-language minority communities. IPOLC's objective is to create sustainable links between these communities and the participating departments and agencies. The achievements described here are a testament to the Canadian government's tangible and concerted commitment to linguistic duality. These actions help to enhance and enrich the Canadian social fabric. The increased vitality of official-language minority communities goes hand in hand with Canada's efforts to benefit from the diversity of its population. Readers who would like more information about specific action plans and related achievements can contact the department or agency of their choice directly. To that end, the inside cover of this insert contains a list of resource persons and telephone numbers. This document is also available on the Department of Canadian Heritage's web site (<http://www.pch.gc.ca/offlangoff>).

## CULTURAL SECTOR

### Parks Canada Agency

During the 2000-2001 fiscal year, Parks Canada developed and put in place heritage presentation programs taking into account the presence of official-language minority communities. Some examples: working with the English-language communities in Quebec on commemoration initiatives; preparing heritage presentation initiatives with the Acadian community; providing local elementary and high school French teachers with a kit on *la francophonie* in Canada; using various media to reach the minority communities (such as working with *Radio-Canada* on the *Micro-midi* program in Vancouver); and making presentations at local French immersion schools in Banff on the role played by French-language communities in settling the West.

Parks Canada also worked jointly with representatives of official-language minority communities for the development of local, regional and national tourism infrastructures (marketing and promotional initiatives with the Francophone communities, working with partners to ensure that bilingual services are offered, creating bilingual marketing tools in western and northern Canada, etc.). It also worked jointly with local and national leaders to promote Canada's linguistic duality. These included preparing an article series on the Francophone community in Jasper and French-language materials for the Banff

Centre for the Arts, and participating in local and provincial interdepartmental committees, such as the Pacific Council's Sub-Committee on Official Languages. Parks Canada is also actively seeking proposals from the official-language minority communities in order to sign a Memorandum of Understanding with the Department of Canadian Heritage within the framework of the Interdepartmental Partnership with the Official-Language Communities (IPOLC).

## **National Arts Centre**

With a new vision in hand, the National Arts Centre (NAC) has recruited a world-renowned artistic director for its French Theatre, Denis Marleau. It is confident that Mr. Marleau's arrival at the NAC will not only expand its artistic leadership on a national scale, but will open the doors to international acclaim for Francophone artists. Under this new artistic leadership, the NAC will again produce theatre with Francophone artists from across Canada. The NAC will also review the possibility of touring new productions or co-productions within Canada and abroad, representing Canada's Francophone culture internationally. The National Arts Centre's French Theatre has always been extensively involved with Francophone artistic communities outside Quebec, either as co-producer or supporter. In 2000, the NAC was able to increase funds by 15 per cent to regional initiatives, and as its own revenues continue to grow, it hopes to further increase its support to Francophone artistic communities outside Quebec.

The National Arts Centre was the creator of *Les 15 jours de la dramaturgie des régions*. In 2000, the NAC hosted this wonderful fifteen-day festival, showcasing music, poetry, theatre and comedy, performed by French-speaking companies from across Canada and the world. True to its national mandate and with the support of its many public and private partners, the NAC intends to continue this Canada-wide biennial initiative and to strengthen this essential event which showcases theatre created in the regions. On December 13, 2000, as a result of its new strategic direction, the National Arts Centre launched a new artistic programming department, including the introduction of a new stage, The Fourth Stage. The mandate is to provide a voice at the NAC for the local artistic community through a series of community outreach initiatives. Part of this mandate is to work with the Francophone community of Ottawa.

## **National Capital Commission**

The National Capital Commission (NCC) regularly takes part in conferences and similar meetings, enabling new talent from the official-language minority communities to be showcased and subsequently presented at special events (e.g. Canada Day festivities). For the Canada and the World Pavilion, a tourist destination which pays tribute to Canada's achievements abroad, information was sent to the official-language minority communities and to their colleges and universities in order to recruit fully bilingual interpretative guides for the Pavilion. Two "Sound and Light" shows were presented every evening on Parliament Hill - one in French and one in English. Included in each show were various testimonies on what it means to be Canadian, expressed in the other official language.

For *Future Trek*, a unique exchange program bringing together young Canadians for six full days in the nation's capital, special attention was paid to linguistic minorities, with the result that a large number of Francophones, as well as a strong representation of Francophones from outside Quebec and Anglophones in Quebec, participated in the program. For a contest entitled *Celebrate Canada in the Capitals*, special promotional efforts were made to better target the minority communities in the North as well as French-speaking communities; consequently, there was a huge increase in participation from the territories and almost a two-fold increase from Quebec. Bilingual materials were also produced, such as the *Youth Ambassador Magazine*, made available on the NCC's web site, and *Every Kid's Capital*, educational material that was sent out to schools in the minority communities in 2000 and which is now being sent on a regular basis.

## **Canada Council for the Arts**

One of the most noteworthy accomplishments for the Canada Council for the Arts in 2000-2001 was the signing of a memorandum of understanding with the Department of Canadian Heritage for 2.4 million dollars over three years for the cultural and artistic development of the French-speaking minority communities. This agreement was within the framework of the Interdepartmental Partnership with Official-Language Communities (IPOLC). Initial discussions also took place during the year to develop a similar initiative concerning the English-speaking minority communities of Quebec. The main objectives of this agreement, among others, were to help reduce the isolation of minority artists and further their development, and to support the development of minority-language artistic organizations and help them become more professional.

Through such measures, the Council is progressing toward its general objective, which is to continue to integrate artists from the minority communities into its regular programs. In October 2000, the *Fédération culturelle canadienne-française* and the Council's Chairman and senior staff held their annual meeting to discuss current needs of the artistic community and examine future directions. Information sessions on the Council's programs were also provided to regional artists. It should be noted that the Council is one of the signatories of the protocols on French-language theatre and publishing as well as the Multipartite Co-operation Agreement on Culture, and has coordinated a comprehensive study on the situation of visual artists in French-speaking minority communities. Also of note is the fact that two winners of the Governor General's Literary Awards came from the minority communities: Jean-Marc Dalpé in the French-language fiction category, and Robert Majzels in the translation category.

## **National Film Board of Canada**

The National Film Board of Canada (NFB) telecast a large number of French-language productions on *Radio-Canada*, TVA and the Aboriginal Peoples Television Network for official-language minority community viewers, including the enormously successful documentary *Enfer et contre tous!*, dealing with drug abuse among young street people, which was additionally screened in almost a dozen Canadian cities outside Quebec. Nine NFB films premiered in prime-time slots on *Radio-Canada*, including *Le Rocket*, which was broadcast a day after Maurice Richard's death and which drew a large number of viewers. In Quebec, the English-language community was treated to 37 films which were either produced originally in English or reworked from the original French version. French-language films were also presented at festivals in cities with large official-language minority populations; one example was the presentation of five NFB films, including two New Brunswick productions, at the 14<sup>th</sup> *Festival international du cinéma francophone en Acadie*.

Information was made readily available to the public through the bilingual NFB web site as well as an on-line newsletter, a direct sales service with a toll-free number and a catalogue of French Program productions. Libraries, schools and several community groups got a boost with special agreements signed with the NFB to provide access to videos and other materials. Twenty-four new French-language titles were added to the NFB collections in nine provinces and territories and 53 English-language titles were added in Quebec. In keeping with its past record of supporting young and emerging filmmakers, the NFB completed three documentary first works under the *Nouveaux cinéastes* program in Moncton. It also provided equipment loans as well as production services to support three projects in the Ontario/Western Canada region as well as support to Anglophone filmmakers in Quebec through the Filmmaker Assistance Program.

## Canadian Heritage

The Department of Canadian Heritage has been significantly involved in supporting the development of official-language minority communities, enhancing their vitality, and fostering the full recognition of French and English in Canadian society. Education is one of the Department's main priorities. In 2000-2001, Canadian Heritage invested \$200 million in this area as a result of agreements signed with the provinces and territories. More than 260,000 youth from Francophone and Anglophone minority communities are able to study in their mother tongue, and more than 2.7 million students are learning French or English as a second language, including over 300,000 students in French immersion programs. Other components of the official languages program allowed learning and promotion of both French and English to be expanded; these included the Summer Language Bursary Program, which is celebrating its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2001, the Official-Language Monitor Program, Young Canada Works in Both Official Languages, the Program for the Development of Official-Language Services, the Assistance for Interpretation and Translation Program, and the Program for the Integration of Both Official Languages in the Administration of Justice (POLAJ).

Canadian Heritage also participates in implementing various minority-language provincial and territorial services. The investments total nearly \$80 million in areas such as culture, social services, and health. Finally, Canada-community agreements inject some \$27 million annually in Francophone and Anglophone minority communities through associative networks. Furthermore, Canadian Heritage invested nearly \$900,000 in the Interdepartmental Partnership with Official-Language Communities (IPOLC) in its first year. Telefilm Canada, the Canada Council for the Arts, Health Canada, and Industry Canada are the first signatories of memoranda of understanding. Negotiations are underway with a number of other federal agencies.

The Department's arts and cultural programs have also shown their support for Canada's linguistic duality. Museums, the theatre, publishing, the music industry, media arts, visual arts, and performing arts are all areas of focus. We would like to mention the support for events such as the *Coup de cœur francophone*, which is celebrating its 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2001, the *Festival du théâtre des régions*, the *Soirée des masques*, and the Montreal Fringe Festival, and support for organizations such as the *Bureau de promotion de Montréal* (publishing, song-music), performing arts dissemination networks (Atlantic Canada, Ontario, Western Canada) and the *Alliance nationale de l'industrie musicale (ANIM)*. The Multipartite Cooperation Agreement on Culture is another way for the Department and its portfolio agencies to foster the development of cultural life in minority environments. The contribution of the Department's programs for using French in new media is significant, and creating the Virtual Museum of Canada is an excellent example. The Department is also a major sponsor of TV-5, the international French-language television network. Its financial and technical contribution to the preparations for the 2001 Games of La Francophonie was significant. In terms of broadcasting, Canadian Heritage was active in planning the hearings conducted by the CRTC in the spring of 2000 on the status of French-language television services offered to Francophones outside Quebec.

## Canadian Broadcasting Corporation

During the 2000-2001 fiscal year, the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation signed a memorandum of understanding with the *Fédération culturelle canadienne-française (FCCF)* and other partners to increase and facilitate the promotion and visibility of Francophone and Acadian artists in all disciplines. The partners proceeded with an evaluation session of progress achieved during this period. Further to commitments undertaken with the CRTC, French Television set up a 15-member Regions' Panel and devoted a time slot to regional productions in its network program schedule. In cooperation with partners such as Telefilm Canada and the *Institut national de l'image et du son*, French Television



produced a professional development program in screenwriting for television directed at Francophone authors from linguistic minority communities; partial funding has been approved under the Interdepartmental Partnership with Official-Language Communities (IPOLC).

On an international level, collaborative projects between countries of the European and African Francophonie became reality, i.e., programs were produced, journalists were exchanged and training was offered to participating countries and regional stations. French Radio increased the number of production and broadcasting operations, launched a new musical Web site for the 15-to-30 age group (initiatives for youth include *Allo-Ados*, *Afrique-Ados* and *Clan Destin*), developed an international relations policy regarding its foreign activities (such as twinning between stations) and contributed to various cross-cultural initiatives, such as sharing the services of journalists. It should also be noted that CBC Radio, *Radio-Canada*, the Canada Council for the Arts and Writers-in-Electronic Residence have developed a pilot project in Montreal in order to create an innovative broadcast/on-line writing activity. Increasingly, English and French radio and television services are combining their efforts, creative capacities and talents in co-productions, such as *Canada, A People's History*.

## **Telefilm Canada**

One of the key accomplishments for Telefilm Canada has been the continued building of a solid partnership with French-language producers through an immersion workshop, held in Montreal, aimed at stimulating French-language production outside Quebec and facilitating its distribution throughout the country. Some of the training needs of the Immersion Program for Francophone Producers Outside Quebec were also met through workshops held in the spring of 2001 and an agreement was signed with the Department of Canadian Heritage within the framework of the Interdepartmental Partnership with Official-Language Communities (IPOLC) to provide more assistance to these producers in the future. Telefilm Canada also consulted directly with the industry, both nationally and regionally, to identify ways to better meet the specific needs of the production community in minority situations. In 2000-2001, 27 French-language projects originated from outside Quebec, with a budget that was up 16 per cent from the previous year; Telefilm Canada's participation also rose by 20 per cent. As for English-language production in Quebec, it maintained its normal level in 2000-2001, with the completion of 47 English-language projects.

The Canadian Television Fund remained the principal source of support for production, along with assistance from the Feature Film Fund and the Multimedia Fund. An important addition this year was the creation of two new programs under the new Canada Feature Film Fund - the Screenwriting Assistance Program and the Low Budget Independent Feature Film Assistance Program - which has enhanced Telefilm Canada's capacity to help producers in official-language minority situations expand their volume of business.

## **ECONOMIC SECTOR**

### **Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency**

The Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency (ACOA) considered the needs of Atlantic Canada's Acadian and Francophone communities when developing its strategic priorities, which focus in part on ways to encourage the creation and growth of small and medium-size business and on creating a positive climate for economic development. The ACOA coordinators responsible for implementing Part VII of the *Official Languages Act (OLA)* worked with Francophone communities in the Atlantic region. The

national coordinator served on the National Committee for Canadian Francophonie Human Resources Development of Human Resources Development Canada as well as on the network of official languages coordinators responsible for the implementation of Part VII of the *OLA*. ACOA also participated in a joint research project with Canada Economic Development for Quebec regions to look at the vitality of Eastern Canada's outlying regions, especially those regions that are primarily Francophone. In conjunction with the Department of Canadian Heritage, the national coordinator also worked on the implementation of the Interdepartmental Partnership with Official-Language Communities (IPOLC).

ACOA involved each of its regional offices in the development of Acadian and Francophone communities. In New Brunswick, the "Open for Business" concept took shape, and a provincial entrepreneurship competition for Francophone secondary school students in New Brunswick was introduced in co-operation with the *Université de Moncton*. In Nova Scotia, ACOA worked with other stakeholders to develop a complete marketing plan for the *Acadie 2003-2005* events. In Prince Edward Island, the Agency fostered harmonious working relations among the *Société de développement de la Baie acadienne*, the *Société Saint-Thomas d'Aquin* and stakeholders involved in economic development and the promotion of the French language and Acadian culture. In Newfoundland, ACOA took part in the work of the resource development committee of the *Association régionale de la côte Ouest inc.* and contributed to specific projects. In so doing, the Agency helped develop and implement the economic development plan for the Francophone communities of the Port-au-Port Peninsula.

## **Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada**

During 2000-2001, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) took specific measures to promote and enhance the vitality of English and French linguistic minority communities in Canada and support their development. Within the framework of the implementation of section 41 of the *Official Languages Act*, AAFC took part in a number of discussions with other federal departments in order to forge partnerships and achieve the most effective results within the official-language minority communities.

The Department participated in the work of two committees organized by Human Resources Development Canada: the National Committee for Canadian Francophonie Human Resources Development and the Human Resources Development Committee for the English Linguistic Minority of Quebec. These two committees are working with the minority communities towards carrying out various promising initiatives while, at the same time, raising the confidence, leadership and collective strength of these communities.

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada also took steps toward concluding a Memorandum of Understanding with Canadian Heritage in connection with the Interdepartmental Partnership with Official-Language Communities (IPOLC). Under this initiative, AAFC and Canadian Heritage will work jointly to support the development of the official-language minority communities. In fact, several potential projects which could be included in the memorandum have been identified by AAFC. The Department is proud of the progress it has made during 2000-2001. Undoubtedly, its current and future involvement will contribute to the vitality of the French and English minority communities in Canada. It recognizes, however, that it will be important to improve and increase its involvement in the upcoming months in order to promote a lasting development of these communities.

## **Business Development Bank of Canada**

During the 2000-2001 fiscal year, the Business Development Bank of Canada (BDC) took part in Phase 1 of an assessment aimed at identifying how accessible the Bank's programs and services are to the official-language minority communities. It consisted of a survey of management personnel at the

branches to determine how much of an impact the Bank's operating procedures have on the eligibility of the communities for its programs; all respondents indicated that the Bank's operating procedures serve the communities well. A new national coordinator has been appointed and Phase 2 of the assessment will be conducted in the next fiscal year. The Bank also contributed to the activities of the National Committee for Canadian Francophonie Human Resources Development and placed advertisements in regional minority newspapers as well as on *RDI* and *Radio-Canada* as part of its national advertising campaign. As an example of progress made on a regional level, the BDC conducted informal consultations with the French-speaking community in Ottawa-Vanier to gain a better understanding of the challenges that it faces; this resulted in the appointment, for the second consecutive year, of an Ottawa branch employee to the board of directors of the *Regroupement des gens d'affaires francophones*, who also co-presided a gala which drew over 600 business people. BDC staff members across the country were involved in the activities of various Francophone minority associations and committees, and a BDC-TV information session was prepared on the use of the Internet for banking purposes as well as one on E-strategy that reached 19 Quebec English-speaking companies.

### **Canada Economic Development (for Quebec regions)**

The main achievement over the 2000-2001 fiscal year for Canada Economic Development (CED) for the Quebec regions was to undertake an annual review of the agency's performance with regard to implementation of its commitment provided for in section 41 of the *Official Languages Act*. The evaluation indicates that the organizations consulted are becoming more and more familiar with CED's programs and services, and it is making greater efforts to reach Quebec's Anglophone community (e.g. meetings with the Townshippers' Association to explain CED's programs and discuss the Anglophone community's entrepreneurial problems and needs; representation of the Anglophone community in the work of the interdepartmental table of the Canadian Rural Partnership). Support was provided for activities in specifically identified areas, such as specialized production in agriculture, ecotourism and electronic commerce. Special partnerships were developed to create visibility in the Anglophone community, seminars were organized (e.g. High Technology Breakfast Series with the Metropolitan Montreal Chamber of Commerce), long-term financing was provided for projects (e.g. Just for Laughs festival), and entrepreneurship among young people in the Anglophone community was encouraged (e.g. Youth Employment Services for young entrepreneurs in the Montreal area).

### **Western Economic Diversification Canada**

Western Economic Diversification Canada (WD) has provided financial and technical support to the Francophone Economic Development Organizations (FEDOs) in each Western province. This has allowed each of them to offer improved service to Francophones, including employee training, business development, consulting and services to increase business opportunities. This support has encouraged networking and has contributed to the creation of *Le Corridor touristique francophone de l'Ouest* – which is mandated to develop and market a Francophone tourism action plan for all of Western Canada and, eventually, to connect this corridor to a cross-Canada Francophonie path.

On an organizational level, WD has contributed, through its client service offices and with network partners, to small business development by providing small business seminars to Western Francophone clients. In addition, WD coordinators have worked on integrating FEDOs with the Business Service Network. Many internal meetings between WD and FEDO coordinators and external meetings between the Department and community organizations have taken place to examine the progress made and the directions to be taken regarding the implementation of section 41. The Department has been actively involved in the work of many national committees, including the National Committee for Canadian Francophonie Human Resources Development, organized by Human Resources Development Canada (HRDC).

Western Economic Diversification Canada has taken part in a number of events to promote Francophone communities nationally and internationally. WD has taken part in discussions with Canadian Heritage with a view to signing a Memorandum of Understanding related to the Interdepartmental Partnership with Official-Language Communities (IPOLC). The Department has also worked on setting up a Web site in French, and it has also advertised in the Western French-language print and electronic media.

## **Industry Canada**

In March 2001, Industry Canada was one of the first federal organizations to sign a Memorandum of Understanding with Canadian Heritage under the Interdepartmental Partnership with Official-Language Communities (IPOLC) initiative and three projects were undertaken in the first year. It also conducted an evaluation of all its activities in support of section 41 and a major awareness campaign was undertaken to inform managers of their obligations and to share best practices; this resulted in the development of a comprehensive long-term strategy.

Industry Canada's major activity involved connecting official-language minority communities and entrepreneurs via the Internet, through various initiatives. During 2000-2001, one of these initiatives, the Community Access Program, which establishes Internet access sites in schools, community organizations, etc., added more than 300 sites that are located in the official-language minority communities; VolNet, which assists voluntary organizations with Internet connectivity, attracted more than 625 minority associations to the program; *la Péninsule acadienne*, one of the 12 pilot projects selected under the Smart Communities Program and recipient of a 4.5 million dollar contribution from Industry Canada, will improve economic and cultural development in the region and link Francophone community across the country; the Computers for Schools Program delivered 2,450 computers to schools of the official-language minority communities across the country; and the *Francommunautés virtuelles* program, through which Francophone and Acadian communities receive assistance to develop Internet applications, services and content in French, completed 17 minority-community projects. Also noteworthy was the fact that FedNor spent nearly 2 million dollars on the Francophone communities of northern Ontario through various programs.

## **Public Works and Government Services Canada**

This year, Public Works and Government Services Canada (PWGSC) launched the Deputy Minister's Award for Official Languages which recognizes the contributions of PWGSC employees or groups of employees for achieving departmental objectives in official languages. It also supported the launching of the *Lauriers de la PME* competition, which was initiated by the National Committee for Canadian Francophonie Human Resources Development, to recognize the contribution to the Canadian economy of Francophone entrepreneurs living in minority communities. PWGSC participated in the organization of the *Live Dialogue* forum, held in Ottawa, which allowed participants from all sectors of Canadian society to take part in inter-community discussions and promote the setting up of partnerships. It also played a significant role in the organization of the 2001 Games of La Francophonie (infrastructure, services and volunteers) and provided assistance to the third *Mondial de l'entreprenariat jeunesse*. The Department donated computer equipment to official-language minority community associations and loaned other equipment to the *Alliance des radios communautaires du Canada* for the *Radiojeunesse 2001* project (for launching at the Games). In addition to computers, copies of the *Glossary of Health Services* terminology bulletin as well as *TERMIUM Plus®*, the new generation of the Government of Canada terminology data bank, were provided to the minority community associations.

# HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT SECTOR

## Canadian Centre for Management Development

In 2000-2001, the Canadian Centre for Management Development (CCMD) added a section 41 module to the educational component of the Management Trainee Program, which contributes to an improved understanding by participants, the future leaders of the Public Service, of the Government of Canada's responsibility with respect to section 41 of the *Official Languages Act (OLA)*. CCMD also designed a new course for middle managers which provides participants with an understanding of the legal frameworks, including the *OLA*, under which they must operate. Also conducted was an Armchair Discussion with the Commissioner of Official Languages and the CCMD President organized a Roundtable for Deputy Ministers to meet the Commissioner to explore issues of bilingualism and the Public Service strategy for section 41. Other courses for executives and middle managers introduced participants to the importance of respecting Canadian values, including official languages, and encouraging an understanding of Canada's linguistic minorities. It should also be noted that, among others, CCMD: provided a core senior course in French to Francophone executives and managers; designed a new leadership development program for executives and piloted it as an explicitly bilingual program; increased the number of Francophone experts and top leaders who are featured in its learning events and study tours; produced a videotape targeting Francophone managers; and, within the context of the Career Assignment Program, organized study tours in which Public Service managers met members of official-language minority communities in regions across Canada.

## Status of Women Canada

During 2000-2001, Status of Women Canada (SWC) provided funding in support of 11 initiatives aimed specifically at fostering capacity-building for organizations of official-language minority women, involving them in making institutional and policy changes and educating the public on issues of concern to them. It also involved these women's organizations in Canada's preparations for and participation in *Beijing + 5*, the United Nations General Assembly Special Session on Gender Equality held in June 2000. Official-language minority women were involved by SWC in the public policy development process by engaging them in various policy dialogue roundtables, including those organized by women and other equality-seeking organizations in events such as the World March of Women held in October 2000. SWC also encouraged greater representation of official-language minority women and their organizations in activities organized to commemorate key women's equality dates.

## Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada

The Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) continues to ensure that its adjudication committees for grants and fellowships are structured so as to allow appropriate representation on the basis of language. In addition, it provides funding to researchers working in official-language minority communities as well as to research projects dealing with linguistic duality (e.g. an education study on the Canadian Francophonie and the new global economy, language learning in children growing up in a bilingual environment). Minority communities can also take advantage of the Council's continuing collaborative research and partnerships with universities and community organizations. One example is a pilot program called "Community-University Research Alliances", which promotes partnerships between university and community groups, providing research results on community needs as well as training and employment for youth. Of particular note is the funding that the Council provided for a literacy project on Manitoba's French-speaking and Métis communities in conjunction with French-language retraining projects for adults. The Council also makes available a list of all projects funded on Canada's bilingual character and on the promotion of its minority communities,

and distributes information on its strategic and research grant programs widely within the minority communities.

## **Human Resources Development Canada**

In 2000-2001, Human Resources Development Canada (HRDC) continued to play an important part in the development of the official-language minority communities. This department can count on a dynamic network of regional and departmental coordinators to look out for the community's interests. HRDC proceeded with its work in human resources capacity-building in the communities and continued to promote Part VII of the *Official Languages Act*, with its employees and management, so that community concerns can be better integrated into the Department's daily activities. HRDC contributed to the strategic directions of both linguistic communities through the National Committee for Canadian Francophonie Human Resources Development and the National Human Resources Development Committee for the English Linguistic Minority Community. This partnership fostered events of national scope for both communities, including the *Lauriers de la PME* awards and the launch of the *Gazel.ca* network for the Francophone community, and the tabling of the first report of the national committee for the English minority. During the last fiscal year, the Department supported more than 300 projects across the country, through its regional offices, programs at national headquarters and human resource centres.

## **Health Canada**

In 2000-2001, Health Canada was very active in the official-language minority communities, both at headquarters and in the regions. The departmental and regional coordinators, along with officers from the regional offices and programs from headquarters, tried harder to meet the needs of official-language minority communities and establish lasting working relationships with them. Health Canada also supported numerous initiatives by community groups throughout the country (rural health, infancy, healthy aging, prenatal nutrition, etc.). Furthermore, it concluded a Memorandum of Understanding with Canadian Heritage on the implementation of the Interdepartmental Partnership with the Official-Language Communities (IPOLC); this three-year memorandum was accompanied by a list of initiatives aimed at fostering the development of both Francophone and Anglophone minority communities. In April 2000, Health Canada also set up the Consultative Committee for French-Speaking Minority Communities, aimed at improving access to healthcare in French. The committee requested a broad study on health services offered in French and created three working groups responsible for looking at specific issues: networking, training and research, and infrastructure. In October 2000, Health Canada also created the Consultative Committee for English-Speaking Minority Communities, which fosters access to health services in English for the minority community in Quebec. These two committees will provide recommendations to the Minister of Health in 2001-2002.

Throughout the year, Donald J. Savoie conducted a study, at Health Canada's request, on the way that the Department could promote greater development of the official-language minority communities through its programs. As a result of this study, Health Canada has taken various steps to ensure it is able to meet the needs of the communities.

## **Canada Post Corporation**

During the past fiscal year, Canada Post Corporation reached an agreement with Industry Canada, through its Community Access Program, to install computer terminals in selected postal outlets to give Canadians living in all communities access to the Internet. The Corporation is also connected to a Canada-wide initiative to provide access to information on government programs and services to all Canadians in their own communities in the language of their choice. Also of note, Canada Post Literacy

Awards were presented to 35 individuals and organizations for their exceptional work in education, and community and business leadership; eight of these winners were from the official-language minority communities.

Some Canada Post initiatives deserve mention: one is the Pen Pal Program, which was designed to encourage children to write letters in their own official language to students in schools in other parts of Canada, and has had a positive impact on the minority communities. Canada Post Corporation was also a major sponsor of the 2001 Games of La Francophonie and issued two stamps to commemorate both the sporting and cultural events of these games. In addition, the donations and sponsorships programs, showing corporate commitment to literacy, provided much-needed support to meet the needs of the minority communities (e.g. Literacy Partners of Quebec, the *Fédération canadienne pour l'alphabétisation en français*, *La Dictée Paul Gérin-Lajoie*).

## INTERNATIONAL SECTOR AND CENTRAL AGENCIES

### Foreign Affairs and International Trade

In March 2000, more than 50 of the missions of the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (DFAIT) located abroad participated in Francophonie celebrations, including the International Day of La Francophonie. The Canadian government, through DFAIT, also made a contribution to the Province of New Brunswick so that it could participate in international Francophonie events. Non-governmental organizations were given support for the promotion of La Francophonie and there was support for greater use of French in the United Nations General Assembly, such as ensuring that delegates' speeches are prepared in both official languages and that official delegations and mission staff are comprised of both Francophones and Anglophones.

The Public Diplomacy Program is designed to bring together Canadians of both official-language groups and assist them in getting to know each other better. For example, the Program provided support for the Bilingual Mock United Nations Assembly at the secondary school level in Fredericton and for young Francophone students from Prince Edward Island to participate in an exchange with students in Normandy, France. DFAIT also supported academic projects such as the World Education Market in Vancouver and *Expolangues* in Paris. In addition, the Department is involved in the promotion of Canada's official languages through involvement in the Government-on-Line initiative (especially in the development of the Non-Canadians Gateway), the Youth International Internship Program, international trade expansion and promotion of the arts (performances, literature, film and video).

### Canadian International Development Agency

Since the objectives of the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) are to manage foreign aid to other countries, CIDA does not therefore provide direct service to the Canadian population in general, including to those living in the official-language minority communities. However, one of CIDA's main accomplishments last year for the benefit of the Francophone minorities in the Maritimes and, more specifically, in New Brunswick was the opening of a liaison office in Moncton to ensure training and support for organizations in the area who would like to work with CIDA in developing countries. CIDA also undertook several initiatives in 2000-2001 that were linked to the Francophonie. For example: a total of five million dollars was made available to the *Forum Ontario Francophonie Mondiale* for the *Programme d'initiatives pour jeunes entrepreneurs* to promote business partnerships within the Francophonie; the *Programme de renforcement institutionnel en matière de technologie en Afrique francophone* was established which, for the next four years, will be twinning the *Collège*

*d'Alfred* with institutions in the Comoro Islands and Equatorial Guinea, as well as the *Cité collégiale* with a Malagasy partner; and funding (4.5 million dollars) was provided to the L. B. Pearson Centre in Nova Scotia for a project to develop and reinforce the endogenous peacekeeping and security capabilities of training centres in Francophone Africa.

CIDA also provided more than five million dollars to Anglophone minority institutions in Quebec (e.g. McGill University, Concordia University and the Montreal General Hospital) and 13 English-speaking private-sector companies of the Montreal area received a similar amount for their joint venture projects under the Industrial Cooperation Programme. The new *Programme des conférenciers*, aimed to make Canadians aware of the work of CIDA and its partners through a series of meetings and presentations throughout the country, received a great deal of attention last year. In particular, 20 conferences held throughout Canada reached nearly 800 members of the official-language minority communities, e.g. youth, university leaders, and community organizations.

## **International Development Research Centre**

In order to improve internationally the awareness of the research expertise of the official-language minority communities so that these communities may contribute to international development research, grants were made in 2000-2001 by the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) to various associations and institutions (e.g. McGill University's Centre for Developing-Area Studies, in support of the Montreal inter-university research centre for international development studies; the *Association culturelle et professionnelle africaine* de Sudbury, in support of a colloquium entitled *Le Canada et l'Afrique* which took place in March 2001). Additional grants were provided to support Canadian organizations that bring together elements of the two official-language minority communities to work together and share ideas on international development issues (e.g. International Relations Division of the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada, Canadian Council for International Co-operation). An awards program is publicized on the Internet in both official languages to help young researchers from official-language minority communities acquire experience in their field of interest. IDRC continues to invest resources to have its documents on the Internet accessible in both English and French, even when the design and development of the site are carried out in other countries.

## **Citizenship and Immigration Canada**

During the past year, Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC) made efforts to support the integration of immigrants into the official-language minority communities through the sharing of best practices among communities and by improving the delivery of settlement and language instruction services. For example, CIC entered into a new partnership with two southern Ontario French-language school boards to place settlement workers in Toronto schools. Members of the official-language minority communities were also invited to participate, either as guest speakers or as hosts, in citizenship ceremonies around the country. In order to promote awareness of Canada's bilingual character, information on Canada's minority communities was updated and distributed in all regional offices and missions abroad, and modules on Part VII of the *Official Languages Act* were created and are being delivered as part of the Department's Acts and Regulations course.

The Department also actively considered the interests of the official-language minority communities when developing programs and policies by promoting awareness of relevant departmental activities to region-specific minority-language organizations. Also, the documentary series, *A Scattering of Seeds*, highlighting the experiences of various immigrant groups, has been made available in both official languages and broadcasts for the third season have begun on both the English- and French-language



television networks. Finally, CIC made efforts to ensure that its programs and policies recognize the use of both English and French in Canada. This was done by, among other actions, providing Citizenship Court judges with materials in both official languages, launching a 'best practices' web site for integration-related information and matching refugees to official-language minority communities through tools such as community profiles.

## **Justice Canada**

The Department of Justice redesigned its Web site for the National Program for the Integration of Both Official Languages in the Administration of Justice, resulting in a three-fold increase of visitors to the site each month. Funding was also provided to jurist associations for the next two years to carry out specific projects. Measures were implemented to integrate the objectives of section 41 of the *Official Languages Act (OLA)* with the Department's values. For example, a policy statement and guidelines relating to public participation were prepared, including a section on the *OLA* and stressing the linguistic context in relation to the principles of public consultation. The guidelines were published and distributed to the Department's senior managers. In addition, all policy project plans prepared for the Department's steering committee now include an impact analysis, thereby permitting an evaluation of the impact of proposed policies on the requirements of section 41 of the *OLA* and allowing the objectives of Part VII of this act to be reflected in a more concrete way.

## **Treasury Board Secretariat**

A number of meetings were held in 2000-2001 between the President of the Treasury Board and representatives of the official-language minority communities where the communities discussed their needs for service in both official languages as well as their development projects. This year, the Treasury Board of Canada Secretariat (TBS) undertook to analyze more thoroughly the impact on official languages in submissions to the Treasury Board. Consequently, each submission includes a paragraph in which the Department presents the results of its analysis concerning official languages and indicates, where applicable, what measures have been taken or are planned to ensure that the program or initiative contributes to the development of the official-language minority communities.

TBS also contributed financially to the establishment of single windows for services in two French-speaking communities in Manitoba; other single-window projects are currently being studied. During this fiscal year, TBS continued to implement the memorandum of understanding between the Minister of Canadian Heritage and the President of the Treasury Board on the implementation of section 41 of the *Official Languages Act*. Both departments are also working together to establish and support official languages sub-committees under the federal regional councils; there are currently sub-committees in Newfoundland, Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Manitoba, Saskatchewan and British Columbia. From a training viewpoint, TBS has integrated the concept of support for the official-language minority communities into the curricula for the info-training sessions on official languages; in 2000-2001, five courses and 22 info-training sessions were held, raising the awareness of more than 534 participants both in Ottawa and in the regions.

## **Statistics Canada**

During the 2000-2001 fiscal year, Statistics Canada staff participated in the broad consultations held by Canadian Heritage across the country, held discussions with selected community groups and briefed regional staff on section 41. A leaflet entitled *Information on Official Languages at Statistics Canada* is available at community consultation meetings and in all Statistics Canada regional offices, and a CD-ROM profiling the official-language minority communities has been available since December 1998. Articles have been published and presentations at conferences and symposia have been made on such

topics as the evolution of language transfers in Canada, disparity in literacy levels between Francophones and Anglophones and the future of the French language.

In 2000-2001, Statistics Canada played an active role in forming a partnership to fund the oversampling of official-language minorities in the 2002 adult literacy and skills survey and a detailed language module was developed for inclusion in the survey. Also, contacts were made with Health Canada to ensure that the concerns of the official-language minorities would be taken into account in the development of a community health survey. Two studies on the linguistic aspects of immigration to Canada and the linguistic mobility of the official-language minorities in Canada are in progress and will be available on the Statistics Canada web site. Statistics Canada also participates in the Interdepartmental Working Group on Official Languages Research and in various subcommittees.

