Collaboration Accord Between Canadian Heritage and the Community Sector of the Acadian and Francophone Community of Prince Edward Island

Collaboration Accord Between Canadian Heritage and the Community Sector of the Acadian and Francophone Community of Prince Edward Island

Table of Contents

INTRODUCTION

1   The Government of Canada and Prince Edward Island's Acadian and Francophone community sector have a long history of working together for the common good of French-speaking Canadians living in Prince Edward Island. We share a commitment to improving the quality of life of our fellow citizens and to fostering the development of vibrant, healthy communities. The presence of official-language minority communities contributes to the improvement of quality of life for all Canadians. Our relationship is built on a foundation of trust and mutual respect.

2   The Government of Canada has undertaken, via the *Official Languages Act*, to enhance the vitality of linguistic minority communities in Canada (Anglophones in Quebec and Francophones outside Quebec), to assist their development and to promote the full recognition and use of both official languages in Canadian society.

3   This *Collaboration Accord between Canadian Heritage and the Community Sector of the Acadian and Francophone Community of Prince Edward Island* mirrors the accord signed in December 2001 by the Prime Minister and representatives of Canada's voluntary sector. *(An Accord between the Government of Canada and the Voluntary Sector).*

Background

4   The relationship between the Government of Canada and the official-language minority communities has led to significant progress since 1970. Over the two cycles of Canada-Community Agreements from 1994 to 2004, new organizations have emerged and networks have grown stronger. Despite these achievements, the assimilation of official-language minority communities remains a major concern.

5   The *Action Plan for Official Languages* adopted in March 2003 reaffirms the Government of Canada's commitment to linguistic duality. The *Action Plan* creates a horizontal accountability and coordination framework to report to Canadians on the results achieved in three main areas: an exemplary public service, education and the development of official-language minority communities. The framework applies to all federal institutions. In addition, ten departments and agencies receive funding under the *Action Plan*. Within both government and the communities themselves, community development architects and partners have grown more numerous and more diverse.

6   According to the 2001 Census, the Acadian and Francophone community of Prince Edward Island increased in numbers for the first time since 50 years. This shift in trends attests to the positive value of the time and effort invested toward the increased vitality of the community to counter assimilation. Nonetheless, the Acadian and Francophone community's relative demographic weight has remained stable.

7   Thanks to the significant percentage of Anglophone (and sometimes Francophone) students who have benefited from French immersion over the years in Prince Edward Island, the number of individuals who have a knowledge of French has increased substantially since the 1950s. Currently, a total of 16,090 individuals have the capacity to speak French in the province; this is equivalent to 12% of the province's population. With regard to persons entitled to receiving their education in French, a total of 669 Francophone students were enrolled in the six French-language schools of the province in 2003-2004; in comparison, 554 students were enrolled in two schools in 1990-1991.

8   In 1997, the Acadian and Francophone community of Prince Edward Island undertook a planning process that lead to the crafting of a strategic development plan. The community is a pioneer in matters of community-government cooperation, since it was the first to conclude, in1997, a tripartite partnership (community, federal government, and provincial government) aimed at community development.

9   As the community progresses, more and more resources are required to maintain or even accelerate growth. Certain tangible achievements, such as the school-community centres, have given new life to their communities. Such institutions require an extensive planning outlook and medium and long-term stability, so that they can maximize their impact on community development.

10   During the period covered by the previous agreement, the community prioritized the following sectors of economic activity:

11   ▪   Cultural tourism, highlighted during the 400th anniversary of Acadia, which was quite a success;

12   ▪   Community economic development;

13   ▪   Support to small and medium-sized enterprises and to the cooperative movement: currently, 370 Francophones have their own company;

14   ▪   Use and development of information and communications technologies and establishing a cybercommunity, the Island Francophone Telecommunity (télécommunauté insulaire francophone); and

15   ▪   Human resources development: the Société éducative de l'Île-du-Prince-Édouard offers postsecondary training in French and a distance training service since 1995.

16   The French Language Health Services Network, established in 2003, seeks to improve access to a full range of French language health services by providing advice to the provincial Minister of Health for the crafting of a plan to better answer the needs of the Acadian and Francophone clientele.

17   In April 2000, the Government of Prince Edward Island proclaimed the *French Language Services Act*, and committed to promoting the development of its Acadian and Francophone community and ensuring the continuity of linguistic duality in the province. In October 2002, during the Ministerial Conference on Francophone Affairs, the Minister of Acadian and Francophone Affairs, on behalf of the provincial government, signed a declaration of principles through which it is recognized that the leadership of provincial governments is vital fro the future of the Francophonie. The Government of Prince Edward Island must follow up on its legislative and political commitments by delivering comparable French language services. The federal government supports the Government of Prince Edward Island in its efforts to provide French language services, through the Canada-Prince Edward Island Agreement on French language services, an instrument with very important benefits for the development of the Acadian and Francophone community of Prince Edward Island.

18   As a community development architect, the community sector is one of three pillars of Canadian society, along with the public and private sectors. Our quality of life, our economic strength and the vitality of our democratic institutions depend on the vibrancy of these interdependent sectors and the support they provide to one another. Volunteers and staff working in community sector organizations are actively involved in making a difference and improving their communities, and in working towards the global development of the community. They deliver services critical to Canadians, advocate for common causes, and support economic and community development in Canada.

19   The Canadian community sector has also been instrumental in the development of most of the public services we rely on today as essential manifestations of a caring society, such as schools, hospitals, support for the underprivileged, and care for children in need. All of these services began as volunteer initiatives. Currently, the public and volunteer sectors both take part in providing these services. In communities, the community sector still remains a key purveyor of services in the minority official language. The Government of Canada acknowledges the important contribution of the Acadian and Francophone community sector of Prince Edward Island to the vitality of the province's Acadian and Francophone community.

20   Prince Edward Island's Acadian and Francophone community has made progress thanks to the mobilizing of the entire Acadian and Francophone civil society, which has adopted its own institutions, and thanks to advocacy work. The development of the Island's Acadian and Francophone community hinges on the creation of community institutions benefiting from stable resources for their operations.

21   Community sector organizations bring their knowledge, expertise and compassion in working with communities and individuals to public policy debates and identify priorities to governments. By encouraging people to participate and work together for common causes, the sector strengthens citizen involvement, gives voice to the voiceless, allows for multiple perspectives to be heard on a variety of issues, and provides opportunities for people to practice the skills of democratic life.

22   Community sector organizations provide opportunities for volunteers to contribute to the life of their communities. The term "volunteer" refers to all who work by choice, without remuneration, on causes or for people outside their personal sphere. People volunteer formally, through organizations, or informally by participating and helping others. Volunteering takes different forms in different cultures and different regions of the country. Women and men who volunteer are committed to making a difference and believe deeply in the work they are doing.

23   Volunteers are involved in all three sectors, but the community sector is the only one developed by volunteers and that fully solicits their involvement. The community benefits enormously from the rich contribution of its volunteers, who make a range of services accessible to women, youth and seniors among others, in several areas such as health and early childhood. The rich network of organizations, called the community sector, helps make Canada the humane, caring and prosperous nation it is, and is one of the strengths for which Canada is known around the world.

The Parties to this Accord

The Acadian and Francophone Community Sector of Prince Edward Island

24   This Accord applies to the Acadian and Francophone community sector of Prince Edward Island. The sector consists of organizations that exist to serve a public benefit, are self-governing, do not distribute any profits to members, and depend to a meaningful degree on volunteers. Membership or involvement in these organizations is not compulsory, and they are independent and distinct, as institutions, from the formal structures of government and the private sector. Although many Acadian and Francophone community sector organizations rely on paid staff to carry out their work, all depend on volunteers, at least for their governance.

The Department of Canadian Heritage

25   This Accord applies to the Department of Canadian Heritage, by virtue of the *Official Languages Act*.

Scope of the Accord

26   The Accord's focus is on the relationship between the Acadian and Francophone community sector and the Department of Canadian Heritage. Both the Department and the Acadian and Francophone community sector have relationships with other federal departments and agencies, other levels of government (provincial and local), private sector entities and government and quasi-government bodies. Each of these relationships has its own history and dynamics. The Accord recognizes the importance of these relationships but has no bearing on them.

27   The Accord also recognizes that many Acadian and Francophone community sector organizations do not work directly with Canadian Heritage but nevertheless contribute to enhancing the vitality of Prince Edward Island's Acadian and Francophone community. The parties acknowledge that there are circumstances where Canadian Heritage and the Acadian and Francophone community organizations may advocate different courses of action or choose to tackle issues of common interest separately.

Reason for the Accord

28   Prince Edward Island's Acadian and Francophone community sector and the Department of Canadian Heritage share a long tradition of joining forces to achieve common goals. Both sides believe, however, that there is benefit in formalizing the relationship with an accord that will facilitate greater mutual understanding and more cooperative ways of working together.

29   Both the Acadian and Francophone community sector and the Department of Canadian Heritage are large and diverse. It is important for each to know what to expect from the other, and to appreciate the roles, goals, and perspectives of the other.

30   Ten years of cooperation through two cycles of Canada-Community Agreements have helped the relationship between the Department and the Acadian and Francophone community sector evolve towards the shared goal of community-driven governance and development. This Accord builds on previous efforts and seeks to improve the relationship, while respecting limitations of each party.

THE ACCORD

PART I - PURPOSE OF THE ACCORD

31 The purpose of the Accord is to strengthen the ability of both Prince Edward Island's Acadian and Francophone community sector and Canadian Heritage to better serve Acadians and Francophones living in Prince Edward Island.

32 This Accord derives its strength from the evolving relationship between the Acadian and Francophone community sector and the Department of Canadian Heritage. While the Accord is not a legal document, it is designed to guide the evolution of this relationship by identifying the common values, principles and commitments that will shape future practices. It focuses on what unites the Acadian and Francophone community sector and government, honours the contributions of both, and respects their unique strengths and different ways of working.

33 The Accord attests to a public commitment of Canadian Heritage and of Acadian and Francophone community sector organizations to work together in an open, transparent, consistent and collaborative way. When working together, the Department and Acadian and Francophone organizations seek to fulfil the commitments set out in the Accord, and in so doing enhance the quality of life of French-speaking Canadians living Prince Edward Island.

PART II - VALUES

34 The Accord is based on the following seven Canadian values that are most relevant to the relationship between Canadian Heritage and the Acadian and Francophone community sector. These values are closely interrelated and together create a climate for improving and enhancing the lives of all Canadians:

Linguistic Duality

35 ▪ Enhancing the vitality of official-language minority communities, supporting and assisting their development, and promoting the full recognition and use of both official languages in Canadian society;

Democracy

36 ▪ Upholding the right to associate freely, to express views freely and to engage in advocacy;

Active Citizenship

37 ▪ Accepting the active involvement or engagement of individuals and communities in shaping society, whether through political or voluntary activity or both;

Equality

38 ▪ Respecting the rights of Canadians under the *Constitution Act of 1982*, the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*, the *Canadian Human Rights Act*, and the *Official Languages Act*;

Diversity

39 ▪ Respecting the rich variety of cultures, languages, identities, interests, views, abilities, and communities in Canada;

Inclusion

40 ▪ Accepting the expression and representation of diversity and upholding the right of each to speak and be heard; and

Social Justice

41 ▪ Ensuring full participation in the social, economic and political life of communities.

PART III - PRINCIPLES

42   The Accord is based on the following guiding principles:

Independence

43   Canadian Heritage and the Acadian and Francophone community sector are autonomous, have unique strengths and separate accountabilities, and agree that:

44   ▪   Canadian Heritage, within the mandate given to it by Parliament, is accountable to all Canadians for its actions, and has a responsibility to identify issues of national concern and mobilize resources to address them, establish policies and make decisions in the best interest of all Canadians;

45   ▪   Acadian and Francophone community sector organizations are accountable to their supporters and to those they serve in providing services, organizing activities and giving collective voice at the local, provincial, national and international level;

46   ▪   The independence of Acadian and Francophone community sector organizations includes their right within the law to challenge public policies, programs and legislation and to advocate for change; and

47   ▪   Advocacy is inherent to debate and change in a democratic society and, subject to the above principles, it should not affect any funding relationship that might exist.

Interdependence

48   The Acadian and Francophone community sector and Canadian Heritage recognize that:

49   ▪   The actions of one can directly or indirectly affect the other, since both often share the same objective of common good, operate in the same areas of Canadian life, and serve the same clients; and

50 ▪ Each has complex and important relationships with others (such as other federal departments and agencies, provincial and local governments, business, labour, etc.), and the Accord is not meant to affect these relationships, but rather facilitate them.

Dialogue

51 The Acadian and Francophone community sector and Canadian Heritage, recognizing that sharing of ideas, perspectives, and experiences contributes to better understanding, improved identification of priorities, and sound public policy, agree that:

52 ▪ Dialogue should be open, respectful, informed, sustained and welcoming of a range of viewpoints;

53 ▪ Dialogue should respect each party's confidential information, should build and maintain trust; and

54 ▪ Appropriately designed processes and governance structures are necessary to achieve sustained dialogue.

Cooperation and Collaboration

55 Canadian Heritage and the Acadian and Francophone community sector agree that the social fabric of communities is strengthened and civic engagement is increased when they work together to address issues of mutual concern, and that:

56 ▪ Working together to identify common priorities or complementary objectives will facilitate cooperation and collaboration; and

57 ▪ Working relationships should be flexible and respect what others contribute, as well as the challenges and constraints under which they operate.

Accounting to Canadians

58 In addition to their separate accountabilities, the Acadian and Francophone community sector and Canadian Heritage are accountable for maintaining the trust and confidence of Canadians by:

59 ▪ Ensuring transparency, high standards of conduct and sound management in their work together; and

60 ▪ Monitoring and reporting on the results.

Transparency

61 Canadian Heritage and the Acadian and Francophone community sector must promote a mutual understanding of the context in which they operate, and a clear understanding of the factors affecting decisions on each side. They agree that Acadian and Francophone organizations and the Department must communicate information on their functioning, practices, intentions, objectives and results in a timely manner.

PART IV – COMMITMENTS TO ACTION

62 The values and principles of the Accord are the basis for the development of the relationship between Canadian Heritage and the Acadian and Francophone community sector. Success in building the relationship will depend on the actions and practices of both Canadian Heritage and the Acadian and Francophone community sector for the benefit of French-speaking Canadians living in Prince Edward Island. In moving forward, the following commitments will be essential.

Shared Commitments

63 The Acadian and Francophone community sector and Canadian Heritage commit to:

64 ▪ Act in a manner consistent with the values and principles in this Accord;

65 ▪ Develop the mechanisms and processes required to implement the Accord;

66 ▪ Work together as appropriate to achieve shared goals and objectives;

67 ▪ Support global, sustainable, community-driven development;

68 ▪ Promote awareness and understanding of the contributions that each makes to Canadian society.

Canadian Heritage Commitments

69 Canadian Heritage, within its mandate under Part VII of the *Official Languages Act*, commits to:

70 ▪ Recognize and consider the implications of its legislation, regulations, policies and programs on the Acadian and Francophone community, including the importance of funding policies and practices for the further development of the relationship and the strengthening of the Acadian and Francophone community sector's capacity; and

71 ▪ Recognize its need to engage the Acadian and Francophone community and its community sector in open, informed and sustained dialogue so that the sector may contribute its experience, expertise, knowledge, and ideas in developing better public policies, in the design and delivery of programs, and in the implementation of the interdepartmental and intergovernmental roles as defined in Part VII of *the Official Languages Act*.

Prince Edward Island Acadian and Francophone Community Sector Commitments

72 The Acadian and Francophone community sector of Prince Edward Island commits to:

73 ▪ Continue to identify important or emerging issues and trends in communities, and act on them or bring them to the attention of Canadian Heritage, under its mandate (Part VII of the *Official Languages Act*), and of the Government of Canada, in keeping with its *Action Plan on Official Languages*;

74 ▪ Serve as a means for the voices and views of as many Acadian and Francophone organizations as possible to be represented and be heard by Canadian Heritage and the Government of Canada, ensuring the mobilization and engagement of the various elements of the community; and

75 ▪ Recognize its need to engage an open, informed and sustained dialogue within the Acadian and Francophone community sector, so that it may:

76 ▪ Articulate its common vision with respect to its overall development and a sequence of strategic priorities, in the form of a Global Development Plan; and consequently

77 ▪ Make informed choices required for the Acadian and Francophone community sector to account for results targeted in the Plan.

PART V - APPLICATION OF THE ACCORD

78 The Acadian and Francophone community sector of Prince Edward Island and Canadian Heritage agree on:

79 ▪ The common results they wish to attain to enhance the development and vitality of Prince Edward Island's Acadian and Francophone community, taking into account the key community issues they have identified;

80 ▪ The appropriate organizational structures to implement the provisions of the Accord, at the Department of Canadian Heritage and in the Acadian and Francophone community sector; and

81 ▪ The processes for implementing the Accord, for reporting to Canadians on the status of the relationship and the results that have been achieved, for agreeing on next steps, and for considering strategic opportunities for future collaboration.

82 The aim is that the Accord and its implementation plan will provide a framework for helping the Acadian and Francophone community sector and Canadian Heritage better serve French-speaking Canadians living in Prince Edward Island.

1. Key Community Issues and Common Results

83 The Acadian and Francophone community sector and Canadian Heritage take note of the key issues affecting the community and agree that the Global Development Plan articulates a series of results that contribute to the development and vitality of the Acadian and Francophone community of Prince Edward Island.

1.1. Key Community Issues

84   The key community issues facing the Acadian and Francophone community in Prince Edward Island are the following:

85   ▪ People whose mother tongue is French as are older than the average of Prince Edward Island's population. According to the 2001 Census, among individuals whose mother tongue is French, close to one quarter (23%) is aged 65 or older, while this proportion is 12.8% for the province's total population.

86   ▪ In terms of assimilation, there is certain stability in the number of people whose mother tongue is French since 1991; this gives hope for a better future for French in the daily lives of French-speaking families. However, the rate of assimilation remains very high, especially in those regions that did not benefit, until the year 2000, from French language schools or school-community centres. The rate of assimilation of the Acadian and Francophone community (56%) is higher than the national average (31.3%).

87   ▪ The Acadian and Francophone population of Prince Edward Island is concentrated in six main areas, each with their school-community centre. Consultations have shown that these centres are vital assets for the community's development, particularly on a regional scale. Acadians and Francophones are aware of the role these centres play in their coming together and in giving visibility to their culture, among Francophones as well as Anglophones.

88   ▪ The development of the Island's Acadian and Francophone community hinges on the creation of community institutions benefiting from stable resources for their operation.

89   ▪ The future of education and the number of people entitled to education in French are a key concern of the province's Acadian and Francophone community. A study showed that the Island is home to 2,400 entitled persons. Of this total, only 669 are enrolled in French schools.

90   ▪ There are also a significant number of exogamous families in Prince Edward Island; these families account for 66% of entitled persons. The Acadian and Francophone community must encourage young parents to make the choice of offering a life in French to their children, so that French language and culture are part of family life from the birth of their very first child.

91 ▪ In regions experiencing a revival, culture and heritage pave the way to the development of Acadian pride.

92 ▪ The community must continue its efforts to meet the needs of preschool children, at an age that is crucial in terms of language acquisition, thus helping to counter assimilation.

93 ▪ The community must continue to build an economy that departs from traditional dependence on the primary sector and seasonal activities.

94 ▪ Finally, an increased presence of Acadians and Francophones in influential public service positions will represent a great asset for the community's development.

1.2. Common Results

95 Canadian Heritage takes note of the results set out in provincial Vision Plan. This plan focuses on community development for the period 2004-2009 and touches all community development activity areas. It prioritizes three fundamental pillars of community development and sets the strategic objectives for each. This plan the Acadian and Francophone community's Global Development Plan, in the following six priority areas: communications, culture, economic development, education, youth training, and health and community and social affairs. These results are as follows:

96 1) Social and economic well-being:

97 ▪ Improve the population's quality of life;
▪ Increase opportunities for and access to lifelong learning;
▪ Encourage sustainable economic development;
▪ Value Acadian and Francophone culture and the French language; and
▪ Increase the French-speaking population.

98 2) Support and mutual aid:

99 ▪ Facilitate the establishment of healthy partnerships;
▪ Improve the effectiveness of the entire community sector and its different components by reorganizing resources and networks; and
▪ Increase and improve the involvement and commitment of organizations and community members.

100   3) Participation and commitment:

101   - Help the Acadian and Francophone population understand and take responsibility for the Vision Plan;
      - Provide people and organizations responsible for implementing the plan with communications and evaluation tools;
      - Implement methods for information sharing and ongoing cooperation; and
      - Facilitate access to knowledge and sharing of knowledge to analyze and understand the trends and the community's needs.

102   Common results aimed for within the framework of this Accord are as follows:

103   - Work to consolidate the structures of the different areas of community development.

104   - Ensure the continuity of direct French language service offering in the different areas of activity, with priority given to the following sectors:

105   - Early childhood;
      - Education and training;
      - Government services;
      - Leadership development among youth;
      - Growth and stabilization of the French-speaking population; and
      - Cultural development and heritage.

106   - Provide specific support for initiatives that:

107   - Aim to counter the effects of assimilation;
      - Aim to improve access to French language services;
      - Aim to raise awareness among the Island's population on the value-added to all of having two dynamic, culturally rich and diverse linguistic communities; or
      - Are linked to the implementation of the Prince Edward Island Acadian and Francophone community's Global Development Plan (Vision Plan).

108   As part of its legislative mandate, Canadian Heritage will use the tools at its disposal to support the community sector's efforts to achieve these results. These tools notably include collaboration with the community sector and interdepartmental and intergovernmental cooperation, as described in Part V below.

109   The community sector is responsible for calling on the resources of the various departments and levels of government and initiating dialogue with representatives based on their areas of expertise and responsibilities in the provision of public services.

2. Cooperation and Collaboration

2.1. Community Cooperation and Cohesion

110   The vitality of Prince Edward Island's Acadian and Francophone community hinges on the joint efforts of many development architects, namely community networks and their individual organizations, community institutions, public and para-public institutions (at the federal, provincial and municipal levels), and the private sector. It also hinges on getting people to volunteer their time and effort for a cause or the public good, and thus contribute to the life of their community.

111   This collaboration Accord aims at encouraging community cooperation and cohesion among all architects of community development. It will require the joint effort of all community development architects. These may include groups that are funded by *Cooperation with the Community Sector*, as well as institutions and organizational networks that do not receive funding from that envelope, for example, organizations working in the health, community economic development and education sectors.

Community Cooperation Forum: Nature and Role

112   The Acadian and Francophone community sector of Prince Edward Island has a responsibility to cooperation and optimal efficiency among all community development architects. To do so, it establishes a preferred mechanism for provincial community cooperation called the Community Cooperation Forum (Forum de coopération communautaire).

113   The Community Cooperation Forum gives structure to the community development process and the selection and sequencing of strategic priorities. It facilitates the crafting of a Global Development Plan that integrates the contributions of all community development architects.

114   The Forum is the mechanism where dialogue with various institutional and community architects is initiated. It seeks to include emerging or marginalized groups in Acadian and Francophone networks and institutions of Prince Edward Island, and to welcome any group wishing to contribute to the Acadian and Francophone community of the province, with special attention to the needs of youth, women and seniors..

115   The Community Cooperation Forum brings together the provincial Acadian and Francophone organizations of Prince Edward Island and includes organizations with sectoral responsibilities. The Acadian and Francophone community's consultation mechanisms reflect local and regional realities and take into account factors such as demography, geography, gender, and racial and ethnocultural minorities.

116   The Acadian and Francophone community sector and Canadian Heritage agree to work on maintaining and strengthening existing mechanisms of cooperation and set as a common objective for the period 2005-2009 to mobilize community development architects to be actively involved in articulating the global vision, in the setting of strategic priorities, and in the implementation of the Vision Plan.

117   The Acadian and Francophone community sector of Prince Edward Island recognizes that the Community Cooperation Forum currently exists through quarterly encounters and the community cooperation forum held as part of the Annual General Meeting of the Société Saint-Thomas-d'Aquin.

Operational Responsibility

118   The Acadian and Francophone community sector recognizes the Société Saint-Thomas-d'Aquin as the organization responsible for the convening of the community forum and for the operational management of provincial cooperation.

119   On behalf of the Acadian and Francophone community sector, the Société Saint-Thomas-d'Aquin:

120   ▪ Implements appropriate consultation mechanisms;

121   ▪ Ensures the global administrative efficiency of cooperation mechanisms within the Acadian and Francophone community sector; and

122   ▪ Develops a communications strategy in order to inform French-speaking citizens living in Prince Edward Island and to promote community cooperation and cohesion.

Governance and Democratic Representation

123   The Acadian and Francophone community of Prince Edward Island defines the fora and structures where community cooperation takes place, as well as governance and democratic representation mechanisms. The Acadian and Francophone community may redefine these fora, structures and mechanisms as needed. Decisions will be communicated to the Department of Canadian Heritage. The Department recognizes the democratic choices of Prince Edward Island's Acadian and Francophone community.

2.2. Canadian Heritage-Acadian and Francophone Community Sector Collaboration

124   The broad social project and the achievement of specific objectives within the community's Global Development Plan sometimes require the collaboration or contribution of other stakeholders. These may include public, para-public, private, institutional and community organizations, Francophone or non-Francophone. This collaboration is most likely to be productive when all appropriate parties bring their services, programs, resources and knowledge to the table. This Accord promotes adopting this approach by creating a flexible, dynamic mechanism called the Collaborative Circle (sectoral tables).

Collaborative Circle (Sectoral Tables)

125   The Acadian and Francophone community sector and the Department of Canadian Heritage agree to create a Collaborative Circle to serve as an active forum for the sharing of information, promotion of awareness, planning of initiatives, and discussion of their relationship. The Collaborative Circle will always include, but not be limited to, the Acadian and Francophone community sector and Canadian Heritage. The participation of other stakeholders in the Collaborative Circle shall be flexible. They will be called upon based on the nature, extent, and reach of the objectives being pursued.

126   The workings of the Collaboration Circle will be agreed upon by the Acadian and Francophone community sector and the Department in accordance with objectives to be pursued, and with respect to principles of independence, interdependence, dialogue, cooperation, and accountability to all Canadians.

127   The Acadian and Francophone community sector will define the process of designating community participants in the Collaborative Circle from time to time, depending on the nature, scope and extent of objectives. The identity of designated participants, depending on the issues at hand, will be communicated to Canadian Heritage so as to promote constructive exchange.

Mobilizing Public Resources: Interdepartmental and Intergovernmental Cooperation

128   The Acadian and Francophone community sector and Canadian Heritage recognize the importance of continuing to work to mobilize public resources at all levels of government in order to advance toward the achievement of common results and of the community's development objectives. Some efforts to mobilize public resources will stem from the work of the Collaborative Circle. Some initiatives will aim to mobilize resources in order to help various types of community organizations provide services to the public.

Relationship Between the Acadian and Francophone Community Sector and the Government of Canada in Prince Edward Island

129   As stipulated in Part VII of the *Official Languages Act*, the Minister of Canadian Heritage, in consultation with other ministers of the Crown, shall encourage and promote a coordinated approach to the implementation by federal institutions of the commitments to enhance the vitality of the English and French linguistic minority communities in Canada, to support and assist their development, and to foster the full recognition and use of both English and French in Canadian society.

130   The Acadian and Francophone community sector and Canadian Heritage will work together to ensure that the members of the community have a better knowledge of the programs and services offered by federal institutions, and that the federal institutions get better acquainted with the Acadian and Francophone community of Prince Edward Island, its mechanisms and structures, its developmental priorities and its particular characteristics in relation to their activities, programs and services.

131   The Department of Canadian Heritage supports Acadian and Francophone community sector organizations' efforts to work with other federal institutions in order to facilitate the implementation of the Global Development Plan's expected results. Notably, Canadian Heritage leads the *Interdepartmental Partnership with the Official-Language Communities*, an element of the *Community Life* program component which aims to encourage lasting partnerships between federal departments and official-language minority community associations or organizations. Canadian Heritage will use various levers at its disposal to support the efforts of the Acadian and Francophone community sector.

132   The Acadian and Francophone community sector of Prince Edward Island and Canadian Heritage work together to identify those community development priorities which require an interdepartmental approach. The means of consultation and collaboration depend on the issues and on structures established at the federal, provincial or local levels, according to the areas of responsibility.

133   The Department of Canadian Heritage will continue to support the Prince Edward Island Federal Council in developing a sustainable relationship with the Acadian and Francophone community of Prince Edward Island, so that, as provincial forum for federal government interdepartmental matters, it can fully contribute to the implementation of the Global Development Plan and the vitality of the community.

Relationship Between the Acadian and Francophone Community Sector and the Government of Prince Edward Island and its Municipalities and other Public Entities

134   In addition to *Cooperation with the Community Sector*, Canadian Heritage leads another key element of the *Community Life* program component – *Intergovernmental Cooperation on Minority-Language Services*, which aims to help provincial and territorial governments and municipalities provide official-language minority communities with services in their own language, along with the necessary infrastructure to provide these services.

135   Canadian Heritage encourages the provincial government to take the objectives of the community's Global Development Plan into account in its French-language services plan. Canadian Heritage maintains close ties with officials of the Acadian and Francophone Affairs Division of Prince Edward Island to assert the importance of the expected results of the Global Development Plan and the common results aimed for in this Accord.

136   Canadian Heritage also leads *Intergovernmental Cooperation on Minority-Language Education*, which aims to help provincial and territorial governments, directly or through the Council of Ministers of Education, Canada (CMEC), to offer to members of official-language minority communities an education in their own language.

137   The Acadian and Francophone community sector of Prince Edward Island is responsible for mobilizing resources in the areas of responsibility of other levels of government. It strives to emphasize those aspects of its Global Development Plan that normally require the involvement of provincial or arm's length public agencies in providing public services. This exercise may inform the Acadian and Francophone community sector's cooperation and advocacy efforts. Canadian Heritage will use various levers at its disposal to support the efforts of the Acadian and Francophone community sector.

Interdepartmental and Intergovernmental Collaboration

138   The Acadian and Francophone community sector and Canadian Heritage agree to work on continued cooperation on many levels; existing mechanisms that may sustain such cooperation include the Management Committee for the tripartite agreement on economic development and human resources development, and the Consultative Committee of Acadian Communities of the Government of Prince Edward Island.

2.3. Advocacy

139   In keeping with the values and principles stated in this Accord, the Acadian and Francophone community sector of Prince Edward Island seeks to engage in a dialogue on public policy. It hopes to interact with the different levels of government through the various stages of the public policy process in order to promote the exchange of knowledge and experience, and develop the best possible public policies that take fully into account the aspirations of French-speaking citizens living in Prince Edward Island

140   The Acadian and Francophone community sector of Prince Edward Island and the Department acknowledge the importance of advocacy. The strengthening of the sector's advocacy capacities aims at a better understanding of the processes through which governments and public institutions make their decisions; a greater ability to influence these processes; a better understanding of the determining factors in community development; and knowledge-based decision making.

Key Community Advocates

141   The Acadian and Francophone community sector recognizes the Société Saint-Thomas-d'Aquin (SSTA) as the sector's key interlocutor in advocacy and dialogue on public policy.

142   The Acadian and Francophone community sector further recognizes community network leaders as key advocates on issues of special interest.

143   The Department of Canadian Heritage recognizes the democratic choices of Prince Edward Island's Acadian and Francophone community sector in selecting its key advocates.

3. Implementation of the Accord

144   In addition to the tools described in the previous sections, the collaboration between Prince Edward Island's Acadian and Francophone community sector and Canadian Heritage includes a financial component. This section describes the financial elements of the *Cooperation with the Community Sector* and the accompanying accountability mechanisms.

3.1. Commitment of a Budget Envelope

145   The budget envelope set aside for *Cooperation with the Community Sector* in Prince Edward Island comes from the *Development of Official-Language Communities* Program and falls under its *Community Life* component. The program will be reviewed by Treasury Board in 2008-2009, with a view to its renewal.

146   The amounts, allocation and duration of this budget envelope are set out in Appendix B.

147   The size of the budget envelope is subject to the annual approval of appropriations by Parliament and to the continuance of current and projected budget levels of the *Development of Official-Language Communities* Program.

148   Canadian Heritage will seek to harmonize procedures to facilitate joint funding of projects when several departments or government entities are working on the same initiative, or on several initiatives with the same Acadian and Francophone community organization.

149   Canadian Heritage's financial commitments will be made by means of contribution agreements and grants. The Department may use multiyear funding agreements, when the situation is appropriate and in accordance to its policies and procedures, in order to enhance the stability of organizations and their ability to engage in long-term planning. Canadian Heritage commits to introduce a reasonable and flexible period of transition, with prior notice to the Community Cooperation Forum, when major changes to funding must be made.

3.2. Program - Supporting Action

150 According to the Program's terms and conditions, these investments are intended to support the communities' involvement in their own development and to provide community organizations with the ability to take action to achieve concrete and measurable outcomes that will contribute to the sustainability of the communities.

151 The Department is primarily interested in supporting activities that:

152 ▪ Provide structure or have a structural effect on the overall development of the communities or of a particular sector;

153 ▪ Contribute to enriching community life, developing a sense of identity and welcoming diversity; and

154 ▪ Target outcomes compatible with the objectives of the *Community Life* component and conform to the Department's priorities.

155 The Department will give priority to supporting activities aimed at achieving the common results of collaboration identified in this Accord.

156 The community forum, all the organizations receiving such support, and the organization managing the Community Cooperation Forum, can have access to multiyear funding in order to carry out their mandates and implement their action plans.

3.3. Project - Supporting Innovation

157 According to the Program's terms and conditions, these investments are intended to encourage innovation in the development of official-language minority communities.

158 The Department is primarily interested in supporting projects that:

159 ▪ Are innovative and target the development of best practices;

160 ▪ Are compatible with the Department's priorities; or

161 ▪ Address topical issues.

162   The Department will give priority to supporting projects aimed at achieving the common results of collaboration identified in this Accord.

163   The Funding Evaluation and Recommendations Committee referred to in this Accord may recommend support for ad hoc or cyclical activities for which implementation does not require ongoing funding.

3.4. Interprovincial Collaboration

164   Canadian Heritage and the Acadian and Francophone community sector agree that the development of Prince Edward Island's Acadian and Francophone community is stimulated by joint action with the minority Francophone communities in other provinces. The Acadian and Francophone community sector will seek to support, through the provincial budget envelope, activities of an interprovincial nature that contribute to the implementation of the Global Development Plan and the realization of common results. The terms and conditions governing these projects will be subject to prior agreements between the participating provincial communities.

3.5. Process for Recommendations and Decisions

Community Proposals

165   Over the last two Canada-Community agreements (1994-2004), best practices across the country have shown that a community-based process of resource allocation can become a great strength for community cohesion. In Prince Edward Island, the Acadian and Francophone community sector has refined its mechanism leading to choices on strategic priorities; it has also gained some experience in defining the means to be used to determine and facilitate the distribution of the budget envelope.

166   The Acadian and Francophone community sector and Canadian Heritage recognize the importance of the continuum between priority setting and funding allocation. The objective for this cycle is to fine-tune the community-based mechanisms leading to funding allocation decisions.

167   All funding allocation procedures will be subjected to the requirements of Treasury Board policies.

Funding Evaluation and Recommendations Committee

168   The Forum communautaire francophone de Terre-Neuve-et-Labrador will establish a Funding Evaluation and Recommendations Committee. The Committee will be mandated to make recommendations to the Department of Canadian Heritage regarding the distribution of funds available via the provincial *Cooperation with the Community Sector* budget envelope. These proposals concerning the allocation of funding per organization will be linked to the objectives and priorities of the Global Development Plan and the common results sought in this Accord. They will also take into account the need for equity between Acadian regions of Prince Edward Island, the organizations' stage of development and the proposed activities' long-term impact locally and provincially. Members of the Committee will be required to respect confidentiality rules.

169   The Committee will use evaluation criteria and analytical tools developed by the Department in collaboration with the Société Saint-Thomas-d'Aquin, the organization responsible for the operational management of the community forum.

170   The Community Cooperation Forum will establish the selection process for members of the Funding Evaluation and Recommendations Committee. This process will respect the principles of good governance, democracy, transparency, and independence. It may be linked to other structures of the Acadian and Francophone community sector and may be revised as needed. The Department will be informed of decisions regarding this process and the composition of the Committee. Once set up, the Committee will function independently from any other community structure and from the Collaboration Circle.

171   The Committee's recommendations will be guided by community interest; the Committee's analyses and decisions will be made without regard to the specific interests of any given organization.

172   The Committee is made up five (5) members. Three (3) members are chosen outside of the Acadian and Francophone community sector's governance structures and Community Cooperation Forum. Two (2) members are chosen among the members of the Forum. A resource person from the Société Saint-Thomas-d'Aquin will support the work of the Committee.

173   Members of the Funding Evaluation and Recommendations Committee must ensure that confidential information concerning funding decisions to which they have access is not disclosed to third parties without the written consent of the Department.

Canadian Heritage's Responsibilities

174   It is the responsibility of the Department to analyze requests, examine them critically in a broader context, make final recommendations to the Minister of Canadian Heritage and manage the decisional and administrative process. In its analysis of requests, the Department will take into consideration the proposals of the Funding Evaluation and Recommendations Committee regarding the allocation of funding.

175   The Minister is responsible for making the final decision on the specific allocation of funding in accordance to terms and conditions in force at the Department.

176   In order to maintain transparency, the decision regarding allocation of funds will be communicated to the Funding Evaluation and Recommendations Committee and to the public, following the Minister's approval.

177   Canadian Heritage is responsible for determining procedures and tools relating to the presentation and analysis of requests. The Department will provide the necessary support and act as the secretariat for the Evaluation and Recommendations Committee. The Department recognizes the consequences that its policies and funding practices may have on the evolution of the relationship and on the strengthening of the Acadian and Francophone community sector's capacity for action, and takes them into consideration. Tools will be developed with due attention to simplifying the administrative requirements, while respecting the terms and conditions of the Program and the Department's accountability framework, which may be modified from time to time.

Management Best Practices

178   The Acadian and Francophone community sector and the Department agree to jointly identify management best practices.

179   In compliance with Treasury Board policies, the Department has adopted a risk management approach, in order to assess and monitor the initiatives and ensure that the approach suits the level of funding as well as the size and nature of the organization. The *Risk-Based Audit Framework for Official Languages Support Programs* entails a recipient audit plan. Some organizations will be asked to participate in this monitoring exercise.

180   With a focus on ongoing performance improvement, Canadian Heritage may ask selected Acadian and Francophone community sector organizations to participate in an organizational audit to be conducted according to a framework established by the Department. Participating groups will be financially compensated.

3.6. Results and Performance

181   The Acadian and Francophone community sector and Canadian Heritage agree on the importance of reporting to Parliament and to the citizens of Canada, on the progress achieved towards results with the funds invested.

182   Canadian Heritage and the Acadian and Francophone community sector recognize that community development is a long-term process, that some fundamental results may be achieved only over long periods, possibly decades, and that it is important, at this time, to set strategies and means that will allow the assessment of results over the long term.

183   Canadian Heritage's *Official Languages Support Programs* are structured in accordance with the two types of results based on the commitments set out in Section 41 of the *Official Languages Act*: *Strong minority communities supported by many partners* and *Linguistic duality recognized and valued by all Canadians*.

184   To report on the progress achieved towards these results, Canadian Heritage must refer to the *Results-Based Management and Accountability Framework for Official Languages Support Programs*.

185   Activities supported by the *Cooperation with the Community Sector* sub-component must contribute to the attainment of intermediate and long-term results targeted by the *Official Languages Support Programs*.

186   The Government of Canada is developing community vitality indicators in consultation with the communities. These indicators will set benchmarks and allow a more precise measurement of the evolution of communities over time. Information on outputs produced by Acadian and Francophone organizations must be organized so that it feeds into the measurement of these vitality indicators.

187   Canadian Heritage will establish mechanisms for the standardization, gathering and management of information on outputs towards 2007-2008, in consultation with the Société Saint-Thomas-d'Aquin. In establishing these processes, Canadian Heritage will be sensitive to minimizing the administrative burden.

188   There are three levels of performance evaluation: an annual evaluation of outputs by groups receiving funds from the *Cooperation with the Community Sector*; an evaluation of this Accord within the framework of a national evaluation of progress achieved through community sector accords in 2007-2008; and the Program evaluation, to take place in 2008-2009.

Annual Outputs of Investments in the *Cooperation with the Community Sector*

189   Each funded organization reports on its annual outputs as linked to its contribution to the advancement of the Global Development Plan and the common objectives of the Accord.

Cooperation with the Community Sector **Progress Evaluation**

190   The Department will undertake an evaluation of its collaboration with the community sector and of progress made towards common results targeted in all community sector accords. This evaluation will include a component on collaboration with Prince Edward Island Acadian and Francophone community sector and will focus on the efficiency of collaboration mechanisms, the clarity and relevance of respective roles, and the quality and relevance of outputs, in relation to the stated common objectives. This evaluation will be done in 2007-2008 in order to allow adjustments to the collaboration mechanisms and guide their renewal at the end of the term.

191   The Prince Edward Island Community Cooperation Forum agrees to participate in the development of evaluation parameters, and to collaborate in the evaluation itself according to the final modalities set out by Canadian Heritage. The Department will be responsible for executing the evaluation.

Official-Language Communities **Program Evaluation**

192   At term end in 2008-2009, the Department of Canadian Heritage must provide the Treasury Board with a summative evaluation of the *Development of Official-Language Communities* Program. The Corporate Review Branch, a third party independent of the Official Languages Support Branch, is responsible for conducting this evaluation.

193   To conduct program evaluations, the Department uses several methods. These include:

194   ▪   A review of relevant documents (e.g., record of achievements, annual report, plan of action);

195   ▪   A review of literature (e.g., sociological research, statistical studies);

196 ▪ Gathering and compiling of information (e.g., analysis of financial data, compilation of outputs, trend studies);

197 ▪ Interviews with key contributors (e.g., representatives of community organizations and institutions, program managers, researchers);

198 ▪ Polling (e.g., public opinion polls, questionnaires); and

199 ▪ Discussion groups (for example, with parents, with young people).

200 The Acadian and Francophone community sector will be called upon to participate in many of these evaluation activities.

CONCLUSION

201 Canadians expect a strong, vibrant and engaged Prince Edward Island Acadian and Francophone community, and seek to build a solid, just and inclusive society where values and principles count, where the full range of human activities is encouraged, and where individuals and communities can realize their full potential. To better serve Canadians and help them achieve the society they want, Canadian Heritage and Prince Edward Island's Acadian and Francophone community sector seek to strengthen their relationship. This Accord is the start of that journey.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Deputy Minister of Canadian Heritage and the President of the Société Saint-Thomas-d'Aquin, on behalf of the Acadian and Francophone community sector of Prince Edward Island, have signed this Collaboration Accord.

This Accord was concluded this 3rd day of February 2006.

(Signed) Judith A. LaRocque

_____

Deputy Minister of Canadian Heritage

(Signed) Eddie Cormier

_____

President, Société Saint-Thomas-d'Aquin

IN THE PRESENCE OF:

(Signed) Hubert Lussier

_____

Witness

IN THE PRESENCE OF:

(Signed) Lizanne Thorne

_____

Witness

_____

Signature

_____

Signature

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Accountability

202 The basic rules that the Department must follow in making decisions, allocating funding, and demonstrating the results achieved through the use of public funds. Many of these rules also apply to the organizations that receive these public funds. These organizations also have their own accountability frameworks defined by legislation, by their own by-laws, and by their internal governance policies.

Advocacy

203 Advocacy is defined as "the act of speaking or of disseminating information intended to influence individual behaviour or opinion, corporate conduct or public policy and law." Advocacy is one of many ways of participating in the process of developing public policies.
(see: www.vsi-isbc.ca/eng/relationship/accord.cfm)

Community development architects

204 Community development architects are individuals and institutions and organizations in the community, private, government, and quasi-government sectors that contribute to the development of their communities. Prominent among these architects are the leaders of community associations and institutions, as well as community opinion leaders and different levels of government.

Evaluation

205 The systematic collection and analysis of information on the performance of a policy, program or initiative to make judgements about relevance, progress or success and cost-effectiveness and/or to inform future programming decisions about design and implementation.

Indicator

206 A statistic or parameter that provides information on trends in the condition of a phenomenon and has significance extending beyond that associated with the properties of the statistic itself.

Output

207 Direct products or services stemming from the activities of a policy, program or initiative, and delivered to a target group or population.

Planned Results (Targets)

208 Clear and concrete statement of results (including outputs and outcomes) to be achieved within the time frame of parliamentary and departmental planning and reporting (1-3 years), against which actual results can be compared.

Quasi-governmental bodies
or *arm's length public agencies*

209 Public agencies refers to schools, hospitals, etc. that are at arm's length (to varying degrees) from government, but are mandated and funded by government.

Result

210 The consequence attributed to the activities of an organization, policy, program or initiative. Results is a general term that often includes both outputs produced and outcomes achieved by a given organization, policy, program or initiative. In the government's agenda for results-based management and in Results For Canadians, the term result is more specific and does not include outputs. Results may be described as immediate, intermediate or final, direct or indirect, intended or unintended.

Strategic Outcome

211 A long-term and enduring benefit to Canadians that stems from a department's mandate, vision and efforts. It represents the difference a department or agency wants to make for Canadians and should be a clear measurable outcome within the department or agency's sphere of influence.

Support for action: details

212 Funds in support of action shall aid regular and continuing activities such as:

213 ▪ Citizens' participation and good governance (e.g., elements of democratic life – AGM and Board of Directors, administrative infrastructure, statements of account);

214 ■ Basic activities of the organization serving the development and improvement of community life (e.g., leadership training in youth groups, basic operations of a community centre, large public events);

215 ■ Mobilization of community and public resources (e.g., analysis and research into support for advocacy and the skills needed to request support from various funding bodies).

Support for innovation: details

216 Funds to support innovation shall aid intermittent or cyclical activities that do not require permanent funding. Such activities are of limited duration ranging from a few months to a few years. For example:

217 ■ Pilot or demonstration projects designed to learn about influences on development and about services to the public;

218 ■ Establishing and building new construction sites for community development;

219 ■ Retooling the Acadian and Francophone community sector to respond to new challenges;

220 ■ Development of advocacy strategies linked to a particular initiative or a major decision in public policy.

Appendix A:
Official Languages Support Programs -
Expected Outcomes and Program Components

Development of Official-Language Communities Program **Objective of the *Official Languages Act*:** To enhance the vitality of English and French linguistic minority communities in Canada and support and assist their development.	*Enhancement of Official Languages* Program **Objective of the *Official Languages Act*:** To promote the full recognition and use of English and French in Canadian society.
(See Part VII of the Official Languages Act on the next page)	
Expected outcomes **Medium term** ▪ Members of minority communities: • have greater access to quality education in their own language, in their community; • have greater access to programs and services offered, in their language, by federal departments and agencies, provincial and territorial governments, and municipalities; • have a greater ability to live in their own language, to participate in Canadian society and to ensure their long-term development. ▪ The multiple partners working to foster community growth and vitality work together to better co-ordinate and target their efforts to support the development of the official-language minority communities. **Long term** ▪ The sustainability of official-language minority communities in Canada is guaranteed. ▪ Social cohesion in Canada is increased.	**Expected outcomes** **Medium term** ▪ A greater proportion of Canadians: • have a working knowledge of both official languages; • have a better understanding and appreciation of the benefits of linguistic duality; • accept the rights of linguistic minorities and encourage their participation in Canadian society. ▪ Federal departments and agencies become more aware of their responsibilities with respect to linguistic duality and more active in this regard. ▪ The many partners fostering linguistic duality and the French language will work together to better co-ordinate and target their efforts in this regard. **Long term** ▪ Canada is recognized at home and abroad as an officially bilingual country. ▪ All Canadians recognize and support linguistic duality. ▪ Social cohesion in Canada is increased.
Two program components *Community Life* ▪ Cooperation with the Community Sector ▪ Intergovernmental Cooperation on Minority-Language Services ▪ Interdepartmental Partnership with Official-Language Communities ▪ Strategic Funds ▪ Young Canada Works *Minority-Language Education* ▪ Intergovernmental Cooperation ▪ Cooperation with the Non-Governmental Sector	**Two program components** *Promotion of Linguistic Duality* ▪ Cooperation on Promotion ▪ Support for Innovation ▪ Support for Interpretation and Translation *Second-Language Learning* ▪ Intergovernmental Cooperation ▪ Cooperation with the Non-Governmental Sector ▪ Young Canada Works
Other actions *Coordination of the federal commitment* *Research*	**Other actions** *Coordination of the federal commitment* *Research* *Promotion*

Official Languages Act
PART VII – ADVANCEMENT OF ENGLISH AND FRENCH

Government policy

41. (1) The Government of Canada is committed to (a) enhancing the vitality of the English and French linguistic minority communities in Canada and supporting and assisting their development; and(b) fostering the full recognition and use of both English and French in Canadian society.

    (2) Every federal institution has the duty to ensure that positive measures are taken for the implementation of the commitments under subsection (1). For greater certainty, this implementation shall be carried out while respecting the jurisdiction and powers of the provinces.

    (3) The Governor in Council may make regulations in respect of federal institutions, other than the Senate, House of Commons, Library of Parliament, office of the Senate Ethics Officer or office of the Ethics Commissioner, prescribing the manner in which any duties of those institutions under this Part are to be carried out.

Coordination

42. The Minister of Canadian Heritage, in consultation with other ministers of the Crown, shall encourage and promote a coordinated approach to the implementation by federal institutions of the commitments set out in section 41.

Specific mandate of Minister of Canadian Heritage

43. (1) The Minister of Canadian Heritage shall take such measures as that Minister considers appropriate to advance the equality of status and use of English and French in Canadian society and, without restricting the generality of the foregoing, may take measures to

    a) Enhance the vitality of the English and French linguistic minority communities in Canada and support and assist their development;

    b) Encourage and support the learning of English and French by members of the public;

    c) Foster an acceptance and appreciation of both English and French by members of the public;

    d) Encourage and assist provincial governments to support the development of English and French linguistic minority communities generally and, in particular, to offer provincial and municipal services in both English and French and to provide opportunities for members of English or French linguistic minority communities to be educated in their own language;

    e) Encourage and assist provincial governments to provide opportunities for everyone in Canada to learn both English and French;

    f) Encourage and cooperate with the business community, labour organizations, voluntary organizations and other organizations or institutions to provide services in both English and French and to foster the recognition and use of these languages;

    g) Encourage and assist organizations and institutions to project the bilingual character of Canada in their activities in Canada or elsewhere;

    h) With the approval of the Governor in Council, enter into agreements or arrangements that recognize and advance the bilingual character of Canada within the governments of foreign states.

Consultation

    (2) The Minister of Canadian Heritage shall take such measures as that Minister considers appropriate to ensure public consultation in the development of policies and review of programs relating to the advancement and the equality of status and use of English and French in Canadian society.

Annual report to Parliament

44. The Minister of Canadian Heritage shall, within such time as is reasonably practicable after the termination of each financial year, submit an annual report to Parliament on the matters relating to official languages for which that Minister is responsible.

Consultations and negotiations with the provinces

45. Any minister of the Crown designated by the Governor in Council may consult and may negotiate agreements with the provincial governments to ensure, to the greatest practical extent but subject to Part IV, that the provision of federal, provincial, municipal and education services in both official languages is coordinated and that regard is had to the needs of the recipients of those services.

Appendix B:
2005-2006 *Cooperation with the Community Sector* Budget Envelope for Prince Edward Island

221   At the request of the Canadian Francophone and Acadian community sector, the Department of Canadian Heritage's financial commitment in support of the implementation of this Accord is identified for 2005-2006 only.

222   The budget envelope reserved for *Cooperation with the Community Sector* in Prince Edward Island is $847,000 for the twelve-month period from April 1, 2005 to March 31, 2006. It is allocated as follows:

223   ▪   the "Support for Action" component represents a maximum of 80 percent of the budget envelope; and

224   ▪   the "Support for Innovation" component represents a minimum of 20 percent of the budget envelope and includes interprovincial investments.

225   An additional budget envelope of $2 million is used to support structuring initiatives by the Canadian Francophone and Acadian community sector. Prince Edward Island's Acadian and Francophone community sector organizations have been invited to submit their projects in accordance with established procedures.

226   The size of the budget envelope is subject to the annual approval of appropriations by Parliament. In case of a change in existing or planned budget levels for the Development of Official-Language Communities Program, this appendix may be amended by common agreement between the Department of Canadian Heritage and the Acadian and Francophone community sector.