

25TH ANNIVERSARY: MOVING FORWARD TOGETHER!

During the ministerial conference on the Canadian Francophonie taking place in Iqaluit this coming June 26, 27, and 28, the ministers will give new impetus to their work, which will be focused on the theme of **“Respect and Inclusiveness,”** a logical follow-up to the activities of the past year.



The MCCF, created in 1994, is the only intergovernmental forum that brings together the ministers responsible for the Canadian Francophonie. It works for an open, dynamic, and diverse Francophonie that contributes to, and participates fully in, the growth of Canadian society.

Intergovernmental work to increase **Francophone immigration** and encourage the settlement and integration of newcomers has continued. Partnerships have also been formed to enhance recruitment and retention of Francophone workers.



Ontario

Québec 



50th anniversary and modernization of the *Official Languages Act*

THE YEAR 2019 MARKS the 50th anniversary of the *Official Languages Act* (the Act). A Pan-Canadian program of activities has been planned in collaboration with several federal institutions and community organizations. The symposium on the 50th anniversary of the Act, held in Ottawa in May 2019, was a highlight of the celebrations that will continue throughout the year.

The event was the ideal opportunity to take stock of the achievements of the last decades in the area of official languages and to look towards the future. It is in this context that the Canadian government began a review of the Act to ensure that it is in line with the public's aspirations and that it responds to the new challenges posed by the evolution of Canadian society.

To this end, Canadians from across the country have been invited to participate in this important exercise through forums and round tables, or by providing comments online.

Beyond these initiatives, the Government of Canada believes in the importance of successful federal-provincial-territorial collaboration, as evidenced by the implementation of the 2018-2023 Action Plan and the signing of new agreements on French-language services. This 25th anniversary of the founding of the MCCF is an eloquent testimony to this indispensable collaboration and support for the Canadian Francophonie in all its expressions.



ONTARIO

Our Home

ONTARIO'S FRANCOPHONIE is an integral part of the province's identity. Franco-Ontarians contribute to Ontario's economic, social, cultural and political vitality.

Today, French Ontario stands out:

622,415 Franco-Ontarians proud of their heritage and united in their diversity; hundreds of Francophone organizations, 12 French-language school boards and 10 post-secondary institutions offering courses in French; as well as 26 regions and 245 agencies designated under the *French Language Services Act*.

A stand-alone ministry dedicated solely to Francophone Affairs and giving Francophones a strong voice within the government.

A society, open to the world, which defines its Francophonie in such a way as to include as many Francophones as possible. The Inclusive Definition of Francophone better reflects the diversity of a community whose reach extends beyond Ontario's borders: nationally, with its participation in the MCCF, and internationally, through its status as an observer member of the Organisation internationale de la Francophonie.



A province, proud of its francophonie, which declared September 25th "Franco-Ontarian Day" and erected the first monument dedicated to Ontario's Francophonie on the grounds of Queen's Park. This monument, called "Notre place" (our home), symbolizes the establishment of the Francophone community, how it has flourished and its future within the modern and inclusive society that is Ontario.

A constant commitment of Québec to Canadian francophonie

RECOGNIZING THE UNIQUE HISTORICAL BONDS between Quebecers and Canada's Francophone communities, the Québec government has developed various initiatives over the last 25 years to support exchanges between the two groups. It has also organized five joint action forums, bringing together representatives from communities, Québec civil society organizations, and government members of the MCCF.

These initiatives were based on Québec's first policy on Francophone and Acadian communities in Canada, which was released in 1995 and updated in 2006.

Today, the Québec government believes it is time to reassert its role at the heart of the Canadian Francophonie and to launch a dialogue with all its partners, in order to renew the joint efforts to preserve, promote and develop the French language.

A more assertive action by Québec benefits the entire Canadian Francophonie, and a stronger Canadian Francophonie benefits us all. **It is in this spirit that the Québec government will host the next ministerial conference on the Canadian Francophonie, to be held in June 2020.**



NEW BRUNSWICK

The Linguistic and Cultural Development Policy, a winning strategy for minority communities

THE LINGUISTIC AND CULTURAL Development Policy (LCDP), adopted in May 2014, was developed jointly by the Acadian and Francophone community and the Government of New Brunswick. This collaboration has resulted in much more than a policy. It is a real societal project experienced on a daily basis and that seeks to involve everyone.

The LCDP aims to enhance the capacity of all education partners to fulfill the dual mission of the Acadian and Francophone education system while contributing to the sustainable development of the Acadian and Francophone community and of New Brunswick.

The implementation of the LCDP and its goals is made possible through a network of more than 60 multi-sectoral partners, each with a strategic action plan. Thematic forums to deepen certain aspects of the LCDP are organized each year by the partners. A social innovation lab and network cafes have also been set up to foster the empowerment of partners and to see new forms of creative collaboration take shape.

Lastly, to enable the community and all partners to take ownership of the LCDP, a social marketing strategy was established. The [Taking the Next Step](#) website showcases successful practices to inspire as many people as possible. It also provides resources and tools so that all partners can in turn design meaningful initiatives and, most importantly, [take the next step in their story together](#).



Young Taking the Next Step reporters, 58th ministerial session, at *La Conférence des ministres de l'Éducation des États et gouvernements de la Francophonie (CONFEMEN)*

Nova Scotia's Francophonie, a Valuable Component of Our Heritage

ACADIAN CULTURE and the French language are essential to the Nova Scotia identity. As Canadians celebrate the 50th anniversary of the *Official Languages Act*, Acadians and Francophones of Nova Scotia celebrate the 15th anniversary of the province's *French-language Services Act* with a series of initiatives, including:

- The Nova Scotia Francophone Immigration Action Plan – a first for the province and the result of collaboration between the Office of Acadian Affairs and Francophonie and the Nova Scotia Office of Immigration. The plan, launched on March 20, 2019, provides a strategic vision to increase Francophone immigration and thus contribute to the continued vitality of the Acadian and Francophone community.
- A new Canada-Nova Scotia Agreement on French-language Services and a new strategic plan for 2018-2023 to ensure the continued development of French-language services by the provincial government and to encourage their delivery at the municipal level.
- Continued support for Nova Scotia's Culture Action Plan which provides for a strengthened Office of Acadian Affairs and Francophonie.
- Promotion of the active offer of French-language services through a relaunch of the *Bonjour!* visual identity program.



MANITOBA

Respect and Inclusivity: Manitoba's Francophone Community Enhancement and Support Act

A MILESTONE IN FRENCH-LANGUAGE services in Manitoba over the past 25 years, the *Francophone Community Enhancement and Support Act* – adopted unanimously in 2016 – is remarkable for the inclusivity of its new definition of Francophone and the respect shown for all French speakers in the province.

The definition states: “Manitoba’s Francophone community’ means those persons in Manitoba whose mother tongue is French and those persons in Manitoba whose mother tongue is not French but who have a special affinity for the French language and who use it on a regular basis in their daily life”. Anyone who chooses to live their life in French is now considered to be a member of the Francophone community.

The *Act* establishes a requirement for all public bodies to develop and put in place multi-year strategic French-language services plans, which must include measures to support the Francophone community and to consider its needs when implementing policies and programs.

This strengthens the obligation to offer services in French while also enhancing the vitality of Manitoba’s Francophonie through consultation and collaboration.

The two-pronged approach, based on the ideals of recognition and progress, will help ensure the development of the French-speaking community and its longevity. The Annual Report prepared by the Francophone Affairs Secretariat will demonstrate how Manitoba supports the community.

Partnership With the Francophone Community in the Northwest Territories

OVER TIME, an unprecedented partnership has developed between the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) and the Fédération franco-ténoise (FFT) to the extent that they team up on exciting projects. Recently, the two entities collaborated on a strategic planning framework to establish a social marketing plan designed to increase the public's use of services offered in French by the GNWT.

To inform the framework, the FFT – on behalf of the GNWT – engaged the Northwest Territories' French-speaking community to learn more about its behaviours, beliefs and activities. The FFT also conducted interviews with key GNWT staff to get their feedback on the public's use of the GNWT's French services.

The FFT developed a social marketing strategic planning framework in collaboration with key personnel from the Francophone Affairs Secretariat and the Department of Education, Culture and Employment.

The FFT serves as spokesperson for the francophone community of Northwest Territories with the federal government and the GNWT.



RECENT MEETING BETWEEN THE FFT AND THE GNWT

FRONT, FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: Lise Thériault, Health and Social Services; Marie-Ève Duperré, Finance; Linda Bussey, Executive Director, Fédération franco-ténoise; Benoît Boutin, Executive Director, Francophone Affairs Secretariat; Belinda Breadmore, Municipal and Community Affairs

BACK, FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: Savannah Jones, Services TNO; Ingrid Kabanga, Francophone Affairs Secretariat; Sonia Idir, Infrastructure; Thierry Lavoie, BDIC; Emma St-Amour, Francophone Affairs Secretariat; Stéphane Gagné, Environment and Natural Resources; Lorne Gushue, Francophone Affairs Secretariat



BRITISH COLUMBIA

British Columbia cultivates more diverse and inclusive French-language services

BRITISH COLUMBIA'S FRANCOPHONE AFFAIRS Program was created in 2001 following the signing of the first Canada-British Columbia Agreement on French Language Services. Since then, B.C. has increased its capacity to provide services in French in rural and urban regions to reach its geographically disperse French-speaking population. With 300,000 Francophones and Francophiles and a growing interest in French immersion, B.C. is committed to providing greater access to French-language services. In 2018, the province made \$250,000 in annual funding over five years available to non-profit organizations for French-language initiatives to improve the lives of French-speaking British Columbians.

In 2002, the province proclaimed March 20th as B.C. Francophonie Day and holds, since then, an annual celebration at the Legislature in honour of the occasion. Since 2011, the Franco-Columbian flag is raised in front of the Legislature on that day. A key feature of the celebration is an award recognizing the significant contribution of a French-speaking British Columbian to the advancement of the BC Francophonie. This award has consistently reflected diversity and inclusiveness, with recipients including French-speaking Indigenous people, Canadian-born citizens and immigrants. Representing diverse walks of life, these individuals include artisans, entrepreneurs, athletes, historians and health innovators, to name a few.



PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

Francophonie and bilingualism showcased on PEI

BOTH BILINGUALISM AND THE FRANCOPHONIE are being highlighted in 2019, making it an important year for Prince Edward Island. The government shares a common purpose with the Island's Acadian and Francophone community by promoting and fostering the cultural and linguistic vitality of Acadians, Francophones and French-speaking Islanders.

Since 1987, the government has been working to support the Acadian and Francophone community through many policies. An act was partially proclaimed in 1999, and the current *French Language Services Act* (FLSA) was reworked and proclaimed in 2013.

By aligning the community's priorities with the government's ability to deliver services, the FLSA guarantees a response in French to correspondence sent in that language, public consultations in

French and English, and nine designated services that must be offered in French or English, based on the person's choice.

The linguistic duality is a source of pride for a francophone from Prince Edward Island. Indeed, the province will have the great pleasure of hosting visitors from all over the world during the World Acadian Congress, commencing August 10.

This important gathering will provide many opportunities to celebrate Francophone heritage, promote a bilingual society and recognize the Island's brilliant future.

YUKON

It Starts With Us!

AS WE APPROACH the 25th anniversary of the Ministerial Conference on the Canadian Francophonie, the Government of Yukon is pleased with the progress that has been made concerning services in French.

Inspired by our first 2014-2018 Strategic Framework on French-Language Services, we have established a solid foundation for improving our services in French by creating a made-in-Yukon active offer model, among other things.

With increased federal funding, we were able to surpass our goals, including those related to the number of designated bilingual positions in the public service, a number that jumped from 6 to 55 in 2017-2018, and then to 73 in 2018-2019. We also beefed up our communications in French with @LeYukonFr on social media and with Yukon.ca, a new website that is completely bilingual.

The new 2018-2022 Framework continues where its predecessor left off. Proactively offering services in French and promoting them widely are the focus. Besides strengthening access to services and encouraging the public to use them, our strategies seek to mitigate the factors limiting acceptance of services in French.

Hello Bonjour

Hello Bonjour

Bonjour or Hesitation

Voulez-vous être servi en français?
[Would you like to be served in French?]
(Would you like to be served in French?)

Oui

Un moment s'il vous plaît.
[Uhn momen seel voo play]
(One moment please.)

Get a designated bilingual colleague

Name: _____ Telephone: _____

Name: _____ Telephone: _____

If unavailable, use Interpretation Services

1. Dial 1-866-674-1972

2. Enter Client ID (56-30-00) when prompted

3. Press 2 for all other languages

4. State required language (French)

5. Press 1 to confirm when prompted

6. Enter your department code (which is your department mailing code)

Mailing code: _____

Indication to the public that staff members have been trained and are ready to provide service in French proactively.

Tool to help staff members who do not speak French quickly connect members of the public with French-language services.

That invitation, which starts with "Hello, Bonjour," is critical to the successful implementation of the active offer throughout the government.

Providing Ongoing Support for Alberta's Growing and Diverse Francophonie

ALBERTA IS PROUD to have a dynamic, diverse and vibrant Francophonie that can trace its roots in the province back more than 200 years. Today, French is the most widely spoken language in Alberta after English, and the province's French-speaking population – which consists of people from around the world – continues to grow.

Over the years, the Alberta government has worked closely with the Francophone community to support its vitality and to provide quality programs and services that meet the practical needs of Alberta's Francophonie. We have reached many milestones on our journey to provide accessible, high-calibre services in French – from the creation of the province's Francophone Secretariat in 1999, to the release of Alberta's first-ever comprehensive French Policy in 2017 and the creation of the Alberta Advisory Council on the Francophonie in 2018. As a member of the Ministerial Conference on the Canadian Francophonie, the province has supported the growth of Francophone schools, going from 10 institutions in 1994 to 42 in 2019. The Campus

Saint-Jean, Alberta's French-language university, also expanded its programming, including with the establishment of the Centre Collégial de l'Alberta in 2014.

Most recently, Alberta took another historic step with the release of the French Policy: 2018-21 Action Plan.

Through meaningful dialogue and collaboration with Francophonie stakeholders, the Alberta government will further build on this plan to enhance services in French – now and in the years to come.

SASKATCHEWAN

Facilitating Access to Justice in French in Family Law

DURING THE 23rd MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE on the Canadian Francophonie, held in Whitehorse, Yukon on July 5 and 6, 2018, ministers responsible for the Canadian Francophonie agreed to improve access to family law in French.

To fulfill this commitment, the Government of Saskatchewan has translated towards French its "Starting a Family Law Proceeding" self-help kit. More and more citizens are representing themselves in court, and this kit will help them in asserting their rights regarding child custody, right of access, child support, property division, divorce and more.

The kit includes information on how to complete forms and answers questions like "Do I actually need to go to court?" and "What do I do after I've been to court?"

It is one of numerous measures implemented to encourage the use of French in the courts of Saskatchewan. Other measures include appointing bilingual judges and enacting several family justice laws in both French and English.

This kit is a valuable addition to the saskatchewan.ca/bonjour website, the portal for programs and services offered in French by the provincial government.



25 years of collaboration!

THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT is honoured to have collaborated with the federal government and the Francophone and Acadian community on many initiatives over the last 25 years.

Featured among the numerous services, programs and best practices implemented over the years are:

- The creation of the Liaison Officer position at the Office of French Services (OFS) in 2000. This position is critical to the success of introducing French-language services to the Francophone and Acadian community;
- The adoption of the French Language Services Policy (2015); and
- The establishment of the French services "navigators" project in 2018 within two divisions of Service NL where requests for service in French are frequent (vital statistics and motor registration). The OFS has since expanded the project to other departments. Navigators, who act as a liaison between the department and the OFS, are essential for the delivery of quality French-language services.



We hope to have multiple new opportunities to work with the federal, provincial and territorial governments and the various Francophone organizations to protect and promote the French fact in Newfoundland and Labrador while fostering the development of our community.

HIGHLIGHTS:

- 1999: May 30th declared "Provincial Francophonie Day" by the government of Newfoundland and Labrador
- 2002: Declaration of Principles, which acknowledges the significance of government leadership for the future of the Canadian Francophonie, signed in St. John's
- 2002 and 2016: the 7th and 21st ministerial conferences on the Canadian Francophonie held in St. John's



NUNAVUT

Ullukkut, Hello, Bonjour

FROM NUNAVUT'S FOUNDING 20 years ago, the government has endeavoured to develop a legislative framework that protects and promotes language rights within its territory. In 2008, it adopted two pieces of legislation: a new *Official Languages Act*, which recognizes Inuktitut, English and French as official languages of the territory, and the *Inuit Language Protection Act*.

The government then put in place two successive implementation plans to update these laws. The most recent one, Uqausivut 2.0, targets the 2018-2023 period; it takes into account current issues and sets out realistic targets for the next five years. It outlines strategies to increase the number of people learning and speaking Inuktitut in Nunavut and focuses on protecting and promoting the rights of all speakers of the territory's official languages, including French.

Over 20 years ago, Iqaluit's Francophone community put in place institutions and organizations to represent it across several spheres of activity. These groups contribute actively to the vitality and effervescence of the Francophone community, which makes up 14% of the total population of the territorial capital. Indeed, approximately 1,525 Nunavummiut are able to speak French, including 270 Inuit.

Language rights are part and parcel of the values of Nunavut society, which is characterized by the mutual respect and inclusivity of its dynamic official languages communities.