



MARCH 2013

newsletter

CONFÉRENCE MINISTÉRIELLE
SUR LA FRANCOPHONIE
CANADIENNE | MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE
ON THE CANADIAN
FRANCOPHONIE

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MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE ON THE CANADIAN FRANCOPHONIE

Integrated economic action plan for the Canadian Francophonie!

THE MINISTERIAL Conference on the Canadian Francophonie was proud to be a partner of the Pan-Canadian Forum on Economic Development in the Canadian Francophonie, held October 31 to November 2, 2012, in Gatineau, Quebec.

The partnership began in 2009 when the ministers responsible for the Canadian Francophonie identified economic development as an action priority. In June 2010, they agreed to encourage greater dialogue at the national level, as well as the sharing of expertise among key government, community, and private sector stakeholders in the area of economic development in the Canadian Francophonie. To this end, the Conference set up a steering committee, made up of representatives from the community, public, and private sectors, which was responsible for organizing the Pan-Canadian Forum on Economic Development in the Canadian Francophonie.

At the end of the Forum, an integrated action plan to consolidate, enhance, and promote the added value of the Francophone economic space was presented to participants.

To consult the integrated action Plan as well as other information about the Forum, please visit the website of the Pan-Canadian Forum on Economic Development in the Canadian Francophonie at <http://forumeconomique2012.ca/>.



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



Ontario

Québec



Manitoba



Government of
Saskatchewan

Alberta



Canada

Economic development: at the heart of the federal government's actions

THE ECONOMY is a fundamental component of the Government of Canada's actions and economic development is one of the priority sectors of the *Roadmap for Canada's Linguistic Duality 2008-2013: Acting for the Future*. The Government of Canada wishes to promote the economic advantages of linguistic duality and strengthen its support for the economic development of the official-language minority communities (OLMC). This support takes the form of overall funding of nearly \$100 million over five years through the *Enabling Fund* implemented by the Department of Human Resources and Skills Development Canada and the *Economic Development Initiative* carried out by Industry Canada and the five regional economic development agencies across the country.

In 2010-2011, the *Enabling Fund* generated 21.5 million in additional funding to beneficiary organisms through the creation of 1,298 partnerships developed over the course of the year, which helped support nearly 300 activities within OLMC.

Also of note are the funding provided for the *Accent* program in New Brunswick, which aims to strengthen the bilingual capacities of small-and-medium-size businesses so that they can better serve the two linguistic communities and enhance their competitive edge, the establishment of a micro-credit investment fund to meet the needs of Francophone businesses in Southern Ontario, the funding of distance learning in order to expand Francophone entrepreneurial capacities in Western Canada and the coordination of economic development activities between the three territorial Francophone associations.

Our official languages represent an economic advantage for all Canadians, both domestically and internationally. The Government of Canada's actions are aimed at helping each community utilize this wealth to its full potential.



Canadian
Heritage

Patrimoine
canadien

Canada

ONTARIO

Ontario targets Francophone immigration and access to justice in French

IN NOVEMBER 2012, the Ontario government launched its first ever immigration strategy which establishes a new direction in the way the province will select, welcome and assist new immigrants. This initiative also included a 5% target for Francophone immigrants, a first for this province. The government has made a commitment to continue working with Francophone stakeholders and the federal government to increase the immigration of immigrants who speak French to Ontario and improve access to welcoming and settlement services in French.

The *Access to justice in French* report, released on August 2, 2012, makes 17 recommendations developed by the French Language Services Bench and Bar Committee. It describes the steps needed to ensure that French speakers have effective access to justice in French while making the most efficient use of existing resources.



Further to the publication of the report, on November 20, 2012, the Attorney General and the French Language Services Commissioner made a joint announcement regarding the establishment of a steering committee with representatives from the justice sector and other organizations to review and develop an implementation plan that responds to the recommendations outlined in the report.



La francophonie @ cœur

A new Minister of Canadian Francophonie

Following the September 4 election, Québec Premier Pauline Marois appointed Alexandre Cloutier as Minister responsible for Canadian Intergovernmental Affairs, the Canadian Francophonie and Sovereignist Governance. Mr. Cloutier, Member for Lac-Saint-Jean, was first elected as a Member of the National Assembly in 2007.

Mission to Acadia

Minister Alexandre Cloutier directed his first Canadian Francophonie mission on January 17 and 18, in New Brunswick. On this occasion, he handled several files of common interest with his counterpart from New Brunswick, Paul Robichaud. He also met with many leaders from the Acadian community, including leaders from the Société Nationale de l'Acadie and the Société de l'Acadie du Nouveau-Brunswick.

Franco-Saskatchewanians in Québec

Québec welcomed visitors from December 3 to 7. A Franco-Saskatchewanian delegation of about 30 people came to celebrate the 100-year anniversary of the Assemblée communautaire fransaskoise and the Year of the Fransaskois. The festivities, organized in collaboration with the Centre de la francophonie des Amériques, allowed participants to discover artists as well as the cuisine from that part of the country. Wayne Elhard, the Provincial Secretary responsible for Francophone Affairs, who lead the delegation, spoke in private with Minister Alexandre Cloutier. The show put on by Franco-Saskatchewanian artists, at Théâtre Petit Champlain, was one of the highlights of the mission.

The Gouvernement du Québec, a partner of the 2014 World Acadian Congress

On November 30, Minister Alexandre Cloutier met with World Acadian Congress officials. He confirmed that the Gouvernement du Québec would provide \$2 million in funding for this grand event that will take place in *l'Acadie des terres et forêts* (Acadia of lands and forests) as well as in part, for the first time, in Québec, in the Témiscouata region.

NOVA SCOTIA

2013 Acadian Youth Parliament

THIS JANUARY, seventy-one youth kicked off 2013 by experiencing our country's parliamentary system during the Parlement jeunesse de l'Acadie (Acadian Youth Parliament).

A mock-parliament conducted in French, the event took place from January 4 to 6 in Halifax, giving Acadian and francophone youth from the Atlantic Provinces, Quebec, Manitoba, Alberta and British Columbia the opportunity to simulate all aspects of the Canadian political system.

Representing the fictitious nation-state of Acadie, fifty-two of the participants served as members of parliament, either as part of the left wing governing party, CIEL (Coalition innovatrice écologique et lucide de l'Acadie), or as members of the official opposition, PARADis (Parti de l'action réformiste acadienne disciplinée). The remaining students took on roles as staff members and media.

The members debated bills on the prohibition of toxic cosmetic products, new management plans for waste and landfill sites, the decriminalization of assisted suicide, and citizenship and immigration in Acadie. A lively emergency



debate was also held to deal with a crisis situation that emerged during the proceedings.

The Acadian Youth Parliament was organized by the Conseil jeunesse provincial de la Nouvelle-Écosse, with support from Canadian Heritage, Acadian Affairs and the Société nationale de l'Acadie.

Review of the Official Languages Act of New Brunswick

THE GOVERNMENT of New Brunswick will continue to promote a society that supports official bilingualism and to strengthen the culture and traditions of the province's two linguistic communities.

In 2012, the government began a process to review the *Official Languages Act* in accordance with the provisions of the Act. A Select Committee of the Legislative Assembly was formed in June 2011. This bipartisan committee, made up of 11 MLAs, was tasked with holding consultations and providing a report with recommendations to Legislative Assembly.

Consultations with key stakeholders and members of the public were held from June to September 2012. The public was invited to comment via letter, e-mail, and the

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Legislative Assembly's website. In addition, some individuals and community groups were invited to appear before the Legislative Assembly's select committee.

The Government of New Brunswick has made a commitment to complete the review of the Act and table a bill on the matter in 2013.

MANITOBA

Professional development opportunities in French for bilingual employees of the Government of Manitoba

ON SEPTEMBER 25, 2012, Manitoba's Francophone Affairs Secretariat – in collaboration with Organization and Staff Development (OSD) and the Canada School of Public Service (CSPS) – launched, with great success, the first in a series of professional development activities in French for Province of Manitoba employees.

The pilot project, entitled *DVD français (déjeuner, vidéo, discussion)* [French DVDs (breakfast, video, discussion)], was developed through a cooperation agreement between Manitoba and the CSPS. The aim of the agreement is to provide a wide range of learning activities that enable federal and provincial employees to acquire the competencies required to meet the challenges and exploit the opportunities facing both governments now and in the future.

The learning objectives behind this new initiative are to promote and encourage bilingualism. The provision of training possibilities – both French language training and professional

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development training – has been highlighted as a prime motivator for encouraging employees to declare their ability and willingness to work in French as required. The *DVD français* project was created, then, as a way to bring bilingual staff together in a relatively informal setting to improve their listening skills and to develop their level of comfort in speaking in French on work-related topics.

Launch of an ÉCONOMUSÉE® network in British Columbia

BRITISH COLUMBIA has become the first western Province to join the Économusée® network. The Économusée® trademark showcases artisans by opening their places of production to the public. British Columbia's francophone community and French speaking visitors will benefit greatly from the bilingual model and marketing approach of ÉCONOMUSÉE®. This initiative will increase the French presence in B.C. businesses and in the Tourism and Agricultural sectors. The Économusée® initiative in British Columbia was spearheaded by the Société de développement économique de la C.B. with the collaboration of several partners, including the Ministry of Jobs, Tourism and Skills Training through the *Canada-British Columbia Cooperation Agreement on Official Languages*.

The City of Esquimalt celebrates its Francophone heritage and culture

In 2012, the Township of Esquimalt celebrated its 100th anniversary. To mark this occasion, Esquimalt organised various activities to proudly commemorate its Francophone

heritage. Through the *Canada-British Columbia Cooperation Agreement on Official Languages*, the Township of Esquimalt ensured that its Francophone culture was reflected and recognized during festivities. An important success, and a legacy for the francophone community, was the building of a brick historical walkway located in Esquimalt's Memorial Park. The walkway includes a section dedicated to the francophone community commemorating the presence of Francophone throughout the years.



Health PEI

PEI Seniors' Health: A Focus on the Francophone Neighbourhood

AT THE BEGINNING OF JANUARY 2013, the government of PEI inaugurated a new 82-room long-term care facility, of which one of three neighbourhoods will welcome Francophone seniors. The neighbourhoods are designed to provide residents with a home-like feel. Each group of rooms has a kitchen, dining area and living room with fireplace. Each resident has a private bedroom and bathroom. It is with this idea in mind that, during the design phase of this new facility, the needs of Francophone seniors were brought to the forefront. The chosen staffing model ensures that staff assigned to the Francophone neighbourhood are bilingual. The neighbourhood's physical location will also be clearly identified with appropriate bilingual signage.

This partnership between Health PEI and the Acadian and Francophone Affairs Secretariat builds on the alignment of new and existing resources within the health system, as well as the priorities identified by the Island's Acadian and Francophone community. The objective is to find sustainable solutions for French language health services for PEI seniors.

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Saskatchewan supports francophone community infrastructure

FOR A SECOND YEAR IN A ROW, the Government of Saskatchewan has provided funding in 2012-2013 for infrastructure projects within Saskatchewan's francophone community through the Francophone Community Infrastructure Fund (FCIF).

"For more than a century the Fransaskois community has been an important aspect of our provincial identity", said the Provincial Secretary, the Honourable Wayne Elhard. "FCIF will help to ensure that the Fransaskois communities within our province remain strong and vibrant for generations to come."

This fund provides \$100,000 annually for capital projects that:

- Enhance access to, and promote francophone culture and the French-language;
- Enhance the quality and use of francophone community facilities; and
- Create greater opportunities to hold events that support cultural vitality.

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In the last two years, the Fund has supported renovations to community centres (Saskatoon, Gravelbourg, Bellevue, Zenon Park, Regina), a theatrical production centre (Saskatoon), a skating rink (Bellegarde) as well as the purchase of equipment (Regina, Prince Albert, Saskatoon).

Funding may be provided for up to two-thirds of the required funds to a maximum of \$50,000 per project. All recipients must contribute at least one-third of all eligible costs.

ALBERTA

The Alberta Francophonie values the integration of newcomers

THE ALBERTA FRANCOFONIE joins francophone communities across Canada in facing the challenges of integrating newcomers. A strong economy and a booming labour market attract numerous Francophones from Canada and around the world. In fact, Alberta's francophone population increased 18% since 2006.

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Franco-Albertans value migration and immigration and have undertaken numerous initiatives to facilitate the integration of newcomers. The Association canadienne-française de l'Alberta has put in place a strategy to foster francophone immigration across the province. The Government of Alberta, along with the federal government, supports the efforts of the francophone community by co-funding settlement services in Edmonton and in Calgary.

Inclusion is also a priority for the Campus Saint-Jean who founded the *Groupe de recherche sur l'inter/trans-culturalité et immigration* (GRITI). The GRITI focuses on issues within diverse francophone communities and ultimately aims to develop a new model for integration of newcomers that will be pertinent throughout the Canadian Francophonie. The GRITI's unique approach is characterized by their efforts to closely collaborate with the community as evidenced by their recent international conference which brought together more than 160 university research fellows and representatives from community organizations. The Conference gave rise to in depth dialogue on the integration of francophone newcomers and covered both academic theory and best practices from the field.

Age-Friendly Newfoundland and Labrador

THE AGE-FRIENDLY Newfoundland and Labrador (AFNL) Grants program honours the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador's commitment to assist incorporated municipalities, Inuit community governments and reserves, and seniors' organizations and retiree groups in planning for an aging population. An age-friendly community is one where the physical and social environments are designed to support and enable older individuals to live in a secure environment, enjoy good health, and continue to participate fully in society.

The AFNL Grants program which falls into two categories, Community Grants and Seniors' Organization Grants, allows municipalities and organizations to develop and expand their ability to contribute to the creation of age-friendly communities.

The application forms and guidelines for the AFNL Grants program were translated into French by the Office of French Services, which gave Francophone organizations easier access to the program. As a result, the *Fédération des francophones de Terre-Neuve et du Labrador* (FFTNL) submitted a

The FFTNL is using the funds to conduct a research project to get a clearer picture of the situation and needs of seniors in the St. John's Francophone community.

project proposal to the AFNL Grants program and in July 2012, was granted \$9,400 for its project, *Listening to Francophone Seniors in St. John's*. The FFTNL is using the funds to conduct a research project to get a clearer picture of the situation and needs of seniors in the St. John's Francophone community. The FFTNL also plans to design and set up programs and activities to encourage Francophone seniors to contribute to the social well-being of their community and remain active so as to reduce social isolation.

NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

Ice-Related Terminology

IN THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES, faces are as varied as they are unique and the translators in the territorial government's Francophone Affairs Secretariat are required to perform tasks of a similar diversity. In the face of this challenge, terminology often leads the way. It is a fact that a unique reality calls for a vocabulary unlike any other.

As a result, our long and harsh winters bring us their share of terms. Each year sees the appearance of *routes d'hiver* (winter roads) and *ponts de glace* (ice bridges), for example.

A winter road is one that is open only during the cold season and combines ice bridges with areas of dry land that are generally impassable in summer.

An ice bridge spans a flowing body of water, connecting its two banks. As soon as the cold season arrives, a number of these bridges are therefore built across the Mackenzie River to replace the many ferries that will be put on ice, so to speak, for the winter.

The Dettah Ice Road, one of the best-known ice roads, could be considered an ice bridge. Technically speaking, since it begins at Yellowknife, on one shore of Great



Photo credit: Department of Transportation, Government of the Northwest Territories.

Slave Lake, and ends at Dettah, seven kilometres away, on a different shore of the same lake, it is indeed an ice bridge. But since it runs between the shores of a sheet of frozen water for its entire length, we call it an ice road.

Ice bridges, ice roads and winter roads are as much a part of our daily life as sun dogs and ice fog.

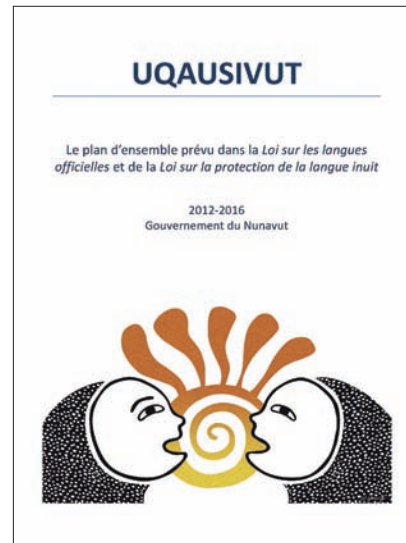
Tabling of the Language Legislation Implementation Plan

THE UQAUSIVUT (“our language” in the Inuit language) Plan was tabled in Nunavut’s Legislative Assembly on October 30, 2012, after a consultation and planning process with Nunavummiut. This Plan provides the implementation structure of the two language laws of Nunavut: the *Official Languages Act* and the *Inuit Language Protection Act*.

This comprehensive Plan sets out the steps that departments, territorial institutions and municipalities will take to meet their language obligations. It also describes the management and accountability framework that will ensure its timely implementation.

Lastly, the Plan defines many priorities related to the effective and efficient delivery of French Language Services by the Government of Nunavut, including:

- Developing and implementing policies and directives to improve communications and services delivery in the official languages;



- Improving official languages translation services and quality control;
- Increasing public service capacity to communicate and deliver services in the official languages.

To access the Uqausivut Plan online:

<http://www.ch.gov.nu.ca/pdf/Uqausivut-Eng.pdf>
<http://www.ch.gov.nu.ca/pdf/Uqausivut-Eng.pdf>.



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THE 2013 MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE ON THE CANADIAN FRANCOPHONIE

will be held on September 4 and 5,
2013 in Winnipeg (Manitoba).

LA CONFÉRENCE MINISTÉRIELLE SUR LA FRANCOPHONIE CANADIENNE DE 2013

se tiendra les 4 et 5 septembre
2013 à Winnipeg (Manitoba).