

# newsletter

SPECIAL EDITION



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

This year, in 2015, the ministers responsible for the Canadian Francophonie will be meeting for the 20<sup>th</sup> time since the creation of the Ministerial Conference on the Canadian Francophonie in 1994.



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.



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THIS YEAR, in 2015, the ministers responsible for the Canadian Francophonie will be meeting for the 20<sup>th</sup> time since the creation of the Ministerial Conference on the Canadian Francophonie in 1994. This meeting will be held on June 17 and 18, 2015, in Toronto, Ontario.

This special edition of the Newsletter highlights important initiatives concerning the Canadian Francophonie carried out by the federal government and the provincial and territorial governments since 1994 and provides an overview of the Conference's current priorities.

## About the Conference

The Ministerial Conference on the Canadian Francophonie (Conference) is an intergovernmental organization created in 1994; it is made up of federal, provincial and territorial ministers responsible for the Canadian Francophonie. The Conference deals with various issues related to the Canadian Francophonie, provides direction for intergovernmental cooperation, and plays a unifying role in support of the country's Francophonie.

The Conference member ministers meet annually to focus on various subjects related to the Canadian Francophonie and to engage in dialogue aimed at fostering the development of public policies to strengthen the country's linguistic duality. First and foremost, the Conference promotes initiatives that increase and enhance services in French, thus providing a better quality of life for citizens and ensuring the vitality of the French language and Francophone cultures. Interventions by provincial and territorial governments, as well as their collaboration with the federal government, have a direct and significant impact on the quality of life of their Francophone citizens.

The Conference's regular activities are administered by the Intergovernmental Network on the Canadian Francophonie, a group of federal, provincial, and territorial officials responsible for planning and implementing intergovernmental cooperation with respect to the Canadian Francophonie.

### DID YOU KNOW?

There are two components to the ministerial meetings: a provincial-territorial component and a component with the participation of the federal minister. Since the beginning, the Conference and its work have been chaired by the provincial or territorial government hosting the meeting. In 2005, a federal co-chair was introduced for the federal-provincial-territorial component.

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## Conference Objectives

- Promote intergovernmental collaboration and maintain dialogue
- Take a concerted approach and develop shared directions
- Exchange viewpoints, knowledge, and experience
- Develop research and analysis tools
- Encourage active offer and increased services in French
- Plan, implement, and evaluate joint initiatives
- Give greater visibility to the French language and culture and ensure their enduring presence
- During provincial-territorial meetings, act as a spokesperson with the federal government
- During federal-provincial-territorial meetings, create a synergy between the actions of the provincial and territorial governments and those of the federal government and foster an equal partnership



## Historical Overview of the Conference

### 1991-1994: Setting things in motion

On June 14, 1991, the first meeting of government officials responsible for Francophone issues within their respective provinces or territories was held in Ottawa. Until that point, there had been contacts and communications between them, but on an individual basis. The first meetings resulted in exchanges of information about the official languages situation and French-language services in the participating provinces and territories, and various strategies for improving the provision of services.



There is no single criterion that defines the Francophonie or a Francophone. The Canadian Francophonie is inclusive and always changing; it includes mother-tongue Francophones, newcomers who speak French, and all Francophiles.

The provincial and territorial officials gradually took joint positions on the administrative aspects of the federal-provincial-territorial agreements on the promotion of official languages. During those meetings, they looked at opportunities for intergovernmental cooperation in new areas of interest, such as translation services, the presence of French on the Internet, and the need for bilingual professionals in the health field.

The officials realized that ministerial decisions were required to move forward on certain issues. The Officials Responsible for Francophone Affairs (ORFA) therefore organized the first Ministerial Conference on Francophone Affairs. That meeting was held in Moncton in August 1994, during the first World Acadian Congress, on New Brunswick's initiative.

Prince Edward Island, Manitoba, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Ontario, Saskatchewan, the Northwest Territories, and Yukon have been participating in these exchanges since the very first meeting of officials in 1991. The Department of Canadian Heritage was invited to join the group after that meeting and has been participating ever since. Newfoundland and Labrador joined the group in 1996, Alberta in 1999, and British Columbia and Nunavut followed in 2000. Quebec has participated in several of these meetings since 1992 and became a full-fledged member in 2003.

## 1994-2014: Major accomplishments

The Conference has been a key player in much of the progress made in intergovernmental cooperation with respect to the Canadian Francophonie. Here are a few historical milestones that highlight the importance of the Conference and its evolving capacity for action over the years.

- 1994** | **MONCTON, NEW BRUNSWICK:** The ministers met for the first time during the Ministerial Conference on Francophone Affairs; this was essentially an opportunity to exchange views.
- 1996** | **WINNIPEG, MANITOBA:** The foundation was laid for greater interprovincial cooperation, particularly between translation bureaus. The elected officials decided to support the holding of forums on economic development of Francophone communities.
- 1997** | **TORONTO, ONTARIO:** The way was paved for the launch of the website *Centre d'information pour les francophones du Canada*, which presented the services offered by the various governments. The provinces and territories worked together to strengthen the federal-provincial-territorial agreements on the promotion of official languages.
- 1998** | **WHITEHORSE, YUKON:** The national issue of French-language health services started to develop; the first training initiative for health professionals was launched by Canadian Heritage, and Health Canada set up the Consultative Committee for French-Speaking Minority Communities.
- 2000** | **STANLEY BRIDGE, PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND:** At their fifth meeting, the ministers agreed to meet at least once a year and supported the idea of setting a direction for the Conference to reinforce follow-up and ensure consistency in its actions. They acknowledged the need to work with their counterparts in other departments to ensure that the interests of Francophone and Acadian communities were considered when dealing with a variety of matters.
- 2001** | **EDMONTON, ALBERTA:** The ministers identified areas of common interest (education, training, health, culture, and economic development) that could lead to formal cooperation agreements. The Conference hired a national coordinator.
- 2002** | **ST. JOHN'S, NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR:** The provincial and territorial ministers signed a [Declaration of Principles](#) recognizing that government leadership was vital to the future of the Canadian Francophonie; Quebec joined in the declaration. The Conference focused on the similarity between the issues it dealt with and the federal action plan on official languages.
- 2003** | **WINNIPEG, MANITOBA:** The first Intergovernmental Action Plan on Francophone Affairs was adopted. It gave effect to the Declaration of Principles by providing a framework for the efforts of the Officials Responsible for Francophone Affairs (ORFA), which were in charge of following up on issues.

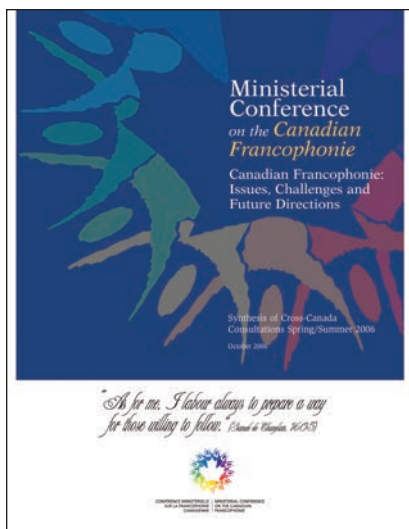


### DID YOU KNOW?

At the 2007 meeting in Halifax, the ministers recommended that the Conference support the nomination of Grand Pré, Nova Scotia, an iconic place of remembrance for Acadians, as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. In 2012, Grand Pré became the 16<sup>th</sup> World Heritage Site in Canada.

Nearly 820,000 people born outside Canada, including 154,000 living in minority communities, have French as their first official language spoken and contribute to the vitality of Francophone and Acadian communities throughout the country.

Source: Statistics Canada, National Household Survey 2011, <http://www12.statcan.gc.ca/nhs-enm/index-eng.cfm>



**2004** | **MONCTON, NEW BRUNSWICK:** The ministers reviewed 10 years of cooperation and adopted a second Action Plan. They decided to redefine the mandate of the Conference and review terminology in order to reflect the diverse realities of the Canadian Francophonie. The provinces and territories formed a task force to submit a joint request to the federal government to ensure fair and sustainable funding for programs concerning the Canadian Francophonie.

**2005** | **REGINA, SASKATCHEWAN:** The Conference adopted its current name, the Ministerial Conference on the Canadian Francophonie, which is more positive and inclusive. Its mandate was reviewed to reflect the Conference's evolution and to ensure Quebec's participation as a full member.

**2006** | **OTTAWA, ONTARIO:** A ministerial committee presented the results of the Conference's first major project, the report *Canadian Francophonie: Issues, Challenges and Future Directions*; a task force responsible for following up on those issues and challenges was formed. The Conference's first multi-year plan (2006-2009) was adopted.



**2007** | **HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA:** A federal-provincial-territorial task force was set up to develop a general framework setting out uniform terms and conditions for negotiating and managing the agreements on French-language services. A youth intervention strategy based on citizen participation, cooperation, and leadership development among Francophone youth was developed and added to the Conference's priorities.

**2008** | **QUEBEC CITY, QUEBEC:** The ministers adopted the Conference's new Strategic Plan. They applauded the federal government's continued commitment to linguistic duality in Canada following the tabling of the *Roadmap for Canada's Linguistic Duality 2008-2013* and discussed renewing the agreements between the federal government and the provinces and territories on the provision of services in French.

**2009** | **VANCOUVER, BRITISH COLUMBIA:** The ministers turned their attention to the place that would be given to French at the 2010 Olympic Games in Vancouver and commended including a day celebrating the Canadian Francophonie on the cultural and social program for this international event. They identified new avenues for action regarding economic development and Francophone immigration, confirmed the success of the *Youth Intervention Strategy*, and agreed to take advantage of every opportunity to support the accessibility and quality of Canada's French-language broadcasting services.

**2010** | **YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES:** The ministers had the opportunity to increase their understanding of the cohabitation of the Francophonie and Aboriginal languages in Canada and their knowledge of the Nordic Francophonie reality experienced in the territories. For the first time, they discussed French-language training in the area of justice.

**DID YOU KNOW?**

The Youth Intervention Strategy, a key follow-up to the recommendations in the report *Canadian Francophonie: Issues, Challenges and Future Directions*, is an initiative of the Conference carried out in collaboration with the Fédération de la jeunesse canadienne-française (FJCF) and its partners from the youth sector.

**2011** | **DIEPPE-MONCTON, NEW BRUNSWICK:** The ministers looked at the Conference's achievements in immigration and agreed to continue to cooperate in this area. They discussed ways of adapting their services to better meet the needs of an expanded Canadian Francophonie. An independent committee was given the mandate of organizing a forum on economic development in the Canadian Francophonie. The provinces and territories offered their support and expertise for the development of the next federal action plan on official languages.

**2012** | **EDMONTON, ALBERTA:** Ministers discussed the status of various federal policies and their actual and potential effects on Francophones, including changes related to immigration, services delivery and economic development. They noted the contribution of Francophiles to the development of the Canadian Francophone and hoped to increase their participation and sense of belonging. The economic development forum held in the fall of 2012 provided an unprecedented opportunity for government, community, and private sector stakeholders to discuss this priority issue in depth.

**2013** | **WINNIPEG, MANITOBA:** The ministers hoped to promote the exchange of best practices in early childhood development in minority settings, noting that the presence of French culture and a French environment is a key factor in the development of a child's social skills and identity. They discussed changes to the immigration system since 2006, the effects of those changes on the development of the Canadian Francophonie, and future prospects.

**2014** | **PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND:** The ministers recognized that some municipalities are key stakeholders contributing to the vitality of the Canadian Francophonie. They discussed how important it is for the Canadian Francophonie to be able to express itself and see itself in an environment of rapid and diverse communications, and they recognized the key role played by various radio, television, and multi-platform broadcasters. The 2015-2020 Strategic Plan was adopted, kicking off a new round of cooperative actions by the Conference.



In the 2011 Census, some 7.3 million Canadians said that French was their mother tongue, and almost 10 million, or 30%, reported being able to speak French.

## Conference Priorities

The mission of the Conference is to encourage reflection and action for the development of the Canadian Francophonie. The Conference seeks greater recognition of the Canadian Francophonie from governments and various sectors of society in order to promote its progress. It has adopted a new strategic plan for the next five years, which targets the following outcomes:

- Enhanced delivery of French-language services
- Reflections, discussions, and structuring initiatives on subjects that have an impact on the development of the Canadian Francophonie
- Improved collaboration with key stakeholders
- Greater promotion of the Canadian Francophonie

## Current priorities for the Conference

The Conference focuses on issues that are priorities for the Canadian Francophonie and foster intergovernmental cooperation. The Conference's priorities are led by working group that meet regularly during the year and do the groundwork for the annual ministers' meetings.

### DID YOU KNOW?

In 1996, the ministers assembled in Winnipeg agreed for the first time on cooperative projects for improving the provision of French-language services by reducing or eliminating the duplication of services in three key areas at the time: the electronic highway between translators, the sharing of translation and interpretation services, and the promotion of Francophone communities.

An estimated 378,000 students from kindergarden to Grade 12 were enrolled in French immersion programs in 2012-2013, and more than 1.4 million take Core French.

Source: Canadian Parents for French, Enrolment Trends, <http://cpf.ca/en/research-advocacy/research/enrolmenttrends/>

**French-language services:** French-language services have been the focus of the Conference's discussions since the very beginning, in 1994. The provision of services in French has made great strides over the years, thanks particularly to the intergovernmental sharing of best practices brought about by the Conference. In 2007, the ministers decided to proceed with the development of a general framework for Canada/province or territory agreements on French-language services. The framework is being assessed for improvements. Also, the Conference is currently updating the inventory of French-language services and has started to give some thought to a "basket of services" concept.

**Francophone immigration:** Francophone immigration appeared on the Conference's agenda for the first time in 2002. What interests the Conference are issues and opportunities related to recruitment, selection, reception, and integration of new immigrants in Francophone and Acadian communities and partnerships with various community, government, and private-sector stakeholders. The rapid evolution of immigration policies in recent years poses additional challenges for the provinces and territories that seek to attract Francophone immigrants. The Conference will continue to monitor new developments in immigration and will identify new courses of action in this area according to circumstance.

**Economic development:** The Conference has been addressing the economic development of Francophone communities since 1996. The Conference's actions have contributed to the emergence of initiatives that support Francophone economic development, which have evolved considerably since then. This file remains on the front burner, and the Conference will continue to closely monitor work being done by economic stakeholders of the Canadian Francophonie relative to the networking of Francophone economic organizations and entrepreneurs aimed at strengthening the pan-Canadian Francophone economic space.

**Early childhood:** Early childhood has been on the agenda since 2000 and was the main theme of the 2013 conference. The Conference wants to promote the exchange of best practices for French-language learning among preschool children, such as strategies that promote francization and cultural transmission.

**Municipalities:** Across Canada, there are many municipalities that have a large concentration of Francophones and that recognize the historical, cultural, social, and economic contributions of these communities. The 2014 conference recognized the contribution of Francophone and bilingual municipalities to the vitality and promotion of the Canadian Francophonie. The Conference is seeking to better understand the efforts of municipalities and municipal associations with respect to the Canadian Francophonie. For instance, it has started identifying Francophone and bilingual municipalities, the types of services they offer in French, and how they maintain relations with the French-language community, as well as describing existing models for cooperation between these municipalities and governments. This work will make it possible to identify possible avenues for actions for the Conference.



## The Official Languages: An Invaluable Asset to all Canadians

CANADA'S two national languages are part of our history and national identity. As the Prime Minister has noted, Canada was born in French. English and French enhance Canada's competitive advantage, both domestically and internationally, and have contributed to Canada becoming a strong and open society.

Our Government recognizes the value of our two national languages and launched, in 2008, the *Roadmap for Canada's Linguistic Duality 2008-2013*, which supports the following priority objectives: promoting Canada's two official languages; and enhancing the vitality of official-language minority communities. This commitment was backed up with an investment of \$1.1 billion over five years to support official languages in a variety of areas. The Roadmap has had many successes: seven provinces now offer legal services in both official languages, 170 points of service for Francophone immigrants have been established in cities in various regions of Canada and 19 new healthcare training programs in French have been created. The Government of Canada launched nationwide consultations in 2012 – one of the largest consultations on official languages ever held. These consultations built on the ongoing dialogue with the provinces and territories. As a result of this process, the new Roadmap for 2013-2018 was launched, with a renewed investment of \$1.1 billion. The new Roadmap focuses on the social and economic benefits of our two official languages and is based on three pillars: education, immigration and, communities. It is the single largest investment ever made by the Government with respect to official languages. Strong health networks, greater access to justice and better coordinated Francophone immigration have been made possible under the Roadmap.

The area of education offers a good example of intergovernmental cooperation on official languages. In August 2013, the Government of Canada renewed its collaborative relationship with the Council of Ministers of Education through the *Protocol for Agreements for Minority-Language Education and Second-Language Instruction 2013-2018*. The protocol provides for a federal investment of \$1.297 billion over five years in second language schools and minority school systems.

The Government of Canada is committed to promoting Canada's linguistic duality and the development of official-language minority communities, and to giving these communities the means to grow in French and English throughout Canada. As part of the celebrations for the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Canada's Confederation in 2017, the Government will support projects that showcase our two national languages. For example, it has invested almost \$6 million to support the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of French presence in Ontario.



Shelly Glover, Minister of Canadian Heritage and Official Languages

### DID YOU KNOW?

Part VII of the *Official Languages Act* sets out the federal government's commitment to enhance the vitality of the English and French linguistic minority communities in Canada, support their development, and foster the full recognition and use of both English and French in Canadian society. Federal institutions must take positive measures to implement this commitment.



Patrimoine  
canadien Canadian  
Heritage

## Ontario: Important Achievements and a Bright Future



**Champlain's Dream**  
Madeleine Meilleur, Minister Responsible for Francophone Affairs of Ontario and author David Hackett Fischer launch the series *Le Rêve de Champlain (Champlain's Dream)*, an important milestone in the commemorations of the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of French presence in Ontario.

Photo: Martin Lipman for Groupe Média TFO

The Government of Ontario will be hosting the 20<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Conference on the Canadian Francophonie on June 17 and 18, 2015 in Toronto.

Ontario also hosted the 3<sup>rd</sup> Ministerial Conference on Francophone Affairs in 1997, as well as the 11<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Conference on the Canadian Francophonie in 2006.

### DID YOU KNOW?

Laymen travelled from France to build a mission on the banks of the Isaraqui (Wye) River in 1639. It was named Sainte-Marie among the Hurons and was brought to virtual self-sufficiency, an impressive achievement for a community 1,200 kilometres from Quebec City.

Source: <http://www.saintemarieamongthehurons.on.ca/sm/en/HistoricalInformation/TheSainteMarieStory/index.htm>

THE GOVERNMENT of Ontario is proud of the many initiatives it has put in place to expand and enhance the provision of French-language services since the inception of the Ministerial Conference on the Canadian Francophonie in 1994.

As we celebrate the 20<sup>th</sup> Meeting of Ministers Responsible for the Canadian Francophonie, and as Ontario fully embarks on the commemoration of the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the French presence in Ontario, the province is proud to highlight the following accomplishments over the last 20 years:

- Creation of 12 French-language school boards throughout the province (4 public and 8 catholic); over 100,000 students are now enrolled in Ontario's French-language elementary and secondary schools;
- Adoption in 2001 of the *Franco-Ontarian Emblem Act*, which officially recognizes the Franco-Ontarian flag as the emblem of Ontario's French-speaking community;
- Implementation of the *Aménagement Linguistique Policy* to respond to the unique needs, in a minority setting, of Ontario's Francophone community, its elementary and secondary schools, and French-language and bilingual postsecondary institutions;
- Creation of the *Ontario Francophonie Awards* which recognize the exceptional contribution of Francophones and Francophiles in the province;
- Granting full autonomy to Ontario's French-language educational and cultural public television station TFO;
- Creation in 2007 of the *Office of the French Language Services Commissioner* (FLSC); since January 1, 2014, the FLSC reports directly to the Legislative Assembly;
- Addition of three new designated areas under the *French Language Services Act* for a total of 25;
- Adoption of a more inclusive definition of *Francophone* to better reflect the diversity of the Franco-Ontarian community;
- Adoption in 2010 of the *Franco-Ontarian Day Act*, which officially recognizes the contributions of the Francophone community of Ontario to the social, economic and political life of the province and the community's importance in Ontario's society;
- Establishment of six French language health planning entities throughout the province;
- Establishment of a Francophone immigration target of 5 percent and tabling of a provincial immigration bill which recognizes the importance of the cultural heritage of Francophones;
- Designation of Montfort Hospital as an Academic Health Science Centre recognizing its role in delivering French-language health science research and training;
- Launching of an Action Plan for French-language Postsecondary Education in Central and Southwestern Ontario;
- Allocation of close to \$6 million to support cultural celebrations marking 400 years of French presence in Ontario in 2015;
- Installation of new bilingual, full-colour electronic highway signs featuring internationally recognized images and symbols.

Ontario is proud to be a founding member of the Ministerial Conference on the Canadian Francophonie.

The Ontario Government is also proud of the MCCF's achievements and pledges to continue working with the Conference for the betterment of Francophone and Acadian communities everywhere.



LA FRANCOPHONIE is a fundamental characteristic of the Canadian identity, deeply rooted in history and looking to tomorrow's Canada. The reach of the French language is essential to the political, economic, social, and cultural prosperity of the country.

As the only Francophone state in North America, Québec acknowledges its particular responsibility towards Francophone and Acadian communities.

In this spirit, it adopted in 1995 its first policy on Francophone and Acadian communities in Canada, and it launched, on November 7, 2006, the *Politique du Québec en matière de francophonie canadienne*. This policy has been implemented through the signing of cooperation agreements on the Canadian Francophonie with all provincial and territorial governments, the Société Nationale de l'Acadie and the Fédération des communautés francophones et acadienne du Canada. Under its two financial support programs for the Canadian Francophonie, Québec provided nearly \$44 million in funds over the last twenty years to support more than 5 500 projects. In addition, in December 2006, the Government of Québec created the Centre de la francophonie des Amériques to set the Francophonie into motion across the Americas.

Based on the firm belief that cooperation between governments undeniably supports the vitality of the French language in the country, Québec and Ontario signed a statement on the Canadian Francophonie, on November 21, 2014, in Toronto, during a joint meeting between both provinces' Cabinets. Ministers Jean-Marc Fournier and Madeleine Meilleur continue to take action, namely to support French services within Radio-Canada and with regard to French immigration to ensure that the demographic weight of Francophones is always preserved in the country.



Left to right: Minister Jean-Marc Fournier, Premier of Québec Philippe Couillard, Premier of Ontario Kathleen Wynne, and Minister Madeleine Meilleur, signing the Statement of Toronto.

### Quote from Minister Jean-Marc Fournier

As I was saying to pan-Canadian organizations and associations representing the Francophone and Acadian communities at a dialogue committees meeting on February 5 and 6, 2015 in Ottawa, Québec shares a fundamental element with Francophone and Acadian communities, that is, a profound will to live, develop and grow in French. The French fact is part of Canada's DNA, and it is our duty to perpetuate this legacy, and have French echo all over the country. The Government of Québec wants to work in this spirit of solidarity, and it wants to reinforce the dialogue and the cooperation with other governments, as well as Francophone and Acadian communities.



La francophonie @ cœur

The Government of Québec hosted the 13<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Conference on the Canadian Francophonie in 2008.

### DID YOU KNOW?

In 2011, 6,164,745 people in Québec reported French as a mother tongue, which represented 78.9% of the province's population. There were also 1,211,155 people who had a knowledge of French, i.e. 15.4% of the population. In total, there were 7,375,900 Francophones and Francophiles in Québec, i.e. 94.4% of Quebecers.

Source: Statistics Canada, Population Census.

## Celebrating 10 years of French-language Services in Nova Scotia



The Honourable Michel P. Samson, Minister of Acadian Affairs (right) and Allister Surette, President and Vice-Chancellor of Université Sainte-Anne. Université Sainte-Anne was recognized as the *Bonjour!* Awards champion for French-language services in 2014.

SERVICES IN French have been at the forefront since the enactment of the *French-language Services Act* in 2004. Over the last decade, the Nova Scotia Government has shown significant progress in developing, delivering and integrating French-language services.

Priority has been placed on services affecting health, safety, and security. For example, the 511 service from the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal allows travellers to access information on driving conditions and emergency messages in both French and English, online or by telephone. Similarly, the HealthLink 811 Service provides the public with access to non-emergency health information from registered nurses, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week in French, English and other languages.

Social media have become an important way to access information. The Nova Scotia Government updates the public in French via its Twitter account (@GouvNE) and Facebook page (Affaires acadiennes).

Both provide information about government services, public consultations, activities and events in French.



### The Government of Nova Scotia hosted the 12<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Conference on the Canadian Francophonie in 2007.

Research shows that actively offering services in French increases the chances that citizens will request French-language services. The *Bonjour!* logo is used on lapel pins, desktop signs and posters, providing a welcoming invitation to the French-speaking public. Within government, the program encourages employees to actively offer French-language services.

Service Nova Scotia offers a host of front-line services in French in-person at Access Nova Scotia centres, by phone, and online. The [Access Nova Scotia website](#) provides the Acadian and Francophone community access to French services such as renewing vehicle registrations, requesting bilingual birth certificates, making municipal payments, and accessing information on programs such as energy rebates. The Province also celebrates Acadian and Francophone culture by issuing an Acadian flag licence plate with a donation fee returned to the community for cultural projects.

New French-language services provide support to children and their families. Early years centres are found in every school board, with a focus on early learning programs, regulated childcare and parental support. *Grandir en français* offers the opportunity for children to access French education prior to starting school. *Je parle en français avec mon enfant* provides support to parents of children attending school in the *Conseil scolaire acadien provincial*.

Through continued progress in the delivery of French-language services, the Government of Nova Scotia is helping ensure that the Acadian and Francophone community continues to grow and thrive. Progress reports are available at <http://acadien.nova-scotia.ca/en/reports>.

#### DID YOU KNOW?

On December 3, 2007, Nova Scotia became the first province in Canada to launch a highly secure and durable bilingual birth certificate.

## Cooperation: The Key to Success!

### Official Languages Act

NEW BRUNSWICK'S first *Official Languages Act* was passed on April 18, 1969. In 2002, the provincial government conducted an initial review of the Act to align provincial official language obligations with the language rights recognized in sections 16 to 20 of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

The most recent review of the *Official Languages Act* was completed in June 2013. A significant amendment to the Act, the new section 5, now requires the government to develop and apply a comprehensive plan for the implementation of its linguistic obligations. The government launched its first plan on *Official Languages, Official Bilingualism – A Strength*, in 2011. A new plan on official languages is currently being developed, in accordance with the new legislative provision.

### Arts and Culture

Launched in 2009, the *Global Strategy for the Integration of Arts and Culture into Acadian Society in New Brunswick* emerged from careful reflection on key actions for integrating arts and culture at the centre of the overall development of Acadie. That strategy, supported by the New Brunswick government, proposes seven sectoral strategies that make up the continuum of arts and culture in Acadian communities in New Brunswick.

This vitality within the Acadian community contributed to the renewal of the Cultural Policy for New Brunswick, unveiled in 2014, which reiterates that the province is enriched by its diversity and official bilingualism.

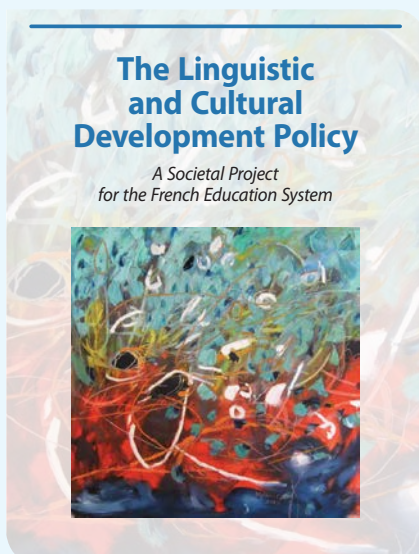
### Health

Since 2008, two health authorities, one Anglophone, the other Francophone, have been providing health services for the citizens of the province in their official language of choice. The two health authorities each have an official languages plan that focuses on the delivery of quality health services in both official languages.

The Government of New Brunswick hosted the 1<sup>st</sup> and the 9<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Conference on Francophone Affairs in 1994 and in 2004, as well as the 16<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Conference on the Canadian Francophonie in 2011.

#### DID YOU KNOW?

More than 200 leaders and specialists with targeted, varied, and complementary expertise participated actively in the process of developing the Linguistic and Cultural Development Policy.



### Francophone Education

On May 9, 2014, the New Brunswick government adopted the *Linguistic and Cultural Development Policy* (PALC) for the French education system, tabled jointly by the Acadian and Francophone community and the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development. Through this policy, the community, together with the government, has embarked on a genuine societal project.

The purpose of the policy is to enhance the capacity of all education partners to fulfill the dual mission of the Acadian and Francophone education system, i.e. to ensure the academic success and identity building of each learner, while contributing to the sustainable development of the Acadian and Francophone community and the province of New Brunswick.

## Evolution of the Active Offer of Services in French in Manitoba

MANITOBA ADOPTED its [French Language Services \(FLS\) Policy](#) in 1989. Over the years, the delivery of FLS has been normalized to a certain extent. Positive measures have been put into place to help the government understand the needs and aspirations of the

Francophone community. The government of Manitoba is proud of its achievements in view of fostering the development and vitality of the Francophone community through the implementation of the FLS Policy and the concept of active offer.



The Government of Manitoba hosted the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Conference on Francophone Affairs in 1996 and in 2003, as well as the 18<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Conference on the Canadian Francophonie in 2013.

### DID YOU KNOW?

In 1985, the Supreme Court of Canada declares Manitoba laws unconstitutional and grants a three-year time period for the translation of all laws and regulations.

#### 1995-1999

- Creation of the Franco-Manitoban School Division
- French Language Services Regulation of the *Regional Health Authorities Act*
- Creation of the Working Group on the Enhancement of FLS in Manitoba's Justice System
- Publication of the *Chartier Report* and beginning of the implementation of its 29 recommendations on FLS within the government of Manitoba
- Creation of the Advisory Committee on Health Services in French
- Designation of some social services organizations

#### 1999-2002

- Establishment of a completely bilingual primary health centre in St. Boniface
- Tri-level agreement to establish a *comité paritaire* (joint committee) to foster economic development and cooperation
- Grant of \$300,000 to Francofonds, to highlight the National Year of the Canadian Francophonie

#### 2002-2008

- Official opening of the first three [Bilingual Service Centres \(BSCs\)](#) in the Mountain, Red River and St. Boniface Regions
- Creation of a provincial circuit court and generalist position at the Red River Region BSC
- Designation of the Conseil communauté en santé du Manitoba (now Santé en français) as official representative of the Francophone community in the areas of health and social services
- FLS Regulation 199/2005 under *The Child and Family Services Authorities Act*
- Cooperation agreements with New Brunswick, the Bas-Rhin (Alsace) and Quebec
- Opening of Francophone and bilingual health centres in rural and urban communities
- Funding of the Accueil francophone in immigration
- Approval of measures to increase the number of bilingual members on quasi-judicial tribunals
- Launch of the *Prix Ronald-Duhamel – Ronald Duhamel Award*
- 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the [Francophone Affairs Secretariat](#)

#### 2008-2015

- Launch of the new set of *Bonjour-Hello* tools on Manitoba's active offer of FLS
- Opening of the BSCs in the Interlake, Seine River and St. Vital Regions
- *The Université de Saint-Boniface Act*
- *The Bilingual Service Centres Act*
- Cooperation agreement between Manitoba and the Lower Normandy Region
- Creation of the Advisory Committee on the Improvement of FLS
- FLS Regulation, amendment (135/2013) of the *Regional Health Authorities Act*

## British Columbia – Focusing on Community Needs

BRITISH COLUMBIA currently has more than 290,000 French speaking citizens, 70,000 of whom have French as their first language. Francophones and francophiles are an integral part of our province and the BC Government is committed to working with the community to promote Canada's linguistic duality.

The [Francophone Affairs Program \(FAP\)](#) was created in 2001 following the signing of the first Canada-British Columbia Agreement on Official Languages. Early on, the program identified the need to support Francophone communities in the Health and Social Services sectors. From translation of vital documents for parents and seniors among others, to direct service delivery, BC's French speaking citizens now have more access than ever to services in French. FAP's solid relationship-building capacity has found project champions in BC ministries, Crown Corporations and municipalities to further develop the range of available services.

There are two pieces of legislation mandating the BC Government to provide services in French: [The School Act](#) (K to 12) and Part XVII of the [Criminal Code](#). In 1997, the *Conseil scolaire francophone* was created and in 1999, it took jurisdiction over the entire province. Additionally, BC continues to have record enrolment in its French immersion programs with currently over 45,000 students. In 1990, Criminal Code legislation came into effect which gave accused the prerogative of having a criminal trial in French. BC has since established a data base for potential French jury members and a French language trial team.

Since 2002, the Government of British Columbia has annually proclaimed March 20 as BC Francophonie Day. Also, during the 2010 Winter Olympics, February 13 was declared Canadian Francophonie Day and the Premier hosted a Canadian Francophonie Day Breakfast attended by the Governor General of Canada. From a modest celebration, the annual event has evolved into a public celebration at the BC Legislature where the Franco-Columbian flag is raised, a bilingual proclamation is tabled, and an award is presented to recognize the contribution of the Francophone community to the social life and economy of BC.

The BC Government has been recognized many times for its contribution to the Francophone community. It received the prestigious Baldwin-Lafontaine Award from the Vancouver Canadian Club in 2006, and was recognized in 2008 by the *Fédération des francophones de la Colombie-Britannique* (FFCB) for building a successful partnership with the community. Moreover, FAP's Manager received the FFCB's 2011 *Cornouiller d'or* for her ongoing commitment and leadership, as a public servant, to the development of French language services in British Columbia.

French speaking citizens are now better able to find information and services on the government website, where the [Francophonie page](#) was recently updated to include an online search function, a direct link to the FAP webpage and an online directory and mapping tool. The provincial government relentlessly continues its search for new projects and partners to [increase its capacity to serve](#) its French speaking citizens' needs.



The Government of British Columbia hosted the 14<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Conference on the Canadian Francophonie in 2009.

### DID YOU KNOW?

- In 1876, St. Joseph's Hospital became the first hospital in Victoria. It was founded by the Sisters of Saint Anne from Lachine, Quebec.
- In the 1850s French speaking citizens represented 60 percent of the European population in BC.



The Franco-Columbian flag is raised at the Legislature on Francophonie Day.



## 20 Years of Progress

THE GOVERNMENT of Prince Edward Island is proud to be one of the original members of the Ministerial Conference on the Canadian Francophonie and to have hosted the Conference twice, in 2000 and again in 2014.

As we look back over the past 20 years, much has changed when it comes to government-community partnerships and to government services offered in French.

The Government of Prince Edward Island hosted the 5<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Conference on Francophone Affairs in 2000 as well as the 19<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Conference on the Canadian Francophonie in 2014.

### DID YOU KNOW?

Prince Edward Island has one of the highest percentages of participation in French immersion in the country. Over 50% of English schools offer either early, late or intensive French immersion programs.

Since the late eighties, there have been 11 Ministers Responsible for Acadian and Francophone Affairs, three of which were Premiers.

It was in the late 1970s that the provincial government created the [Acadian and Francophone Community Advisory Committee](#) to obtain continued advice in all matters related to the province's Acadian and Francophone community. Based on the priorities expressed by the community, and building on their longstanding experience, the Committee recommended in 2002 the creation of the PEI French Language Health Services Network known today as *Réseau Santé en français Î.-P.-É.* It is the only such network in the country that is co-chaired by government and the community, resulting directly in increased awareness and service provision in the health sector.

The Committee has also been a key partner to government in the development of guidelines, policies and legislation, the most recent being the second version of the *French Language Services Act* which was proclaimed in 2013. We also note that from a handful of designated bilingual positions within the provincial government, there are now 121 such positions throughout the civil service and health sector.

As with health, education is also a community priority and it was in 1990 that the PEI *School Act* was amended and the *Commission scolaire de langue française* (French Language School Board) was formed. From only one French first language school and community centre at the time, there are now six, located in each of the six regions where there are concentrations of French-speakers.

Thanks to a very high percentage of participation in French immersion, PEI has one of the highest rates of bilingualism in the country, in percentage of population. Today, many government services available in French are being offered by those bilingual French immersion students who are now in the workforce and contributing to the Island Francophonie.

To quote the preamble of the *French Language Services Act* (2013), the people of Prince Edward Island take pride in the role of PEI in the creation of Canada, a bilingual country and the Government of Prince Edward Island is committed to supporting the Acadian and Francophone community and maintaining the French language on PEI for future generations.

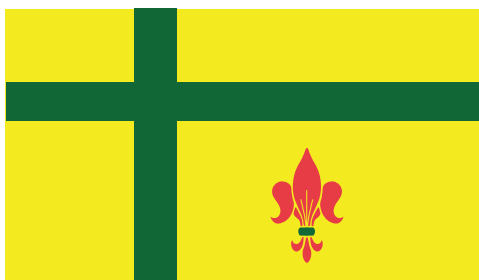


## Continued Progress in French-language Services

MEETINGS OF the Ministerial Conference on the Canadian Francophonie provide opportunities for Saskatchewan to develop French-language services through reflection, sharing of best practices and increasing awareness of the major issues of the Canadian Francophonie.

In 1990, a few years before the first meeting of the Ministerial Conference on the Canadian Francophonie, the Government of Saskatchewan established the Office of French-language Co-ordination, now known as the **Francophone Affairs Branch (FAB)**. The FAB mandate is to liaise between the Fransaskois community and the provincial government, and to support the offer of services in French.

Since then, French-language services have progressed in Saskatchewan, particularly with the adoption in 2003 of the **French-language Services Policy**. This policy affirms the Saskatchewan Government's commitment to contribute to the Francophone community's vitality through the development of services.



In 2005, the Fransaskois flag became an official provincial emblem. Since 2009, the Fransaskois flag recognition initiative has underscored this designation. Each year the government issues a flag and a commemorative plaque to two Francophone communities in recognition of their contribution to the province.

In 2009, the government established the French-language Services Centre which acts as a single window for public access to French-language services from the Government of Saskatchewan. This Centre manages a [website](#) facilitating access to French-language content from the Government of Saskatchewan.

The Saskatchewan Plan for Growth is the principal statement of government public policy. This plan targets growth of the economy in order to offer a better quality of life to the people of the province. Numerous French-language services are in sync with this approach:

- Saskatchewan is receiving an increasing number of Francophone immigrants and provides funding for settlement and integration services in French.
- Saskatchewan offers employability and literacy services in French.
- The provincial government provides funding to eight Francophone child-care centres throughout the province. A ninth will open soon. Since 2007, the number of spaces in Francophone child care-centres has increased by 35 percent.

The 10<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Conference on Francophone Affairs was held in 2005 in Regina, Saskatchewan.

### DID YOU KNOW?

The Francophone presence in Saskatchewan dates back to the time of the voyageurs and the fur trade. At the time of the founding of the province in 1905, the Francophone population was diversified, including Métis, French-Canadians and settlers from France and Belgium. Today, people from all horizons continue to join the Fransaskois community.



Fransaskois attending the proclamation of the Rendez-vous de la Francophonie at the Legislative Assembly with Premier Brad Wall.

## Government-Community Collaborations for Services in French



Photo: Francophonie jeunesse de l'Alberta (2014).

Nearly 100 youth from across Alberta participate in a francophone youth mock parliament at the Alberta Legislature.

IN 1999, Alberta joined the Ministerial Conference on the Canadian Francophonie (Conference) and has since benefitted from opportunities to share and discuss best practices regarding services in French and the vitality of francophone communities. Also in 1999, the Government of Alberta established the [Francophone Secretariat](#) to help acknowledge the Francophone community's contribution to the province's history and its continuing contribution to the social, cultural and economic fabric of Alberta. The Francophone Secretariat acts as a liaison between the government and Alberta's Francophone community, represents the needs of the Francophone community within government, and supports the development of services in French and other initiatives promoting French language and cultures.

The Government of Alberta hosted the 6<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Conference on Francophone Affairs in 2001 as well as the 18<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Conference on the Canadian Francophonie in 2012.

### LE SAVIEZ-VOUS?

Approximately one in three Alberta students is enrolled in a French language program (Francophone, French Immersion, French as a Second Language).

In recent years, Alberta's francophone population has grown at almost twice the rate of Alberta's overall population.

Over the years, supports and services have been developed to meet the needs of French-speaking Albertans in communities across the province. There are now culturally and linguistically appropriate services in various sectors including education, justice, health, early childhood, settlement and employability.

One sector that yielded important benefits for the francophone community is in the area of youth engagement and civic participation, an issue examined by the Conference in 2007. Inspired by this topic, the Government of Alberta undertook a collaborative approach with the provincial organization representing francophone youth, *Francophonie jeunesse de l'Alberta*. Together, they identified many strategies to encourage and strengthen youth participation and to build a stronger francophone identity. This local approach also resulted in the translation and dissemination of a number of key resources into French, including:

- Pedagogical materials for grades 6, 9 and 12 as part of the [Building Future Voters Program](#) – including an election simulation toolkit;
- The curriculum-based resource [Building Communities Through Local Government](#) to support the grade 6 Social Studies program;
- A key resource on Alberta's parliamentary democracy, [The Citizen's Guide to the Alberta Legislature](#);
- Locally developed credit-based [leadership courses](#) for high school students;
- A revamped youth mock parliament – *Parlement jeunesse de l'Alberta* – allowing French-speaking youth to participate as journalists, community advocates and Members of the Legislative Assembly;
- Youth forums and workshops to encourage youth citizen participation.

The success of these initiatives can be largely attributed to the joint efforts between government, francophone schools and community partners.

Alberta looks forward to more opportunities to share information and best practices in areas of mutual interest, to help encourage action locally to meet the needs and aspirations of our French-speaking populations.

## Making Connections – Linking Government and the Francophone Community in Newfoundland and Labrador

FOR OVER 20 years, the [Office of French Services](#) (OFS) has served as the catalyst within the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador for developing and offering French-language services. OFS collaborates with departments to develop services in French for the benefit of the province's Francophone community. Key to government's success has been the establishment in 2000 of a Liaison Officer position, which ensures regular consultations and fosters partnerships with the Francophone community.

The Liaison Officer position has enhanced OFS' ability to work with government departments, in close consultation with the community, to identify avenues for dialogue and cooperation. Serving as a vital link between government and Francophone community organizations, the Liaison Officer facilitates access to programs and services and promotes awareness about the Francophone community within government. In a sense, community liaison permeates all OFS' lines of business – i.e., translation, linguistic support services and the French-language training program – and serves as a window into the community.

As the Francophone community in Newfoundland and Labrador has grown and developed over the years, the OFS has diversified in order to better respond to the changing needs of this dynamic community. It looks forward to continuing to connect government with the community by way of its liaison services.



les 3 et 4 octobre 2002 - Terre-Neuve-et-Labrador  
October 3-4, 2002 - Newfoundland and Labrador

### The 7<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Conference on Francophone Affairs was held in 2002 in St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador.



MHA Tony Connect waving the francophone flag at Provincial Francophonie Day in May 2013

#### Quote from the Minister

The Provincial Government is honoured to have been a partner of the Francophone and Acadian community on many projects over the last 20 years. We look forward to many more opportunities to collaborate with the province's various Francophone organizations to protect and promote the French language and culture in Newfoundland and Labrador, especially among our young people. (Honourable Derrick Dalley, acting Minister Responsible for Francophone Affairs)

#### DID YOU KNOW?

French presence in Newfoundland and Labrador dates back more than 500 years and forms an important part of the province's culture.

The provincial government declared, in 1999, that May 30 would be Provincial Francophonie Day in Newfoundland and Labrador.

The *Declaration of Principles*, that views government leadership as crucial to the future of the Canadian Francophonie, was signed in St. John's, in 2002.

## Co-operation, Consultation, and Communication in the Northwest Territories

### The 15<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Conference on the Canadian Francophonie was held in 2010 in Yellowknife, Northwest Territories.

#### DID YOU KNOW?

The *Official Languages Act of the NWT* and the first languages agreement between Canada and the Northwest Territories (NWT) were signed in 1984. Since then, the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) has worked to implement the *Official Languages Act of the NWT*.

OVER THE past few years the GNWT has taken some particularly important steps to improve access to communications and services in French:

- The GNWT established the [Francophone Affairs Secretariat](#) in 2012. The Secretariat provides advice, support and oversight to all GNWT departments with respect to their French language obligations.
- In 2012, the GNWT developed the [Strategic Plan on French Language Communications and Services](#) in partnership with the *Fédération franco-ténoise* (FFT), the political voice of NWT Francophones.
- In 2013, the GNWT adopted Regulations and [Standards for French Language Communications and Services](#).
- Consultations have taken place in many communities across the NWT.
- Departments and agencies continue to assess their internal requirements and develop their own operational plans.

The next critical step in this process is to make French information and services more visible to the public so members of the public feel comfortable requesting information and services in French. This is called the Active Offer and it requires the support and participation of all levels within the government.

À votre service  
en français

In order to provide leadership and support related to the active offer and to enable departments and agencies to provide a consistent service experience to French-speaking clients, the Francophone Affairs Secretariat has developed an Active Offer Toolkit. A new design element will provide to the public a visible offer of French communications and services, according to the Standards.



Left to right: Jean de Dieu Tuyishime, Executive Director of the Fédération franco-ténoise (FFT); Antoine Gagnon, Executive Director of the Conseil de développement économique des TNO (CDÉTNO); Jean-François Pitre, President of the CDÉTNO; the Honourable Jackson Lafferty, Minister Responsible for Official Languages, GNWT; Richard Létourneau, President of the FFT; Yvonne Careen, Superintendent of the Commission scolaire francophone; Étienne Croteau, Executive Director of the Association franco-culturelle de Yellowknife.

The design theme will help provide a common user experience for French-speaking residents seeking service in French. In conjunction with the *Active Offer* Toolkit, a training DVD provides staff with background information and best practices to meet the Standards.

Communications and services are for the French-speaking community, so partnership with the community is invaluable. Recent consultations were held between the GNWT and leaders of franco-ténois organizations (see caption below). These included a formal consultation with the Honourable Jackson Lafferty, Minister Responsible for Official Languages, a meeting on the subject of Francophone immigration, and meetings to advance initiatives to ensure the availability of French juries. Visit the GNWT's Francophone Affairs Secretariat at [www.ece.gov.nt.ca](http://www.ece.gov.nt.ca) for more information.

## French Language Services in Yukon, at a Crossroad

IN YUKON, the French language and culture have roots that go back more than 150 years. The Francophonie is part of our history, our culture and our identity. Newcomers and visitors to Yukon are always surprised by the strong presence of French in the territory, be it in the private sector, on the cultural scene, or at the governmental level. French can be heard and seen everywhere across Yukon, especially around its capital Whitehorse.

Since the adoption of its *Languages Act* in 1988, the Government of Yukon has made important gains in delivering programs and services in French to an ever growing Francophone community.

In recent years, the Government of Yukon has worked towards increasing communication and collaboration with the Francophone community, while creating a more strategic approach to delivering French-language services.

Accordingly, we worked with the francophone community to develop the *2014-2018 Strategic Framework on French-Language Services*. The framework sheds light on priorities identified by the community to strengthen French-language services within the government in three key sectors: Health, Education and Culture.

The framework sets the stage for success by focussing on achievable results through a pragmatic and targeted approach to the delivery of French-language services. It aims to increase direct services to the population through the implementation of corporate processes to ensure that the Yukon francophone community receives consistent levels of frontline French-language services in priority areas.

The Government of Yukon is also reviewing its French-language services policies and guidelines to clarify roles and responsibilities within government departments and improve its ability to meet the requirements of the *Languages Act*.

A key priority of the *Framework on French-Language Services* is the active offer campaign with its cornerstone, the *Bonjour Yukon* logo that invites people to use services available in French in both the public and private sectors. To this end, the *French Language Services Directorate* has developed various tools and training modules to support the implementation of the active offer of French-language services so that the Government of Yukon can better serve its French-speaking clients.

We can proudly say that the Yukon Francophonie is alive and well, and that the Government of Yukon is committed to support its growth and development.

The 4<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Conference on Francophone Affairs was held in 1998 in Whitehorse, Yukon.

### DID YOU KNOW?

According to the last Canadian census, Yukon is the 3<sup>rd</sup> most bilingual jurisdiction in Canada, behind Quebec and New Brunswick. Over 13% of Yukoners are able to carry on a conversation in both official languages.



The Minister responsible for the French Language Services Directorate Elaine Taylor speaks at the launch of the *Bonjour Yukon* logo to mark the Yukon Francophonie Day on May 15, 2014.

# Nunavut: A Francophonie in Constant Evolution



Participants at the consultation on the priorities of the francophone community of Nunavut regarding French services (October 5<sup>th</sup>, 2013)

IN 1994, when the Ministerial Conference on the Canadian Francophonie was created, Nunavut did not yet exist. However, that year marked a major turning point for our Francophonie: the Nakasuk School in Iqaluit offered a French-language program for the first time from kindergarten to grade 7. The Nunavut Francophonie has come a long way since then! Here is a summary of the key milestones in French services in Nunavut.

## French, an Official Language in Nunavut

When it was created in 1999, Nunavut inherited the Northwest Territories legal system, including its *Official Languages Act*, which recognized 11 official languages. This approach did not reflect Nunavut reality where the mother tongue of the majority is the Inuit language.

### DID YOU KNOW?

Nearly 13% of residents in Iqaluit, the capital of Nunavut, can carry on a conversation in French.

The *École des Trois-Soleils* in Iqaluit is the northernmost francophone school in the world.

Francophones are called “uiviit” in the Inuit language because they often answer: “oui, oui!”.

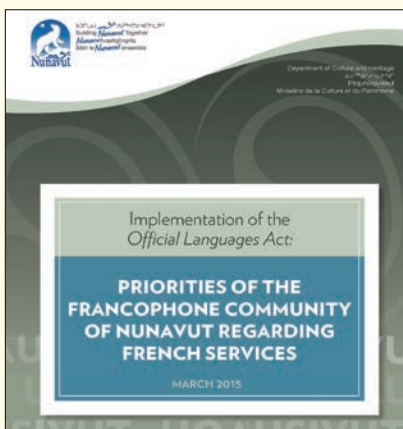
In order to remedy this situation, a new Nunavut *Official Languages Act* (OLA) was adopted by the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut on June 4, 2008. It recognizes three official languages in Nunavut: the Inuit language, English and French. Community consultations followed and an [implementation plan](#) was developed to prepare for the coming into force of the OLA on April 1, 2013.

## Community Infrastructure and Civic Participation

At the community level, the Francophone community is well organized in Iqaluit, since the creation of the *Association des francophones de Frobisher Bay* in 1981 (AFFB). Since then, it has established several institutions and organizations to represent its interests in various sectors including the *Commission scolaire francophone du Nunavut* (education), *Carrefour Nunavut* (social entrepreneurship, tourism and employability), the *Réseau santé en français au Nunavut* (health services and promotion of active lifestyle), the *Association des francophones du Nunavut* (successor of the AFFB), the *Centre de la Petite Enfance Les Petits Nanooks* (early childhood education), the *Association des parents francophones du Nunavut* (Francophone Parents' Association) and *Le Théâtre Uiviit* (an amateur theatre troupe). In addition, the *École des Trois-Soleils* provides education in French since 2001, and information can be obtained in French in Nunavut through two Francophone community media outlets: CFRT 107.3 radio and the newspaper *Le Nunavoix*.

## Priorities for the Future

Public consultations were held in 2013 and 2014 in order to identify the priorities of the Francophone community regarding the implementation of the *Official Languages Act* and the delivery of French services. The five priority areas identified in these consultations were education and early childhood, health and social services, culture, justice and public safety, and economic development. Over the next few years, the Government of Nunavut will work on making progress in French services, in accordance with its commitment to protect and promote the French language and the vitality of the Francophone community in Nunavut.



The result of the recent consultations: The report on the Priorities of the Francophone Community of Nunavut regarding French Services.



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ON THE CANADIAN  
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1998

4<sup>e</sup> Conférence ministérielle sur les affaires francophones à Whitehorse (Yukon)  
4<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Conference on Francophone Affairs in Whitehorse (Yukon)



2000

5<sup>e</sup> Conférence ministérielle sur les affaires francophones à Stanley Bridge (Île-du-Prince-Édouard)  
5<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Conference on Francophone Affairs in Stanley Bridge (Prince Edward Island)



2003

8<sup>e</sup> Conférence ministérielle sur les affaires francophones à Winnipeg (Manitoba)  
8<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Conference on Francophone Affairs in Winnipeg (Manitoba)



2004

9<sup>e</sup> Conférence ministérielle sur les affaires francophones à Moncton (Nouveau-Brunswick)  
9<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Conference on Francophone Affairs in Moncton (New Brunswick)



2007

12<sup>e</sup> Conférence ministérielle sur la francophonie canadienne à Halifax (Nouvelle-Écosse)  
12<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Conference on the Canadian Francophonie in Halifax (Nova Scotia)



2008

13<sup>e</sup> Conférence ministérielle sur la francophonie canadienne à Québec (Québec)  
13<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Conference on the Canadian Francophonie in Québec (Québec)



2011

16<sup>e</sup> Conférence ministérielle sur la francophonie canadienne à Dieppe-Moncton (Nouveau-Brunswick)  
16<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Conference on the Canadian Francophonie in Dieppe-Moncton (New Brunswick)



2012

17<sup>e</sup> Conférence ministérielle sur la francophonie canadienne à Edmonton (Alberta)  
17<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Conference on the Canadian Francophonie in Edmonton (Alberta)





2001 6<sup>e</sup> Conférence ministérielle sur les affaires francophones à Edmonton (Alberta)  
6<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Conference on Francophone Affairs in Edmonton (Alberta)



2002 7<sup>e</sup> Conférence ministérielle sur les affaires francophones à St. John's (Terre-Neuve-et-Labrador)  
7<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Conference on Francophone Affairs in St. John's (Newfoundland and Labrador)



2005 10<sup>e</sup> Conférence ministérielle sur les affaires francophones à Regina (Saskatchewan)  
10<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Conference on Francophone Affairs in Regina (Saskatchewan)



2006 11<sup>e</sup> Conférence ministérielle sur la francophonie canadienne à Ottawa (Ontario)  
11<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Conference on the Canadian Francophonie in Ottawa (Ontario)



2009 14<sup>e</sup> Conférence ministérielle sur la francophonie canadienne à Vancouver (Colombie-Britannique)  
14<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Conference on the Canadian Francophonie in Vancouver (Colombie-Britannique)



2010 15<sup>e</sup> Conférence ministérielle sur la francophonie canadienne à Yellowknife (Territoires du Nord-Ouest)  
15<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Conference on the Canadian Francophonie in Yellowknife (Territoires du Nord-Ouest)



2013 18<sup>e</sup> Conférence ministérielle sur la francophonie canadienne à Winnipeg (Manitoba)  
18<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Conference on the Canadian Francophonie in Winnipeg (Manitoba)



2014 19<sup>e</sup> Conférence ministérielle sur la francophonie canadienne à l'Île-du-Prince-Édouard  
19<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Conference on the Canadian Francophonie in Prince Edward Island