



CONFÉRENCE MINISTÉRIELLE
SUR LA FRANCOPHONIE
CANADIENNE

MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE
ON THE CANADIAN
FRANCOPHONIE

VOLUME 1 ■ ISSUE 1

newsletter

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MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE ON THE CANADIAN FRANCOPHONIE

A key player in the intergovernmental actions aimed at strengthening the advancement of the Canadian Francophonie

Launch of the Conference Newsletter

THE MINISTERIAL Conference on the Canadian Francophonie (Conference) is proud to launch the first edition of its Newsletter, which will be distributed biannually.

The Newsletter is a project that arises from the Conference's 2011-2015 Communication Strategy. Its goal is to raise public and media awareness to the actions and promotion activities of the Canadian Francophonie carried out by the Conference and its government members.

The Newsletter also gathers the Canadian Francophonie initiatives set up by the federal, provincial and territorial governments. Happy reading!

17th Ministerial Conference on the Canadian Francophonie

The 17th Ministerial Conference on the Canadian Francophonie will be held on June 26-27, 2012, in Edmonton, Alberta, under the theme "Francophones and Francophiles – More Than a Language in Common!"

For this occasion, ministers responsible for the Canadian Francophonie have invited Catherine Clark, Francophile, journalist and host, who will deliver the inaugural speech. She will be accompanied by guest lecturers when discussing the Conference theme before the ministers begin their work. They will speak of the opportunities to recognize the contribution of Francophiles while presenting strategies aimed at increasing their involvement and sense of belonging within the Canadian Francophonie.

Examples of the accomplishments of the Conference in 2011 and 2012:

- Created the Steering Committee on the Pan-Canadian Forum on Economic Development in the Canadian Francophonie to foster the organization of Francophone economic development in collaboration with government, association, and private sector leaders. The Forum will take place on October 31 and November 1-2, 2012, in Gatineau, Quebec.
- For the third consecutive year, participated in the organization and hosting of the 6th National Metropolis Pre-Conference on Francophone Immigration in Canada in February 2012, in partnership with the Metropolis Secretariat at Citizenship and Immigration Canada.
- Launched the Conference's new website: www.cmfc-mccf.ca.
- Distributed the Map of French Language in Canada nationwide in partnership with the Fédération des communautés francophones et acadienne (FCFA) du Canada.



Ontario

Québec



Manitoba



Gouvernement de
la Saskatchewan

Alberta



Canada

Towards the next federal official languages strategy

DURING HIS APPEARANCE before the House of Commons Standing Committee on Official Languages on May 3rd, 2012, the Honourable James Moore, Minister of Canadian Heritage and Official Languages, announced his intention to hold roundtables on the next steps to follow the *Roadmap for Canada's Linguistic Duality 2008–2013: Acting for the Future*.

Minister Moore explained that “Our two official languages are a benefit to Canadians and its businesses, in Canada and abroad. Our government is committed to protecting, celebrating and strengthening linguistic duality. We are also consulting with Canadians on the best ways for everyone to benefit from it”.



These roundtables with community stakeholders will take place in summer 2012 in all provinces and territories. In addition, all Canadians will be invited to share their opinions online at <http://www.pch.gc.ca/olconsultationslo>.

The *Roadmap*, put forward by the federal government, expires on March 31, 2013. These roundtables build on other consultations held, including those with the provincial and territorial governments. They are in line with the federal government's full review of the *Roadmap* and the comprehensive assessment of its components, which are currently underway.



Canadian
Heritage

Patrimoine
canadien

Canada

ONTARIO

French-language Services in Ontario

ONTARIO'S CONTINUES to make progress on French-language services at every level. Here are some recent successes:

- Adoption of a regulation which sets out the French-language services obligations of government agencies when third parties provide services on their behalf;
- Installation, by the Ministry of Transportation, of bilingual variable message signs on provincial highways in designated areas in Northern Ontario and the use of this technology in other areas of the province;
- Statutory provisions requiring the Retirement Homes Regulatory Authority and Community Care Access Centres to use all reasonable means and measures to see that the public receives services in French, even though they are not subject to the *French Language Services Act*;



- Extension of the “Aménagement linguistique” policy (PAL) to postsecondary education. The PAL seeks to promote and expand the use and knowledge of French, while maximizing economic and employment opportunities for Ontario residents; and
- A study conducted in partnership with TFO on the media consumption habits of Francophones. This study will provide information which will enable the government to be more strategic in its communications with the community.

Canadian Francophonie Forum In Québec City

ON MAY 28 AND 29, 2012, the Canadian Francophonie Forum took place in Québec City, with the theme *La francophonie @ cœur*. Some 400 Canadian Francophonie leaders gathered to convey a common vision of the issues and challenges they are facing. Future perspectives and directions for the Canadian Francophonie were identified. The Forum concluded with the unveiling of Québec's new action Plan for the Canadian Francophonie.

At the event's closing, the Centre de la francophonie des Amériques hosted an evening to celebrate the 5th anniversary of the adoption of the law that created the Centre. This evening of words, music, images, and flavours, with the theme "Des mots au creux de la main" (words in the palm of the hand), took participants into every corner of the Americas. The cooperation of the Centre de la francophonie des Amériques in organizing the Forum helped increase its visibility among both Quebecers and Canadian Francophonie representatives.

Thanks to its presence on the Web and social networks, the Forum could be followed live throughout the world. The



FORUM DE LA
FRANCOPHONIE
CANADIENNE
La francophonie @ cœur

results of the Canadian Francophonie Forum will be taken by four young ambassadors to the Forum mondial de la langue française to be held in Québec City on July 2 to 6, 2012.

Support for the Canadian Francophonie

In the 2011-2012 fiscal year, the Secrétariat aux affaires intergouvernementales canadiennes funded 299 projects through its two programs to provide financial support to the Canadian Francophonie. More than \$2.3 million was allocated to organizations from Québec and Francophone and Acadian communities to enhance sharing and partnerships to benefit the Canadian Francophonie.

NOVA SCOTIA

A new bilingual licence plate celebrates Acadian heritage

DRIVERS IN NOVA SCOTIA can now obtain bilingual licence plates bearing the image of an Acadian flag and thus show pride in their Acadian heritage and support cultural development in their region.

The Acadian flag licence plates were first made available to the public on January 9, 2012, and as of April 30, more than 200 plates were in circulation. Standard vehicle registration fees apply, in addition to a \$50 donation collected upon initial issuance of the plate and on renewals.

The \$50 donation will be directed to the "Vive l'Acadie Community Fund". One hundred per cent of the money collected will go back to the Acadian community from which it originated to help support local community cultural projects.

The plate design featuring the Acadian flag was chosen following a public consultation where 84% of the more than 1,500 respondents preferred this image among the four options presented. Sixty percent of the respondents supported the idea of a donation when the plates are issued.



The new bilingual licence plates bears the image of an Acadian flag.
(Photo: Communications Nova Scotia, Michael Creagen)

The Acadian flag licence plate is available from Access Nova Scotia Centres and Registry of Motor Vehicles offices across the province.

The project team that developed the Acadian flag licence plate was recognized for its dedication and contribution by being chosen as a recipient of a *Bonjour!* Award for Excellence in French-language Services in March 2012.

Unveiling of the New-Brunswick Plan on Official Languages 2011-2013

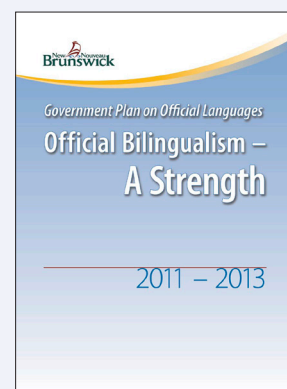
IN APRIL 2009, the New Brunswick *Official Languages Act* turned 40. The Government of New Brunswick is proud of the considerable progress made since 1969 with regards to official languages and wishes to continue to fulfill its obligations and provide quality services to both linguistic communities in the province.

On October 18, 2011, the government unveiled its *Plan on Official Languages 2011-2013* to implement the *Official Languages Act*. The Plan covers four sectors of activity: language of service, language of work, promotion of official languages, and knowledge of the legal obligations. The Plan requires each department to prepare a two-year action plan and give an account of its progress annually.

Provide quality services to
both linguistic communities
in the province.

The Plan not only identifies the measures needed for the departments and agencies to meet their obligations under the Act, it also suggests positive action for the development of New Brunswick's official languages communities and for attaining substantive equality between them..

**Link to
the Government Plan:**
<http://www2.gnb.ca/content/dam/gnb/Departments/iga-aig/pdf/OfficialBilingualismAStrength.pdf>



MANITOBA

Official opening of the Bilingual Service Centre in Ste. Anne, on March 22, 2012

MANITOBA OPENED a Bilingual Service Centre (BSC) in the town of Ste. Anne, in partnership with South Eastman Health/Santé Sud-Est Inc., which will ensure that the general population has easy access to government information in French and English.

The BSC will be co-located with the town office in partnership with the regional health authority and will provide single-window access and referrals to a wide array of business and employment information, and services including:

- permits and licences;
- birth, marriage and death certificate applications;
- financial programs and employment opportunities;
- employee recruitment and training tools;
- health and child-care options;
- public access to computers; and
- provincial park information.



LEFT TO RIGHT: Honourable Ron Lemieux, Minister of Local Government and MLA for the Dawson Trail constituency; Honourable Maria Chaput, Senator (resident of Ste. Anne); Honourable Greg Selinger, Premier of Manitoba.

The Ste. Anne centre builds on previously established BSCs in several communities in Manitoba including St. Boniface, St. Vital, St-Pierre-Jolys and Notre Dame de Lourdes.

British Columbia improves online services to French speaking citizens

– www.gov.bc/bienvenue

THANKS to the Canada – British Columbia Co-operation Agreement on Official Languages, the Province has enhanced web contents on the government website to better serve francophone users. French speaking citizens will be able to find information and services on the government website faster through:

- A new online search function in French on the webpage.
- A direct link to the webpage on the main government website.
- Centralized links on the webpage to resources in French.

New interpretive signage honours contributions made by Sisters of St. Ann

A series of new bilingual interpretive signage were installed on the grounds of St. Ann's Academy National Historic Site to tell the important story of a group of francophone nuns who pioneered education and healthcare in the Pacific Northwest. This initiative will ensure that future generations will continue to appreciate the connections between British Columbia and Quebec through the use of stories in both official languages.

This project was partly supported under special projects provisions set out in the Canada – British Columbia Co-operation Agreement on Official Languages.



PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

One Book, One Island!

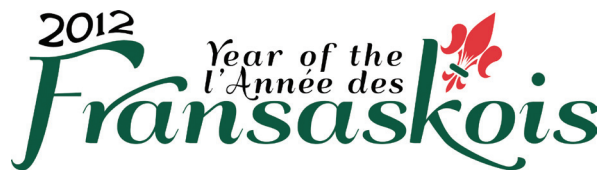
IN 2011, THE GOVERNMENT OF PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND Public Library Service launched a provincial book club to promote Canadian literature, literacy and the love of reading among Islanders.

Developed as a fully bilingual program, it was offered in English language and French language libraries. Islanders were encouraged to interact during structured meetings, in informal settings or through social media such as Twitter and Facebook.

The book selected for the first edition was **Still Life**, a detective novel by award-winning author, Louise Penny. The book was available in libraries, but through a partnership with bookstores, Islanders were also able to purchase it at a discount price in the language of their choice. Also, Ms. Penny traveled to Prince Edward Island to give presentations in English and in French, discuss the book and celebrate the One Book, One Island program.



Further to the tremendous success of the program's first edition, the Public Library Service will offer the program again in 2012, featuring the graphic novel **Burma Chronicles** by Guy Delisle.



Commemorate the Franco-Saskatchewan community's contribution to the development of the Saskatchewan.

2012: Year of the Fransaskois

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY of the founding of the Assemblée communautaire fransaskoise (ACF) in 1999—and to commemorate the Franco-Saskatchewan community's contribution to the development of the province, the Government of Saskatchewan has proclaimed 2012 the “Year of the Fransaskois.”

D. Wayne Elhard, Provincial Secretary, made this announcement in December 2011 at the Legislative Building in Regina. The Provincial Secretary pointed out that the Fransaskois have become a vibrant and dynamic community integral to the history and identity of the province.

The year 2012 is an opportunity to increase awareness of the Francophone community and of the French fact in Saskatchewan. Many activities are planned for 2012. A commemorative plaque and a Fransaskois flag, the official symbol of Saskatchewan's Francophones, will be awarded to certain communities in recognition of their contribution to the province.

Today, almost 20,000 residents of Saskatchewan have French as their first language, and more than 50,000 are able to communicate in French. Together, these individuals make up Saskatchewan's Francophone community. The centennial is an opportunity to reflect on the past, to celebrate accomplishments and to focus on the aspirations of this community.

ALBERTA

Important initiatives in education for Franco-Albertans

THE GOVERNMENT OF ALBERTA continues to support new initiatives dedicated to strengthening Francophone education throughout the province while providing an enhanced learning environment for all students.

With a total of 35 francophone schools, some of which offer pre-school and kindergarten, Alberta has seen an average annual increase of 7 to 8 per cent in francophone school enrolment in the past few years. In addition, funding for the construction of four new Francophone schools was announced in 2011. This will help to better serve the Francophone community in Alberta.

In 2012, there are also new options for post-secondary students in the province. This fall, the Centre collégial de l'Alberta will open its doors to students looking for French-language, college-level diploma and certificate programs. The Centre collégial, which received funding support from the Government of Alberta, is located in the Cité Francophone in Edmonton, Alberta, and is an affiliate



college of the University of Alberta. For more information please visit www.csj.ualberta.ca.

Investing in Alberta's Francophonie plays a key role in the province's ability in helping to build welcoming and inclusive communities that contributes to enhancing the overall quality of life for all Albertans.

Celebrating the past and embracing the present

THE GOVERNMENT OF NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR has recently been involved in two important projects aimed at preserving the province's Francophone and Acadian heritage for future generations.

In 2011, the Provincial Government contributed over \$16,000 to the Acadian monument project on the Port au Port peninsula, the traditional heart of the province's Francophone and Acadian community. The funding provided for the installation of flagpoles to enhance the monument site in Cape St. George. The monument stands as a permanent testament to the region's rich Acadian history.

The Provincial Government has also been working closely with the *Association régionale de la côte ouest* and other partners to ensure the French-Newfoundland archival collection at Memorial University is digitized and housed online. Access to these archives will enable all Francophones and Acadians to learn more about their ancestors' way of life through the hundreds of interviews, stories and songs recorded by university researchers. The Office of French Services was instrumental in bringing together funding partners for both projects.

Francophones and Acadians to learn more about their ancestors' way of life.

In March 2012, the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador organized its second Francophone Multicultural Evening for participants of its French Language Training Program and members of the provincial Francophone and Acadian community. Nine artists with roots in Quebec, Ontario, Romania, Congo, and Newfoundland and Labrador graced the stage during a showcase of song, dance and international food. The event, attended by over 150 people, also featured tales told by renowned traditional storyteller, Mark Cormier, from the Port au Port Peninsula.

NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

The Francophone Affairs Secretariat

THE FRANCOPHONE AFFAIRS SECRETARIAT of the Government of Northwest Territories (GNWT) was officially opened on April 3, 2012 by the Honorable Jackson Lafferty, Minister responsible for Official Languages.

With regular and ongoing liaising with the Francophone community, the Secretariat offers advice and support to departments and agencies of the GNWT to develop plans for communications, services, programs, and policies reflecting the needs of the community.

The GNWT's French Language Service Coordinators collaborate with the Secretariat to ensure that employees of government institutions are trained with respect to obligations and guidelines under the *Official Languages Act of the NWT*.

The Secretariat negotiates and administers the agreements with the Government of Canada, offers government-wide translation services, and manages the single-window services centre, Services TNO.



The ribbon is cut to officially open the Secretariat.
L-R: Minister Responsible for Official Languages, The Hon. Jackson Lafferty; Premier of the NWT, The Hon. Robert McLeod; President of la Fédération franco-ténoise, Richard Létourneau; NWT Languages Commissioner, Sarah Jerome.

The Secretariat also provides support and advice to the Minister Responsible for Official Languages, and assists the Minister at the Ministerial Conference on the Canadian Francophonie.

French language services on the Web

SINCE TAKING OFFICE in November 2011, the Yukon government has made significant progress toward the implementation and delivery of French language services through the updates of existing French websites and the creation of new ones.

As of March 31, 2012, French Language Services Directorate is responsible for maintaining and coordinating 30 Yukon Government French website projects available in French. This is a source of pride for us as a growing number of citizens are accessing government information online.

- 350 bilingual or French forms are now available on the main government website. Yukon Government French websites received a total of 41,248 hits in January, February and March 2012.
- The number of words translated for the Yukon Government French websites increased from 140,283 in 2010-2011 to 359,362 in 2011-2012.

Yukon Government French websites received a total of 41,248 hits in January, February and March 2012.

- Turnaround time has been improved for all types of translations in 2011-2012. For example, news releases are now translated into French on the same day as issued in English, or by the next morning at the latest, and posted immediately following translation.

Yukon Government will issue its report on French Language Services Directorate activities for 2011-2012 in July 2012. The report will give a more complete picture of Yukon Government's continued progress pertaining to French language services.

NUNAVUT

French language services within the Government of Nunavut

THE DEPARTMENT of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth (CLEY) includes the Division of Official Languages and Services. Among other duties, that Division is involved in the development of the Uqausivut Comprehensive Plan ("our language" in Inuktitut) dedicated to the implementation of the *Official Language Act* and the *Inuit Language Protection Act*. The French language services team coordinates the actions of the Government of Nunavut regarding the delivery of its services in French.

The Nunavut, where three official languages coexist, participates at the national level to the Ministerial Conference on the Canadian Francophonie. Within the Government of Nunavut, CLEY coordinates the delivery of French services through the provision of support and advises to various departments and public agencies, in collaboration with a group of French services coordinators. In 2011-2012, a pilot project of French courses was offered to civil servants, and a



French services coordinators from the various Government of Nunavut Departments and Public Agencies.

translation project of public documents was initiated. CLEY is also involved at the community level through its grants and contributions program. In 2011-2012, CLEY contributed to 8 different projects in the areas of early childhood, education and culture.