

The Canadian Francophonie

An Overview of Government Initiatives

*An open, dynamic Francophonie that
contributes to and participates fully
in the growth of Canadian society*



CONFÉRENCE MINISTÉRIELLE
SUR LA FRANCOPHONIE
CANADIENNE

MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE
ON THE CANADIAN
FRANCOPHONIE

National leadership

VISION

An open, dynamic Francophonie that contributes to and participates fully in the growth of Canadian society.

MISSION

The Ministerial Conference on the Canadian Francophonie plays a leadership role and works in a consultative manner for the advancement of the Francophonie.

VALUES

- Respect and openness
- Cooperation and consultation
- Partnership

OBJECTIVES

- Improve the quality and quantity of French-language services offered to Canadians
- Contribute to the strengthening of the communities' vitality
- Recognize the Francophone contribution to Canadian society as a whole

The Ministerial Conference on the Canadian Francophonie (MCCF) is a key player in intergovernmental actions aimed at strengthening the Canadian social fabric through the advancement of the Canadian Francophonie. The Conference's commitment can be seen in the active participation of the federal, provincial and territorial governments in this important forum.

First and foremost, the MCCF promotes initiatives that increase and enhance services in French, thus providing a better quality of

life to citizens and ensuring the vitality of the French language and Francophone cultures.

The MCCF's decision in 2007 to implement all of the recommendations in the report *Canadian Francophonie – Issues, Challenges and Future Directions* demonstrates the growing leadership role played by the Conference, a role that has seen the realization of various national projects such as the *Youth Intervention Strategy* and the *Map of the Canadian Francophonie*.

A unifying role within the Canadian Francophonie

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

The MCCF member ministers meet annually to discuss intergovernmental questions involving the Canadian Francophonie and to engage in dialogue aimed at fostering the development of public policies to strengthen the country's linguistic duality.



MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE
ON THE CANADIAN
FRANCOPHONIE

Acting for the future of Canada

On June 19, 2008, the Government of Canada announced the *Roadmap for Canada's Linguistic Duality 2008-2013: Acting for the Future*. The *Roadmap* is an unprecedented investment of \$1.1 billion over five years that encourages the participation of all Canadians in linguistic duality and support for official-language minority communities in priority sectors, i.e., education, health, justice, immigration, economic development, and arts and culture.

The *Roadmap for Canada's Linguistic Duality 2008-2013* calls on 13 federal agencies and ministries. The Official Languages Secretariat supports the Honourable James Moore as Secretary of State (Asia-Pacific Gateway) (2010 Olympics) (Official Languages) and provides horizontal coordination for the entire federal administration, including intergovernmental relations.

Examples of achievements: 2003/08

As part of the Access to Justice Support Fund, Justice Canada provided assistance for 135 projects in the areas of awareness-raising, research, jurilinguistic tool development, strategic planning, and training. The federal-provincial-territorial task force played a role in training and networking for bilingual Crown Attorneys in the provinces and territories.

Health Canada entered into a partnership with the Consortium national de formation en santé, a health training consortium, via the Official Language Community Development Bureau. The first five years of the program yielded the following results: 3,181 new enrolments and 1,318 new graduates from the Consortium's 10 member institutions. In addition, 148 projects were launched in conjunction with the Primary Health Care Transition Fund to improve access to health care.

The Government of Canada is committed to exercising its leadership in official languages in a spirit of complementarity and respect for the jurisdictions of its provincial and territorial partners. It also hopes to enter into an increasing number of cooperative activities with these partners.

Accent on the future



Visual platform of the Office of Francophone Affairs

The Government of Ontario is dedicated to continuing and increasing its support for the Francophone community.

The French Language Services Commissioner of Ontario tabled his first report in June 2008. The government is committed to implementing the Commissioner's recommendations in order to continue to develop the province's active offering of quality services in French.

One of the many recent accomplishments in Ontario's Francophonie is the granting of official autonomy in 2008 to TFO, the province's French educational and cultural television network. In addition, major and ongoing investments have been made at all levels. They include increased financial support for Glendon College, Collège Boréal, and the University of Ottawa.

At the same time, Ontario's youth strategy has, as its primary objective, to bring together young Franco-Ontarians by making the French language more appealing in the areas of culture, the workplace and

socialization. This strategy is based on a partnership between the government and the community. Consultations and market research with organizations and young people will be used to accurately identify the expectations and concerns of Francophone youth.

One achievement has particular symbolic significance: Ontarians can now obtain a French-language automobile plate to show that they are members of Ontario's Francophonie.

L'avenir en français



Québec's Policy on the Canadian Francophonie

Launched on November 7, 2006, the Policy on the Canadian Francophonie is the expression of Québec's commitment to strengthen the links between all Francophones living in Canada, and in so doing, assume a unifying leadership role. New consultation mechanisms have been created: four regional committees, a youth committee, a national committee, and the Forum de la francophonie. Through its Canadian Francophonie Support Program, the province funds partnerships between organizations in Québec and those in the Francophone and Acadian communities across Canada.



Centre de la francophonie des Amériques

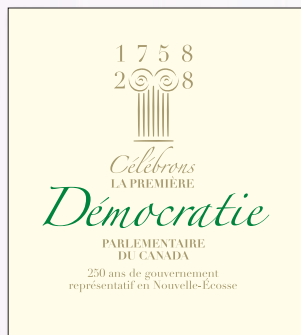
Created by the Government of Québec, the Centre de la francophonie des Amériques is committed to the progress of the Francophonie in the Americas. It aims to reach Francophones and Francophiles through four action levers: programming, communications, Web portal, and the Centre's head office at 2 Côte de la Fabrique in Québec City.



Intergovernmental cooperation

Québec has signed eight new Cooperation Agreements on the Francophonie since 2003 in order to enhance the province's collaborative relationship with its Canadian Federation partners. As a result, Québec now has agreements with all the provinces and territories.

Greater personal safety and more active citizenship



The corporate image for the 250th anniversary of the Nova Scotia House of Assembly

2008 marks the 250th anniversary of the modest beginnings of the Nova Scotia House of Assembly, the first elected assembly of its type in Canada.

Democracy 250

The bilingual democracy250.ca site presents historical information about key events in the evolution of democracy in Canada. Under the heading “D250 – Make Your Mark”, the D250.ca site discusses issues affecting youth and encourages them to reflect on the importance of voting.

Various activities foster more active citizenship and increased voter participation among young people.

Greater safety for Acadians and Francophones

New services in French are now helping to ensure the personal safety of Acadians and Francophones.

In December 2007, Nova Scotia began issuing highly secure bilingual birth certificates, thus becoming the first province to meet the new Canadian standard.

The 511 road conditions reporting system was launched in January 2008 and was the first in Canada. Signs in French and English inform drivers of this interactive bilingual service, which is available toll free from any telephone in the province.

In addition, the “Sammy the Snowplow” program raises the awareness among young Acadians and Francophones about snowplow risks and includes a video, a bookmark and a booklet in French.

Initiatives in education for Francophones and Acadians: one step closer to self-sufficiency

The Government of New Brunswick continues to support new measures aimed at improving the education system in order to ensure that Francophones and Acadians reach their full potential and take part in the self-sufficiency plan currently in place.



The accredited community school is counting on the development of a “new” culture of aware entrepreneurship

Accredited community school

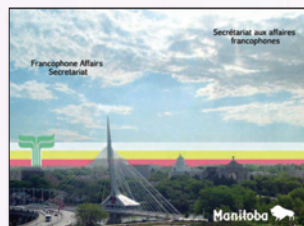
This concept was adopted by New Brunswick in 2004/05. Since that time, approximately six schools a year have embarked on this new adventure. The objective is the implementation of an innovative learning approach that builds on the development of a “new” culture of aware

entrepreneurship among Francophones and Acadians from the time they enter the school system. The great majority of the schools that have taken part in the project have not only seen an improvement in their academic performance on provincial exams, but have also witnessed greater cooperation and involvement of the community in the education of young people.

Consortium national de développement de ressources pédagogiques en français au collégial

This initiative arises from a study showing a dearth of instructional material for French-language curricula and specialized college-level courses. The project involves pooling existing instructional material and then translating or adapting it or developing new material. The Collège communautaire du Nouveau-Brunswick played a prominent role in establishing the Consortium and continues to contribute significantly to the success of this initiative, which affects nine college-level institutions in eight Canadian provinces to date.

Service-centred initiatives



Provencher Bridge and Old St. Boniface

Bilingual service centres, early childhood and wellness centres, and immigrant settlement programs are but a few of the areas in which Manitoba is making progress.

Bilingual service centres

Since 2002/03, three bilingual service centres in designated regions have been providing federal, provincial, municipal and community services; these centres served a clientele of 73,500 in 2007/08.

Three new centres are slated to open in 2009.

Wellness centre

The Centre Albert-Galliot in Notre Dame de Lourdes, which opened in September 2007, is an example of provincial-federal-community collaboration. The Centre offers a number of bilingual medical and paramedical services as well as a fitness centre and library. It also serves as a training facility for Francophone medical practitioners through the health training group known as the Consortium national de formation en santé.

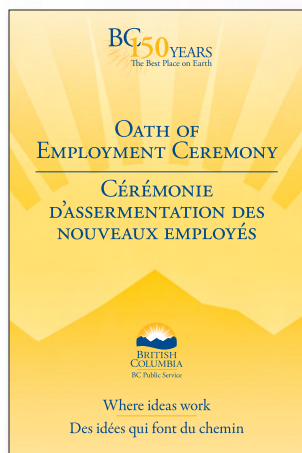
Accueil francophone

The Société franco-manitobaine created the Accueil francophone program with federal, provincial and community partners. In 2007/08, this host and integration service for Francophone immigrants received 361 immigrants and 4,802 visits. Manitoba has been providing financial assistance to the program since December 2003.

Early childhood and family centres

The early childhood and family centres adhere to the integrated services model and are the fruit of a partnership initiative guided by the early childhood organization known as the Coalition francophone sur la petite enfance. In 2007/08, two new centres were added to the four existing ones, and two more will open in 2008/09.

A more attractive province for Francophone newcomers



Bilingual cover of Oath of Employment Ceremony

Since 2001, British Columbia has made ongoing efforts to strengthen its service offerings in priority sectors to the province's Francophone community.

Francophone Affairs Program

Under the Canada-British Columbia Cooperation Agreement on Official Languages, the province has established the Francophone Affairs Program to assist ministries and agencies in enhancing service access and availability for the British Columbia Francophone community. Government initiatives to make the province a more attractive and more welcoming destination for Francophone newcomers include a Francophone community liaison centre, social support in French within

the community and schools, and new host services.

A progressive partnership

In June 2008, the Fédération des francophones de la Colombie-Britannique officially reported on the progress that has been made through the current partnership between the province's public service and Francophone community.

Olympics

The 2010 Vancouver Olympic and Para-Olympic games will provide the British Columbia Francophone community an extraordinary, once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to show its vitality and culture to the world.

Spotlight on education and immigration



Government of
PEI promotional banner

School and community centres, French immersion, postsecondary education and programs for newcomers: these are some of the areas in which Prince Edward Island is making its own distinctive mark.

Developing and expanding education

Education continues to be the cornerstone of growth and development of the Acadian and Francophone community of Prince Edward Island. The province now has six school and community centres that are the focal point of the community's vitality. Enrolment in PEI's French schools continues to rise. A Bachelor of Education with a specialization in teaching French immersion is now offered at the University of Prince Edward Island. Immersion programs are extremely popular on the Island, and this bachelor's program, offered jointly with the Université de Moncton, ensures training for up-and-coming teachers. The provincial government has also signed a memorandum of understanding with the Collège Acadie Î.-P.-É., which will secure the

future of postsecondary education in French on the Island.

Expanding the Francophone presence

Even small provinces have big demographic challenges. That is why government supported the initiative of the Carrefour d'immigration rurale (CIR) in the Évangéline area. Besides raising awareness within the community and school, the CIR is now responsible for providing settlement services to newcomers in the western part of the province. The Prince Edward Island Association for Newcomers to Canada also offers the "Programme d'établissement des francophones", a Francophone settlement program.

Promoting participation in Francophone culture



Poster promoting the use of French language

The Saskatchewan Coalition for the Promotion of the French-language and Francophone Culture brings together community, public and private sectors to promote the benefits of learning French and participating in Francophone culture.

Making youth a priority

The aim of the Coalition is to increase student enrolment and retention in the Francophone schools and French as a Second Language programs. Its achievements include organizing the Francofièvre gathering that brought together some 2,000 Grade 7 to 12 students; carrying out a promotional campaign targeting young people with the catchy slogan "Je suis bilingue, I don't excuse my French"; and creating

an interactive Web site (bonjournsk.ca) as part of its provincial promotion campaign for parents.

Institut français

The Institut français de Regina has created a dynamic Francophone space on the University of Regina campus to meet the aspirations of its community. As a result of many sustained partnerships with this community, the Institut is now offering a greater number of programs to Saskatchewan citizens and new services to students. All Francophone components on campus, as well as the Centre canadien de recherche sur les francophonies en milieu minoritaire, are now located under the same roof: institutfrancais.uregina.ca.



Government of
Saskatchewan

Francophone youth embody energy and passion

The Government of Alberta is taking more steps to meet the needs of the province's Francophonie. In the 2007/08 fiscal year, it invested, in consultation with the francophone community, more than \$500,000 in projects benefiting youth. The government takes great pride in the leadership role it played in realizing these projects.



Young participants in the Jeux de la Francophonie canadienne (JFC)



Une énergie, une passion:
the JFC logo and slogan
for the 2008 games in
Edmonton

Jeux de la Francophonie canadienne

The fourth edition of the Jeux de la Francophonie canadienne in Edmonton in August 2008 was an opportunity for Alberta to raise the profile of this national event. The Alberta government provided support to games' organizers and Team Alberta. The community demonstrated its commitment to the games by rallying close to 500 volunteers and creating new

partnerships at the university, municipality and private sector levels.

Francophonie jeunesse de l'Alberta

The government lent its support to Francophonie jeunesse de l'Alberta to develop the leadership skills of young people and to strengthen their sense of belonging to the Albertan and Canadian Francophonie. This support included organizing events to promote unity, having young Franco-Albertans take part in provincial and national forums, and developing communication and promotion tools.

Leadership courses

Francophonie jeunesse de l'Alberta, school boards and Alberta Education have developed a closer working relationship. As a result, the Alberta curriculum will incorporate leadership courses offered for and by young francophones beginning in September 2008.

Focus on cooperation and collaboration

The Government of Newfoundland and Labrador and the Government of Québec have signed a cooperation and exchange agreement with respect to Francophonie. This agreement is intended to forge links between the two provinces in order to promote the development and vitality of Francophone communities.

Community radio and Place aux Jeunes

Two initial projects are currently in development: a youth training program to help support the province's only Francophone community Web radio station, which will be launched in the near future; and the Place aux Jeunes project, which will raise the awareness of young people and encourage them to settle in the Port au Port Peninsula or to return to this area after they have completed their postsecondary studies.

Art and culture

The government has assisted with the creation of the province's Réseau culturel francophone; this network will develop a growing number of artistic and cultural activities.



Promotional DVD highlighting the vitality of the Francophone communities in Newfoundland and Labrador

Immigration

One of the aims of the provincial immigration strategy is to increase the number of French-speaking immigrants; this strategy has led to a fruitful collaboration with the Francophone community. During the 2007

Destination Canada immigration fairs in Europe, the government took a collaborative approach as a means of better promoting the province. The Fédération des francophones subsequently produced a welcome guide for newcomers and, with assistance from the province, a promotional DVD.

Providing easier access to public services in French

The Government of the Northwest Territories has recently set the strengthening of service delivery as one of its key priorities.



Services TNO is a new Francophone service centre facilitating access to public services in French.

Services TNO

Services TNO is a new Francophone service centre for the Northwest Territories that opened in Yellowknife in June 2008. Using a one-stop service approach, this centre brings together in a single location all information and services provided by the territorial government, and facilitates access to public services in French. Services TNO will adapt its offerings as required to meet the

needs of the Francophone community.

Expansion of Yellowknife's French-language school

Yellowknife's École Allain St-Cyr is a school for students whose first language is French. Built in 1999, it offers a curriculum to meet the linguistic and cultural needs of the city's Francophone students. The first graduating class finished in 2007.

The school is currently expanding to accommodate increased enrolments. Phase I includes construction of a generic classroom, a multi-purpose classroom that can be used as a science room, a community/school library, and an additional circulation space. The project was cost shared with Canadian Heritage. Phase I also includes the design study of Phase II, a project that will see even greater expansion in the future.

A wide range of information in French

The Government of Yukon brought in its *Languages Act* in 1988 and developed a French-language services policy in 1994. The French Language Services Directorate was created in 2006 and, for the first time, a minister was appointed with responsibility for the Directorate.



French cover of *Family Violence: A Yukon Directory of Services and Resources*



Be quiet! I'm busy. Be yourself. Alcohol can wait.



French cover *How You Can Stay Safe in Bear Country*

Dissemination of information in French

The 17 government departments and agencies regularly publish information about their French-language programs and services in *L'Aurore boréale*, the territory's Francophone newspaper.

Promotional campaigns

The government also publishes background materials and conducts promotional campaigns in French. Examples include the following: workplace health and safety campaigns targeting the general public and young workers; the Yukon 511 road conditions and weather reporting system; the *Motorcycle Operator Manual*; a brochure entitled *How You Can Stay Safe in Bear Country*; a quit smoking campaign; and a book entitled *Do I Need to See the Nurse/Doctor?*

Various promotional articles and posters aimed at young people have been produced, including materials on sexual health, alcohol, and violence against women, e.g., *Alcohol Can Wait* posters, *Just for Boys/Just for Girls*.

Promoting the French and Inuit languages



An Inuksuk sits prominently in the centre of the flag. These stone monuments are used to guide hunters on the land.

The Legislative Assembly of Nunavut passed the *Official Languages Act* in June 2008 following eight years of consultation and collaboration.

Three official languages

The new legislation establishes three official languages in Nunavut: the Inuit language, English and French. *The Official Languages Act* is an important step taken by the Government of Nunavut to ensure

that the Inuit language is and will remain at the center of daily life throughout Nunavut, while protecting and promoting the rights of Anglophones and Francophones.

Towards a global language legislation implementation plan

Inuit, Francophone, Anglophone and other stakeholders in Nunavut will be further consulted in 2009 and invited to a Nunavut Language Summit. These initiatives will help identifying priorities for the implementation of the legislation, including the delivery of public services provided by municipalities and territorial government in the official languages, language promotion, and harmonization of the Inuit language.

400 years later: 9 million people speak French

	People with French as first official language spoken	Total number of French speakers	Total population
Canada	7,536,315	9,590,700	31,241,030
Nunavut	485	1,190	29,325
Northwest Territories	1,060	3,715	41,055
Yukon	1,245	3,555	30,195
British Columbia	70,410	297,715	4,074,385
Alberta	66,995	225,085	3,256,360
Saskatchewan	15,225	47,935	953,845
Manitoba	44,110	105,450	1,113,895
Ontario	578,040	1,426,535	12,028,895
Québec	6,482,505	7,028,740	7,435,900
New Brunswick	236,100	313,835	719,650
Nova Scotia	32,940	96,010	903,090
Prince Edward Island	5,170	17,160	134,205
Newfoundland and Labrador	2,030	23,765	500,610

Map of the Canadian Francophonie

