



newsletter

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

The 2014 Ministerial Conference on the Canadian Francophonie will be held on June 26 and 27, in Prince Edward Island

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MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE ON THE CANADIAN FRANCOPHONIE

A Report that contributes to reflections on Francophone Immigration



THE MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE on the Canadian Francophonie considers Francophone immigration as a priority for the Canadian Francophonie. Its efforts in this respect over the past few years have encouraged greater cooperation and increased dialogue between governments on immigration in general and Francophone immigration in particular.

Over the past year, the Ministerial Conference on the Canadian Francophonie hired the consultants Ronald Bisson and Matthieu Brennan to produce the Report *Analysis of Reforms to Canada's Immigration System and Its Implications on Communities of the Canadian Francophonie*. This report was prepared for the purpose of reviewing all of the changes made to the Canadian immigration system since 2006 and analyzing the impacts and opportunities to communities in the Canadian Francophonie. In the context of this analysis, this refers to French language immigration in the Canadian provinces and territories other than Québec.

The Conference has made the report available on its website (www.cmfc-mccf.ca/publications-en) and hopes it will contribute to advancing reflections and Francophone Immigration to Canada.

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.



Ongoing Intergovernmental Cooperation in the area of Education

EDUCATION IS KEY to the future of both of Canada's official languages. Learning these two languages brings Canadians together, gives them more opportunities to interact with each other and the rest of the world, and enriches our country in a practical way, from a cultural as well as a social and economic perspective.

The Government of Canada is proud of its long-standing cooperation with the provinces and territories in the area of education. On August 14, 2013, we have renewed our cooperation with the Council of Ministers of Education, Canada, through the *Protocol for Agreements for Minority-Language Education and Second-Language Instruction 2013-2018*. This Protocol provides for a federal investment of \$1.297 billion over five years, including \$1.177 billion for the implementation of bilateral agreements with each of the provinces and territories. These amounts are in addition to provincial and territorial investment in minority language education and second-language instruction.

As a product of the French immersion program myself, I can attest to the benefits of having a knowledge of both official languages. Learning English and French opens doors for young people and makes it easier for them to access the labour market. This is why the quality of French in immersion programs is so important. I would like to reiterate the federal government's commitment to support efforts on the part of the provinces and territories to raise the level of students' language skills.

The Protocol also provides for a federal investment of \$120 million to implement the *Explore* and *Destination Clic* bursary programs and the *Odyssey* language monitor program. A portion of this funding is provided under the new Roadmap for Canada's Official Languages 2013-2018: Education, Immigration and Communities, with education being central to this new federal official languages strategy.

The Honourable Shelly Glover
Minister of Canadian Heritage
and Official Languages



ONTARIO

Two major initiatives in Ontario

ON DECEMBER 11, 2013, the Ontario government adopted *An Act to amend the French Language Services Act with respect to the French Language Services Commissioner*.

The new legislation makes the Commissioner an independent officer of the Legislative Assembly of Ontario who no longer reports to the Minister Responsible for Francophone Affairs, sets a five-year term of office for the Commissioner with an opportunity for reappointment, and allows the current Commissioner to serve until reconfirmed in the position or until a new Commissioner is appointed by the Legislative Assembly.

Ontario also announced, in October 2013, a postsecondary plan to increase the range of French language programs and services for Francophone and bilingual students in the Central and Southwestern regions of the province.

The new legislation makes the Commissioner an independent officer of the Legislative Assembly of Ontario...

This action plan is further to the recommendations of an expert panel and of the French Language Services Commissioner, which include:

- \$16.5 million in funding to enhance university and college programs and services in French within Central and Southwestern Ontario;
- allowing all French and bilingual institutions to qualify for funding to offer programs in French in Central and Southwestern Ontario;
- establishing an advisory committee on postsecondary education in French;
- examining the ability of Glendon College to offer even more programs in French.



La francophonie @ cœur

Student Mobility Program

An initiative of the Government of Québec, subsequent to the Canadian Francophonie Forum, the Student Mobility Program seeks to give Québec students the opportunity to pursue their program for one or two semesters at a Francophone university outside Québec, and for students at Francophone universities in other provinces to do the same in Québec. The Secrétariat aux affaires intergouvernementales canadiennes and the Association des universités de la francophonie canadienne are already working on this newly launched project, in collaboration with several governments and universities, to ensure that this program is in place for the start of the fall 2014 academic year.



CONGRÈS MONDIAL ACADIEN 2014

2014 World Acadian Congress

Québec is actively preparing to welcome the next World Acadian Congress, taking place from August 8 to 24, 2014 in Acadia of the Lands and Forests. More than 10 Government of Québec ministries and agencies are contributing to the organization and holding of various activities, including symposiums, conferences and grand gatherings. Québec will also have a kiosk at ExpoMONDE and will contribute to the Multimedia Pavilion, notably through the presence of Radio Jeunesse des Amériques, animated by the Centre de la francophonie des Amériques.

5th Rendez-vous Acadie-Québec

Some 200 business leaders and representatives from economic development organizations in Acadia and Québec took part in the most recent Rendez-vous Acadie-Québec, held in Dieppe from September 10 to 12, 2013. Discussions focused on three areas: the agri-food sector, logistics and transportation, and information and communications technologies. Since 2005, the Québec and New Brunswick governments have been jointly supporting this event, which is held every two years, alternately in Québec and in New Brunswick.



NOVA SCOTIA

Translation services' contribution to the delivery of services in French

ONE OF the largest contributors to the delivery of services in French is translation. The three professional translators at Acadian Affairs work hard to ensure French-speaking Nova Scotians have access to important information in French. In 2012-2013, an impressive 1.85 million words were translated; the largest yearly amount to date.

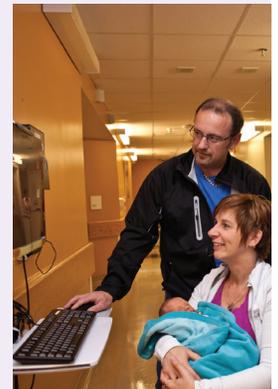
Beyond documents, news releases and websites, translation services were instrumental and integral in the introduction of new French-language services from the Government of Nova Scotia in 2013, including bundled services request and live-birth registration kiosks in hospitals www.novascotia.ca/snsmr/access/vitalstats/bundled-birth-service.asp, an orientation program for French-speaking employees working in Licensed Child Care Facilities www.ednet.ns.ca/earlyyears/pd/OrientationforStaff.shtml, public information monitors at Access

Nova Scotia, a human resources toolkit for small and medium sized employers www.workplaceinitiatives.novascotia.ca/nshrtoolkit/ and an on-going research project collecting personal experience stories about domestic violence www.nsdomesticviolence.ca/dialogue-on-domestic-violence.

The translation team is composed of Melany Close, Sylvain Filion, and Hélène Lemay, with the use of professional freelance translators contracted as needed.



Translators Team



Live-birth registration kiosks in hospitals

The Importance of Francophone Immigration for New Brunswick

NEW BRUNSWICK, like the rest of Canada, is facing a demographic deficit. New Brunswickers are having fewer children and our population is ageing at an increasing rate, resulting in fewer people contributing to our province's economic and demographic growth.

Immigration is one of the tools we have to combat this demographic and economic decline. Newcomers make an active contribution to the province's culture, diversification, and economic development.

As the only officially bilingual province in Canada, New Brunswick is a microcosm of the country. English and French, the two official languages, co-exist equally on a day-to-day basis. Consequently, the Government of New Brunswick is resolved to maintain the province's unique linguistic character in all its efforts to stimulate demographic growth, including immigration.

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Over the past five years, the province has increased the number of Francophone residents. However, there is still a lot to do in order to ensure a balanced and representative distribution of French-speaking immigrants coming to New Brunswick. Accordingly, a targeted five-year Francophone immigration strategy is being developed. The strategy's main objective will be to ensure increased Francophone immigration based on New Brunswick's linguistic reality.

MANITOBA

Manitoba Health's New Designation Policy for Francophone and Bilingual Facilities, Programs, and Services

IN OCTOBER 2004, the Conseil communauté en santé du Manitoba (CCS) inc. was granted the mandate by the Government of Manitoba to be the official representative of the Francophone community in the areas of health and social services and to play a leadership and coordination role to help foster access to quality French language services in these areas.

In this role, the CCS informed the Government of Manitoba about the lack of a designation process for the above and proposed to work with Manitoba Health and the Francophone Affairs Secretariat to conceive and implement a designation process.

Since 1998, many facilities, programs and services have been designated as either Francophone or bilingual, but there was neither a formal process for these

To support the offer of health services in French, Manitoba Health developed a policy...

designations nor a clear indication of the responsibilities that such a designation entailed.

To support the offer of health services in French, Manitoba Health developed a policy – approved on August 28, 2013 – that clearly indicates which facilities, programs, and services with a health-related mandate (offered locally or provincially) are to be designated and the mechanism for achieving a bilingual or a Francophone designation.

The new policy provides for all independent facilities, facilities reporting directly to Regional Health Authorities, community centres, and provincial programs that offer services to Manitoba's French-speaking population to be officially designated either Francophone or bilingual.

Also, the *Bilingual and Francophone Facilities and Programs Designation Regulation* (Regulation 131/2013) under *The Regional Health Authorities Act* (C.C.S.M. c. R34) came into force on September 30, 2013.

British Columbia's Early Childhood Programs Make Great Strides

RESEARCH SHOWS that social and physical experiences have a positive impact on children's brain development, including their ability to learn French. To support Francophone and Francophile families, the Province recently partnered with three municipalities to expand local francophone early childhood development programs:

1. In the District of Saanich: a new computerized learning centre for two French preschool programs has been created.
2. In the District of Tofino: a new French program for children three to five years old is now available three times per week in two adjoining municipalities: Ucluelet and Tofino.
3. In the City of Victoria: In addition to French programs for young children, the city now offers evening games to build networks among Francophone and Francophile families.

Not only do these projects offer children the opportunity to learn in a French environment, they also increase the visibility of the Francophone community in each municipality. The British Columbia government helped to purchase learning tools such as games, books, CDs and posters for these early development programs.

The provincial funding for the programs was made possible by the *Canada-British Columbia Official Language Agreement on French Services*.



PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

French Language Services Act

FURTHER TO extensive consultations with the Acadian and Francophone community, as well as with government, the Prince Edward Island *French Language Services Act* was renewed in the spring of 2013. The approach on which the new act is based focuses on aligning the priority needs of the Acadian and Francophone community with the provincial government's capacity to deliver services in response to those needs. Two comprehensive surveys, a provincial consultation, and the establishment of a government-community working group allowed enabled the identification of the priority needs of the community. On the government side, the Public Service Commission worked with the departments to better identify the existing pool of bilingual human resources. These two essential phases helped substantiate the innovative approach presented in the Act. The purpose is to achieve the best possible results internally and externally. Components of the Act include the possibility of formally designating bilingual services and a two-level complaint mechanism, among others.

The Public Service Commission worked with the departments to better identify the existing pool of bilingual human resources.

Also, the Act was adopted in English and French, a first for the province. In total, 20 government institutions are now subject to the act, including all departments and some of their agencies, such as the PEI Liquor Control Commission and Health PEI. The provincial government believes that a concerted approach with all stakeholders will foster long-term results, because when it comes to French language services, we are running a marathon, not a sprint.

SASKATCHEWAN

A Profitable Partnership for Saskatchewan and the Fransaskois Community

A PILOT PROJECT involving the participation of several provincial and international partners allowed more than 25 Tunisian workers to choose Saskatchewan as a work and settlement destination over the past year and could result in Saskatchewan welcoming an even greater number of Francophone immigrants in the coming years.

The Saskatchewan Ministry of the Economy identified two companies with immediate skilled labour shortages. Tunisia's *Agence nationale pour l'emploi et le travail indépendant* (ANETI) established a shortlist of potential candidates. The companies then met with these candidates in Tunisia in March 2013 to assess candidates and conduct skills testing, offering successful candidates positions of employment.

The immigration service of the Assemblée communautaire fransaskoise supported the settlement and integration of these Tunisian workers in Saskatchewan.

Due to the success of this pilot project, four Saskatchewan companies participated in Destination Canada.

Due to the success of this pilot project, four Saskatchewan companies participated in Destination Canada in Tunis in November 2013 with in-demand, high-skilled positions to offer to workers.

Over the past five years, the number of French-speaking permanent residents admitted to Saskatchewan has more than doubled, extending from 125 to 264. This number represents about 2.2 percent of permanent residents admitted to Saskatchewan.

With the active participation of Saskatchewan employers in recruitment events such as Destination Canada, this number is expected to continue to grow.

ALBERTA

Building healthy, active, and vibrant communities

ALBERTA'S NONPROFIT and voluntary sector (NPVS) consists of over 24,000 registered charities and nonprofit organizations, including many Francophone organizations. Over 176,000 Albertans are employed by the sector and it engages 1.45 million volunteers, contributing towards an annual economic impact of an estimated \$9.6 billion.

The Government of Alberta is helping to create healthy, active, and vibrant communities by strengthening the ability of individuals and NPVS organizations to achieve their mission and desired outcomes. Specifically, the Ministry of Culture provides the assistance of Community Development Facilitators who offer:

- bilingual training for NPVS boards on topics such as ethical and legal responsibilities, board roles and responsibilities, policy development, and effective use of committees; and

- customized services on topics including strategic planning, board governance, public participation, how to develop and maintain efficient partnerships, resource planning, etc.

Every year, the ministry also organizes *Vitalize*, the go-to training and skills development conference for the province's NPVS sector. For the past 25 years, this conference has attracted more than 1,000 participants annually. The 2014 edition will feature bilingual programming and specific strategies to encourage the participation of francophone organizations. Sign-up here: Vitalizeconference.ca



NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR

Newfoundland and Labrador: Exceptional People from the Past

THE LATE ÉMILE BENOIT, a well-known musician and storyteller from Newfoundland's Port au Port Peninsula, has been recognized by the Provincial Historic Commemorations Program under the Person of Provincial Significance category.

This Program honours the people, places, events, and traditions that make us who we are as Newfoundlanders and Labradorians.

Born in 1913 in Black Duck Brook, Émile was of French and Acadian origin. He was an immensely talented songwriter, fiddler, and storyteller. The real measure of his legacy, however, is the tremendous impact he has had, and continues to have, on so many artists in this province, not only within his beloved Francophone and Acadian community, but across all cultures.



Photo from Diane Simon

Among the many accomplishments of Mr. Benoit, who released three albums throughout his music career, are a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Newfoundland and Labrador Arts Council and an honorary doctorate from Memorial University. Mr. Benoit passed away in 1992.

The certificate was presented to employees of the Office of French Services, who were responsible for preparing and submitting the nomination.

NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

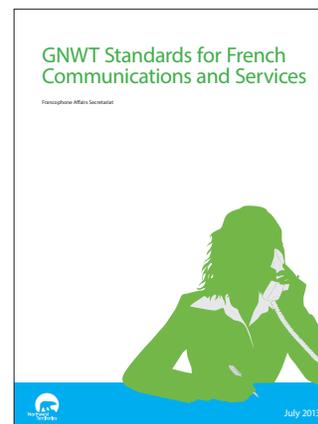
Standards for French Language Services

THIS PAST AUGUST, the Government of Northwest Territories (GNWT) adopted the *GNWT Standards for French Communications and Services* (Standards), a companion document to the Strategy on French Language Communications and Services, released in October 2012.

The Standards were prepared to assist government employees with French language communications and services to the public. This aligns with the Official Languages Guidelines, which provide direction for all 11 languages across the NWT.

The Standards cover the active offer of services or information in a language other than English, including how to craft bilingual voice mails and email signatures. Others relate to signage and displays of public information materials.

Other topics include required bilingual formats for forms, certificates, permits, licenses, procedures for French translation, writing to a public audience, and steps to ensure public web pages in French.



There are several standards that explain how government institutions should engage with the Francophone community for services, meetings, information sessions, and when receiving feedback.

A glossary defines key terminology, and other sections provide a useful background to help public servants appreciate the context and best practices of French communications and services by the GNWT.

The Standards are available at www.ece.gov.nt.ca.

YUKON

A new way forward for French language services in Yukon

FRENCH LANGUAGE services are on a roll in Yukon. The Government of Yukon and the Yukon Francophone community have been collaborating for the last year to establish a common vision aimed at improving government services for the territory's Francophones.

The Government is currently developing a strategic plan on French language services in concert with the Yukon Francophone community. This plan will guide our actions for the next four years.

The Government of Yukon is also working towards increasing provision of French language services in health and social services at three pilot sites through the implementation of active offer, interpretation services, and guidelines on bilingual staffing. The Visiting Specialists Clinic (Whitehorse General Hospital), along with Home Care, and Insured Health Services (Yukon Health and Social Services Department) were chosen based on their potential for success and their importance to the Francophone community.



Photo: Government of Yukon

FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: Doug Graham, Minister, Health and Social Services; Angélique Bernard, President, Association franco-yukonnaise; Régis St-Pierre, President, Partenariat communauté en santé; Elaine Taylor, Minister responsible for the French Language Services Directorate; Jason Bilsky, CEO, Yukon Hospital Corporation.

Representatives of the Association franco-yukonnaise, the Partenariat communauté en santé (Francophone Health Network), the Department of Health and Social Services, the Whitehorse General Hospital, the Public Service Commission, and the French Language Services Directorate are working together towards the success of this initiative.

The active offer program and the interpretation services have been operational at the three pilot sites since the end of January, while the guidelines to identify and staff bilingual positions are currently being developed under the leadership of the Public Service Commission. The guidelines will be in place this spring.

NUNAVUT

Consultation on French language services in Nunavut

THE *OFFICIAL LANGUAGES ACT* (OLA) of Nunavut, which grants official language status to the Inuit, English, and French languages, came into effect on April 1, 2013. This important milestone in the young history of the Territory of Nunavut does not, however, mark the end of a process. On the contrary, the OLA must now be implemented.

In that regard, the Minister of Languages held a public consultation in Iqaluit (Nunavut) on October 5, 2013, to identify Francophone community priorities concerning OLA implementation. About 40 Nunavummiut at that consultation discussed priority areas, challenges, best practices, lessons learned, and promoting the French language and culture. The participants identified five priority areas with regard to French language services – health, education/early childhood, culture, justice/public safety, and economic development.



Those courses of action will guide the Government of Nunavut in developing and delivering effective and efficient services based on Nunavut Francophone community needs.