



This newsletter highlights several initiatives led by the member governments of the Ministers' Council on the Canadian Francophonie (MCCF) between August 2024 and June 2025. These initiatives supported their francophone and Acadian communities.

The MCCF ministers will meet this year in Yellowknife on June 26 and 27, under the theme Bringing Our Communities Together by Celebrating our Languages.

## Yellowknife 2025

Célébrons nos langues  
pour rassembler  
nos communautés



Bringing Our Communities  
Together by Celebrating  
Our Languages

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

## Government of Canada

### Welcome Minister Guilbeault



On May 13, 2025, the Honourable Steven Guilbeault was named Minister of Canadian Culture and Identity and Minister responsible for Official Languages. According to Minister Guilbeault, the three portfolios are closely related: [Translation] **"To be sure, Canadian identity is about official languages and Indigenous cultures, but it's also about our attachment to the land."**

To date, 2025 has been a very productive year in terms of intergovernmental cooperation on official languages.

In February 2025, Canadian Heritage announced the ratification of the 2024–2025 to 2027–2028 Protocol for Agreements for Minority-Language Education and Second-Language Instruction. The agreement represents a \$1.4 billion federal investment in minority-language education and second-language instruction across Canada.

Mr. Guilbeault intends to maintain that cooperation through the implementation of the *Official Languages Act* and Action Plan for Official Languages 2023–2028: Protection–Promotion–Collaboration. ■

## Ontario



Raising the Franco-Ontarian flag at Toronto City Hall

## The Francophonie Is an Integral Part of Ontario's Identity and a Noteworthy Asset for the Province

The role of the Ontario Ministry of Francophone Affairs, in addition to administering the *French Language Services Act*, which was updated in 2021, is to promote the full participation of Francophones, be they originally from Ontario or from elsewhere, in the social, cultural, economic and political life of the province and to uphold their linguistic and cultural heritage.

In this endeavour, the French Language Services Strategy and the Francophone Economic Development Strategy of Ontario form the cornerstone of the ministry's work and structure the development of measures and policies that allow the growing Francophone population to access provincial government services in French. These strategies are part of a whole-of-government approach that engages all ministries in order to provide a consistent, coordinated service offering, suited to the needs of Ontario's Francophones.

According to the 2021 census and Ontario's inclusive definition of Francophone, the province boasts more than 652,000 Francophones, an increase of 30,125 since 2016, partly as a result of immigration. The expansion of the Francophone population, both in number and in terms of diversity, echoes Ontario's position that linguistic and cultural plurality is an essential lever for the development and future of the province.

Ontario's participation in the events of the Organisation internationale de la Francophonie, such as the *Conférence des ministres de la culture de la Francophonie* in May 2025, the *Mission économique et commerciale de la Francophonie en Amérique du Nord* in June 2024 and the *Sommet de la Francophonie* in October 2024, allows the province to showcase its Francophonie beyond provincial borders. ■

## Quebec

## Action Plan for the Canadian Francophonie 2025-2028

The Government Action Plan for the Canadian Francophonie 2025–2028 was launched on May 12, during the fourth edition of Mobilisation franco, one of the flagship measures of the Quebec Policy on the Canadian Francophonie – For a Strong, United and Engaged Francophonie.

The Action Plan 2025–2028, like the previous one, will make it possible to implement the Policy's orientations by concretely strengthening cooperation between Quebec and French-speaking communities in Canada and by reaffirming Quebec's key role within the Canadian Francophonie..



The 23 measures of the Action Plan 2025–2028 are grouped under 5 focus areas:

- Strengthening the partner role of the Quebec government and the role of the Ministère de la Langue française in matters of the Canadian Francophonie;
- Strengthening the role of government operator of the Centre de la francophonie des Amériques;
- Consolidating privileged partnerships with the Federation of Francophone and Acadian Communities of Canada and with the Société Nationale de l'Acadie;
- Sustaining the flagship actions of the Policy and Action Plan 2022–2025;
- Affirming government priorities: mobility, mutual knowledge and discoverability.

Thanks to the Action Plan, the Quebec government's investments in the Canadian Francophonie will total nearly \$21 million over three fiscal years. ■

## New Brunswick

## Training With a **Capital T** for the Government of New Brunswick

To raise awareness and, above all, train its employees on their responsibilities regarding the *Official Languages Act*, the Government of New Brunswick, through the Secretariat of Official Languages, launched a series of training modules on the Act and policies on language of work and service last May. The modules, which date back to 2015 and really needed to be brought up to date, include useful information and short

videos on the history of the Act, active offer to the public, the concept of a bilingual teamwork approach and communication between employees.

"It is the employees of the public service who have the heavy responsibility of implementing the essential elements of the *Official Languages Act* and offering quality bilingual services to all New Brunswickers," said Vicky Deschênes, Executive Director of the Secretariat of Official Languages.

"The New Brunswick public service is recognized across the country for its professionalism and efficiency, and we at the Secretariat make it our duty to preserve this reputation by equipping the employees to the best of our ability, so that we can continue to fully assume our role as a leader in official languages in the country."

In addition to the modules, the Secretariat recently offered over four hours of intensive training on the *Official Languages Act* and its policies to all HR directors in the New Brunswick government.

"A survey on the quality of bilingual services offered by the New Brunswick government indicates that over 85% of people are satisfied with the services they receive in both official languages," added Ms. Deschênes. These are certainly very encouraging figures, but our ultimate goal is to reach the 90% rate by 2031." ■



Panellists at the Francophone Economy Agora in Halifax

## A Full Wind in the Sails of Nova Scotia's Francophonie

This past year marked a high point for the Francophonie in Nova Scotia. The province had the honour of hosting the annual meeting of the Ministers' Council on Canadian Francophonie (MCCF) in August 2024, immediately followed by the first-ever Francophone Economy Agora in Halifax, and then by the Congrès mondial acadien (CMA), which took place in the Argyle and Clare regions of the province.

This period was also marked by the very first edition of Acadian Heritage Month, a now annual celebration highlighting the history, culture and contributions of Acadians.

Additionally, in August 2024, the province enacted the *Conseil scolaire acadien provincial Act* (CSAP). This Act supports public education programs and services in French as a first language to ensure the well-being and success of students in the Acadian and Francophone community of Nova Scotia.

In the fall, Nova Scotia modernized its *French-language Services Act*, reaffirming its commitment to the Acadian and Francophone community. The province also became an observer member of the Organisation internationale de la Francophonie (OIF), thus strengthening its ties with the international Francophonie.

This growth is also supported by a new, improved Canada-Nova Scotia Agreement related to French-language services and a new strategic plan for 2023-2028. Together, these tools support a broader range of initiatives, strengthen the active offer of services in French and promote their delivery in municipalities.

This collective momentum confirms Nova Scotia's desire to promote a strong Francophonie with a view to the future, continuity and renewed vitality. ■

## Manitoba

### Manitoba, Towards a Truly Bilingual Province

Last March 20, Manitoba celebrated the International Day of Francophonie by reiterating its engagement to make Manitoba a truly bilingual province. To achieve this ambitious goal, the Minister responsible for Francophones Affairs, Glen Simard, announced a vast consultation that targets all Manitoba's Francophones. Whether they have French as their first language or as an additional one, all can have their voices heard and express their vision to make Louis Riel's dream a reality. The consultation was launched online and will be available until the fall.



Other initiatives are currently underway to improve access to services in French: the Bilingual Service Centres, which are deployed in areas with a high concentration of Francophones, are developing itinerant services to better reach Francophones living in underserved areas, and a new multi-year funding agreement will support the implementation of services in French in bilingual municipalities across the province.

Promoting and strengthening bilingualism will allow for a better recognition of the contribution and vitality of the Francophone community in Manitoba.

The province also plans to benefit from new cultural and economic relationships. It is working on a formal request to join the Organisation internationale de la Francophonie, which would position the province as a player among the world's Francophonie. ■

## Northwest Territories



The Franco-Tenesian Federation meets with James Fulford, Deputy Minister of Education, Culture and Training (second from right).

### The Offer and Delivery of French Communications and Services

The successful offer and delivery of French communications and services to the public are guided by constructive dialogue between the GNWT and the franco-ténoise community, strong foundational documents, and the right resources in place to make it happen.

The GNWT recently published an **updated version of its Standards for French Communications and Services**. The document provides advice and procedures for employees of GNWT institutions. The Standards are used in the planning and implementation of each institution's Operating Plan for French. Improvements in this latest version of the Standards include expanded definition and examples of active offer, enhanced references to complementary guidelines such as the GNWT Visual Identity Program Standards, emphasized distinction between required practices and contextual background / nuances, reorganization of bilingual publication formats and examples, and refreshed references to new communications tactics.

Our capacity to offer and deliver French communications and services continues to increase through ongoing training of employees in management, frontline, and key support positions. Awareness of the importance and value of bilingual human resources is emphasized through webinars and resources on topics including linguistic insecurity.

With the publication of the GNWT's third five-year Strategic Plan on French communications and services, the GNWT seized the opportunity to renew its dialogue with a significant community partner, the Fédération franco-ténoise. The Plan's Guideline related to engagements between GNWT and the community allow for a redefinition of this invaluable dialogue between the GNWT and the community. ■



## British Columbia

### Significant Progress in Strengthening the Delivery of French-language Services

In effect since April 1, 2024, the French Language Policy has already had a positive impact by strengthening engagement with the francophone community and improving access to information and services in French. An evaluation framework is currently being developed, with an initial evaluation scheduled for the end of the second year of implementation.

Since the opening of the Centre de santé communautaire francophone Santé Ouest in the fall of 2024, hundreds of patients have been able to consult a French-speaking doctor or nurse-practitioner. The centre is continuing its efforts to welcome new patients and recruit French-speaking staff.

During the Journée de la Francophonie last march, the focus was on access to justice in French. Minister Dix presented a plaque to the Association des juristes d'expression française de la C.-B. in recognition of their work in the field of justice, and to mark their 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

Lastly, the Fédération des francophones de la Colombie-Britannique's 'Le Cornouiller d'or' award is presented each year to a member of the federal, provincial or municipal civil service who distinguished themselves by supporting the development and vitality of the Francophonie. For the second consecutive year, this award was presented to a member of the provincial public service. ■

## Prince Edward Island

### Increase in Training Courses in French

The government of Prince Edward Island continues to strive to enhance its capacity to offer French language services. As an important component of these efforts, the French-language training opportunities offered to government staff have increased in 2024-2025 and include:

- Semester-long beginner, intermediate, and advanced-level courses (358 students);
- Half-day workshops on service-centred themes (101 students);
- Self-directed learning subscriptions (218 students); and
- Virtual conversation group sessions for beginner, intermediate and advanced participants (218 students).

Since 2022-2023, the new French Language Training Incentive Program (FLTIP) has continued to have a significant impact on registration and completion rates for French-language training. Under the FLTIP, civil service employees who pursue French language training are now eligible to receive funding upon course completion.

The PEI government will also continue building on successes in its bilingual human resource recruitment practices. For example, the question, "Are you fluent in French?" was added to the Expression of Interest form for healthcare graduates this year.

Efforts were also undertaken to start a community of practice for bilingual public service employees to support and empower them in their roles. To that end, the inaugural "Bonjour Day" was organized in 2024-2025. The event brought together bilingual employees who wanted to:

- improve their language skills and build their confidence to speak French;
- network and meet other bilingual employees;
- take part in professional development and learning about resources to provide services in French.

Gilles Arsenault, Minister Responsible for Acadian and Francophone Affairs kicked off the day and took the opportunity to thank attendees for all that they did to enable the government to offer French-language services noting that their work is what brings the *French Language Services Act* to life. ■



More than 100 participants, representing 14 government institutions took part in Bonjour Day.

## Yukon

### Strategic Framework for French-language Services

Guided by the 2023–25 Strategic framework for French-language services, the Government of Yukon made strong progress in improving access to bilingual services. We continue to leverage technology, strengthen bilingual capacity, and safeguard Yukoners— all while supporting a thriving Francophone community.

Thanks to additional federal funding, we are developing a data-collection strategy and a digital-solutions roadmap to broaden access to health care in French. As such, the new Yukon health care card launched in 2025 now features an "FR" to let Yukoners identify French as their preferred language of care. We also received additional funding to improve access to French-language services in armlength organizations providing legal aid and legal education.

In the last years, we focused on empowering bilingual employees by ensuring those in designated bilingual positions have the necessary French-language skills, backed by tailored training and access to remote interpretation services when needed. These efforts have yielded tangible results— from more French-language long-term care and mental-wellness health programs to bilingual services at the Tombstone Interpretive Centre and the Centre de santé Constellation Health Centre.

We also continued to keep Yukoners informed and safe through bilingual public-safety communications especially during summer's fire and flood season.

Moving forward, we will use the input gathered from our recent public engagement to shape the government's 2025–28 Strategic framework for French-language services. ■

## Alberta

### Alberta Delivers Record Level French-Language Services

Alberta continues to make significant strides in implementing its French Policy, with a focus on expanding French-language services beyond the urban centres of Edmonton and Calgary. Guided by the 2024–28 French Policy Action Plan, the province is prioritizing community needs and improving service delivery across sectors and throughout all regions of Alberta.

In the past year, Alberta reached record levels of French-language service delivery.

For example, the Francophone Family Resource Network (FFRN) served approximately 2,700 families and 6,700 participants across Alberta, offering early childhood development, caregiver support and home visitation services. This growth reflects the province's evolving and diversifying francophone population.

Cultural initiatives also grew. The Royal Alberta Museum integrated French-language narratives into its Human History Gallery, while the province provided Alberta Culture Days grants to support 11 francophone-led events. The Provincial Archives defined 197 francophone fonds and released more than 240,000 pages of Oblates of Mary Immaculate records, enriching access to francophone heritage.

Alberta's government remains committed to ensuring all French-speaking Albertans can access the services and supports they need to thrive in every corner of the province. ■



Examples of new initiatives to increase the availability of French-language services

### New Initiatives Thanks to the Canada-Saskatchewan Agreement

The Canada-Saskatchewan Agreement on French Language Services for 2023–28 has enabled the Francophone affairs branch to implement new initiatives, which include collaborating with third parties to increase French language services access. Since fiscal year 2024–25, the FAB has entered into service agreements with some Francophone stakeholders to implement the following five new initiatives:

- A mental health support phone hotline in French allowing residents of the province facing mental health problems or experiencing situations of emotional distress to access empathic listening services in French.
- A patient accompaniment service for people with limited ability to communicate in English with health professionals.
- Professional development for French-speaking artists, a project that provides artists with opportunities to participate in training sessions in French.
- Fund French language courses for provincial public servants. The intent of this financial support is to allow many public servants to access these courses and increase the government's capacity to provide services in French to citizens.
- Promotion of Francophone immigration among Saskatchewan employers.

The FAB and its partners are delighted with the good results obtained for the first year of these agreements. ■

## Newfoundland and Labrador

### Funding for New Services in French

Newfoundland and Labrador is pleased to have provided funding for new services in French to the Francophone and Acadian community through financial assistance to provincially-funded public bodies, municipalities and select groups. In 2024-2025, 29 projects were supported to enhance French programming and services, totaling around \$2 million in total project value, thanks to increased funding in the Canada-Newfoundland and Labrador Agreement on French Language Services 2023-2024 to 2027-2028.

Examples of these projects include:

- Strengthening French language access at Newfoundland and Labrador Health Services facilities;
- Programming support for the Francophone and Acadian arts community through Arts NL and Music NL;
- French language supports for the 2025 Canada Games being held this summer in St. John's;
- Support for the Towns of Stephenville, Cape St. George and Fortune for website translations and/or bilingual street signage; and
- Support for Newfoundland and Labrador Public Libraries to offer French Story Time kits for children and their families.

Going forward, the Office of French Services aims to expand its reach by partnering with government bodies such as the province's court system, Early Childhood Education, and the Office of Immigration and Multiculturalism to develop services in priority areas for the Francophone and Acadian community. ■

## Nunavut

### Official Languages in Nunavut: 25 Years of Progress

Since its creation in 1999, Nunavut has built a legal framework to protect and promote the language rights of its population. In 2008, it adopted two key laws: the Official Languages Act, which recognizes Inuktitut, English, and French as official languages, and the Inuit Language Protection Act which provides additional obligations for Inuktitut, while also applying to the private sector.

To implement these laws, the territorial government developed two action plans. The most recent, Uqausivut 2.0 (2018–2023), aimed to increase the use of Inuktitut while also protecting the language rights of minority speakers. In 2024, a new consultation process began to develop an updated language plan.

In March 2025, the Governments of Canada and Nunavut signed a renewed Territorial Languages Agreement. Covering four fiscal years through to 2028, the agreement outlines mechanisms to support services in French and Inuktitut.

At the same time, since April 2025, engagement with Francophone organizations has increased to better identify the priorities of the Franco-Nunavummiut community and to improve the delivery of services in French.

Finally, the Government of Nunavut is working to have the double minority language status of English and French recognized in the territory, as Inuktitut remains the majority language in Nunavut. ■

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