



This newsletter highlights several initiatives led by the member governments of the Ministers' Council on the Canadian Francophonie (MCCF) between August 2025 and June 2026. These initiatives supported their francophone and Acadian communities.

The MCCF ministers will meet this year in Winnipeg on June 25 and 26.



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

Promoting Official Languages

The Government of Canada continues its work to implement the modernized *Official Languages Act* and will launch in the spring its consultations for the next Action Plan for Official Languages.

On March 7, 2026, the proposed regulations on administrative monetary penalties under the *Official Languages Act* were published in the Canada Gazette, Part I. These regulations provide the Commissioner of Official Languages with an additional tool to promote compliance by transportation-sector entities subject to the *Official Languages Act* that provide services to travellers and are required to meet the Official Language Act's obligations relating to communications with and services to the public.

The draft regulations under Part VII of the *Official Languages Act* were tabled in Parliament in December 2025. They establish a common framework to ensure the consistent implementation of federal commitments toward official language minority communities, the promotion of both official languages and the protection of French. They also provide for measures to promote the inclusion of language provisions in agreements with provinces and territories.

In April 2026, the Government tabled in Parliament the draft regulations on the use of French in federally regulated private businesses, which clarify how the new *Use of French in Federally Regulated Private Businesses Act* will be implemented. This Act, which will come into force at the same time as its regulations, establishes

the rights of consumers to receive services in French and of employees to work in French, first in Quebec, and two years later in certain regions with a strong Francophone presence.

These last two draft regulations in the Canada Gazette, Part I, will launch the public consultations preceding their final adoption.

In parallel, the Government is preparing to launch consultations on the next Action Plan for Official Languages 2028–2033. An online questionnaire and close to twenty round tables across the country will be organized, along with a series of virtual thematic discussions. These consultations will focus on key issues such as restoring the demographic weight of Francophones, the protection of French, the labour force and economic development, while also addressing emerging issues such as housing, innovation, digital transformation and artificial intelligence.

The 2028 Francophonie Summit in Canada will be an opportunity to showcase the Canadian Francophonie across the country and abroad. Its preparation and success will depend on close collaboration with the provinces and territories, whose contribution will be essential in highlighting the full diversity and vitality of the Canadian Francophonie. ■

Ontario

Ontario Celebrated in 2025 the 50th Anniversary of the Franco-Ontarian Flag

The Francophonie is an essential part of Ontario's identity and a key driver of the province's vitality. Ontario continues to invest in its Francophone community by ensuring it has the means to realize its potential and prosper, both at home and abroad.

Ontario has two complementary levers at its disposal: the French Language Services Strategy and the Francophone Economic Development Strategy. Ontario's government continues its efforts to improve access to quality provincial services in French, particularly through the implementation of its modernized legislative framework, the expansion of designated regions and a strengthened active offer principle.

The Government of Ontario also supports the development of a qualified bilingual workforce, as well as Francophone entrepreneurship and the growth of Francophone businesses through targeted investments and various funding programs.

This past year, Ontario invested over a million dollars in cultural and community initiatives to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Franco-Ontarian flag. These initiatives, implemented province-wide, have

brought communities together, promoted the French language and highlighted the importance of this symbol of Ontario's identity.

On the international stage, in 2025 Ontario signed a cooperation agreement with France's Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs, as well as joint statements of cooperation with Louisiana and Nova Scotia. These partnerships will foster the development of lasting relationships and help create new opportunities for economic, cultural and institutional exchanges between Francophone communities. Initiatives and efforts such as these ensure Ontario's Francophonie can continue to fully integrate with the social and economic priorities of the province. ■



Mobilisation franco 2025 brought together more than 200 participants from across the country.

Quebec Renews its Commitment to the Canadian Francophonie

This past year, the Government of Quebec continued to actively pursue its commitment to the Canadian Francophonie.

First of all, in May 2025, Quebec renewed its *Plan d'action en francophonie canadienne* (Government Action Plan on the Canadian Francophonie) for the 2025-2028 period. This new plan builds on the results of the previous plan and aims to further the most transformational actions, which include:

- **Mobilisation franco:** The fourth and fifth editions of *Mobilisation franco*, which took place in Montreal in May 2025 and in Ottawa in May 2026, each brought together more than 200 participants and were the venue for many face-to-face meetings between organizations from Quebec and the Canadian Francophonie nationwide.
- **Intergovernmental agreements on the Canadian Francophonie:** 2025-2026 was also notable for the signing of bilateral intergovernmental cooperation agreements with the governments of the Northwest Territories, Yukon and Prince Edward Island.
- **Programme d'appui à la francophonie canadienne** (Canadian Francophonie Support Program or PAFC): PAFC continues to support partnerships between organizations in Quebec and those

from the Canadian Francophonie. In 2025-2026, the Government of Quebec supported 129 projects, for a total contribution of nearly \$2.3 M. These projects cover a vast range of sectors: economic development, higher education, early childhood, media and culture, among others. PAFC thus cultivates stronger cooperation and ties between Quebecers and Francophones elsewhere in Canada, while also helping promote the French language across the country. ■

New-Brunswick

DAY 2: CUISINE
Suggestion: Poutine râpée

Why this recipe?

Poutine râpée is a must in several Francophone regions of New Brunswick. Often found at the table during events, community dinners, or family gatherings, this dish is deeply rooted in local traditions.

To discover additional iconic Acadian dishes, Tourism New Brunswick offers a selection of 9 traditional recipes to try: [9 Acadian Foods You Have to Try in New Brunswick](#) / [#ExploreNB](#) / [Tourism New Brunswick](#).

RECIPE:

Ingredients • 10 lb of potatoes • 1 tsp salt • 1 lb of salted pork (or pork cubes) • Hot water Good to know • Several variations exist depending on the region. • Sweet or savoury... the	Steps 01 Grate raw potatoes. 02 Drain the pulp in a clean cloth and keep the starchy water. 03 Mix the pulp with salt and some of the reserved water. 04 Shape into balls, inserting a piece of pork in the centre. 05 Gently place in simmering water (not boiling).	
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Franco February 2026 brought employees together through online bilingualism activities.

French February: A Month of Fun and Discoveries

In February, the community of New Brunswick government employees came together for fun challenges to celebrate the two official languages. The first edition of French February was a wonderful opportunity to learn, share, and express themselves. Throughout the month, Francophone and Francophile employees were invited to participate in online activities centred around bilingualism. Each week featured a different activity:

- **Language Bingo:** Each day, participants discovered a new word to note on their card. This simple and playful activity helped enrich vocabulary while having fun.
- **Culture and Community:** Sharing songs, recipes, and films set the pace for the week. By sharing their favourites and experiences, participants strengthened their sense of community and highlighted the richness of our two cultures.
- **Active Practice:** Words or woes? During this week, discussions and exchanges were at the heart of the activities, allowing everyone to learn popular expressions in an engaging way.
- **Creativity in Action:** The final week was a talent festival. Poems, drawings, and inspiring messages showcased the creativity and passion of participants, inspiring the entire community.

The energy and dedication of everyone involved made of French February a true success, with a total of 2,500 clicks and 4,000 unique visitors. ■

Nova Scotia

Strengthening the Presence of French in Public Spaces

Following last year's extraordinary initiatives, Nova Scotia is focusing its efforts, with the support of the Canada–Nova Scotia Agreement on French-language services, on the visibility of Acadian and Francophone communities, as well as the visibility of the government's French-language service offerings.

An initial initiative enabled the creation, replacement, and installation of signage on provincial highways near Acadian and Francophone regions. These visual markers promote Acadian regions and enhance the visibility of this community. Building on the success of the 2024 *Congrès mondial acadien*, these 16 new signs highlight the communities of Argyle, Clare, Grand-Pré, Isle Madame, Chéticamp, Torbé, Pomquet and Chezzetcook. This project was completed thanks to the collaboration of the Department of Public Works, the Office of Acadian Affairs and Francophonie, and the *Fédération acadienne de la Nouvelle-Écosse*.

Additionally, Nova Scotia worked with researchers to examine the scope of active offer and its public impact. The study on the use of French language government services (Deveau, Allard, Landry, 2010) highlighted the importance of proactively offering service in French through visual signage or bilingual greetings, such as the classic "Hello/Bonjour!". It is noteworthy that when a conversation is initiated in both official languages, nearly 7 out of 10 respondents (68%) report they will continue the conversation in French.

In partnership with Université Sainte-Anne and the *Fédération acadienne de la Nouvelle-Écosse*, we were able to revisit the parameters and questions of the 2010 study to track changes in active offer for the public. In addition to highlighting a shift toward digital French language service delivery, the new data collection made it possible to identify the experiences and perspectives of newcomers. More than 1,000 questionnaires were received. Available in both official languages, the forms were offered both online and as hard copies. Key community members in traditionally rural areas were also enlisted to help people complete the questionnaire (particularly the elderly). The statistical sample therefore supports representative conclusions. Initial results indicate:

- Active offer is a key driver that improves both linguistic security and the overall quality of services provided.
- The likelihood of using government services in spoken French when an active offer is made has slightly increased to 72% (7 out of 10 people).

- Active offer of French-language services strengthens trust and accessibility, regardless of the accent or the staff's language proficiency. ■

Manitoba

Concrete Progress for Manitoba's Francophone Community

Since last year, Manitoba has continued its momentum to become a truly bilingual province by undertaking a major public consultation. Through an online survey, as well as consultation sessions held virtually and in person in Winnipeg and rural areas, the government gathered input from approximately 2,000 people – Anglophones, Francophones and bilingual people. The results of the consultation were unveiled by Minister Glen Simard on March 20, 2026, in St-Pierre-Jolys, and the government is now preparing a strategy on bilingualism under the endorsement of the Advisory Council on Francophone Affairs.

In January 2026, the province opened its first French-language legal services centre – a centre that brings together the Association of Francophone Jurists, community organizations and the Department of Justice, to support access to justice for Francophone individuals and families. The co-location initiative houses community and government staff to provide the justice services clients need under the same roof.

In education, the Manitoba government announced the opening of two schools in the *Division scolaire franco-manitobaine* (in St. Boniface and Brandon). In diplomacy, the province officially submitted its application to join the *Organisation internationale de la Francophonie* as an observer member, and a delegation from the Ottawa Francophone Ambassadors Group was able to discover the vitality of Manitoba's Francophonie during an official visit in April 2026. ■

Northwest Territories

GNWT Released Results of Compliance Audit on French-language Health Services

In April 2026, the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) released the results of a compliance audit on French-language primary care services in support of its commitment to improve health and social service programs.

Throughout 2024, the third-party audit reviewed primary care facilities in Yellowknife, Hay River and Fort Smith—the three Northwest Territories communities where there is a significant demand for French-language services. The scope of the audit was developed in cooperation with the *Fédération franco-ténoise*, the spokesperson organization for the francophone community.

The auditors identified areas for improvement and provided four recommendations related to workforce capacity, clarity of service delivery, feedback mechanisms and frontline training.

In response to the audit findings, several targeted measures are planned or being actioned by GNWT, such as:

- Strengthening recruitment strategies for French-speaking health professionals through targeted partnerships and job advertising.
- Launching a communication campaign on the active offer and delivery of French language health services.
- Improving frontline staff training, protocols, and tools to support French language service delivery in a variety of scenarios.

The GNWT has scheduled a second audit for 2026–2027. The exercise, whose subject is to be determined shortly, will support the government's ongoing commitment to transparency, accountability and improvement of its French-language communication services. ■

British Columbia



From left to right: Honourable Niki Sharma, Attorney General; Jean-Benoît Deschamps, 2026 Leadership in Francophonie Award recipient; Honourable Nina Krieger, Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General; Honourable Adrian Dix, Minister of Energy and Climate Solutions and Minister responsible for Francophone Affairs.

A Recognition That Reflects the Progress Achieved

In March 2026, the BC Public Service celebrated the International Francophonie Day by recognizing the vibrant presence of French language and cultures throughout the province. 2026 also introduced the inaugural Leadership in Francophonie Award to highlight outstanding contributions for French-language services within the BC Public Service.

The recipient of the award is the Bilingual Prosecutions Branch in the Ministry of Attorney General, led by Jean Benoît Deschamps, for its role ensuring French-speaking people in British Columbia can fully exercise their rights in court and improving access to justice. This work makes a real difference for individuals and families who rely on

French-language proceedings to understand and participate in the justice process.

This recognition reflects broader progress following the introduction of B.C.'s 2024 French-Language Policy, which aims to strengthen government's capacity to serve Francophones throughout the province and to deepen engagement with French-speaking residents, ensuring their needs are better reflected in government programs, policies and services, as resources allow. ■

Prince Edward Island

Dialogue, Recognition and Support in Action

Since the enactment of the *French Language Services Act* (FLSA), the Government of Prince Edward Island (PEI) has endeavoured to fulfill its commitment to supporting the Acadian and Francophone community and maintaining the French language on Prince Edward Island for future generations. In 2025–2026, the Government of PEI continued this commitment through actions grounded in connection, recognition, and support.

- **Fostering connection** – The Acadian and Francophone Community Advisory Committee (AFCAC) conducted public consultations, including a survey and focus groups, to maintain up-to-date insights on community priorities. Results presented to the Minister responsible for Acadian and Francophone Affairs will be shared with government institutions to help guide their annual planning under the FLSA.
- **Advancing recognition** – On August 18, 2025, the Government of Prince Edward Island proclaimed the month of August as Acadian Heritage Month. In support of this initiative, consultations with key stakeholders informed the development of a community funding program aligned with this proclamation.
- **Providing support** – The Cooperation Agreement Between the Government of Quebec and the Government of PEI Regarding the Canadian Francophonie was signed in November 2025. Through this agreement, PEI and Quebec each contribute \$40,000 annually to community initiatives, including projects such as strategic planning for the *Salon du livre francophone* and the development of an interactive art exhibition that toured PEI's six Acadian and Francophone regions.

Together, these actions reflect the Government of Prince Edward Island's ongoing commitment to listen to the Acadian and Francophone community, recognize its essential contributions, and support its continued development. ■

Yukon

Better Access and Experience

The Government of Yukon continues to advance its commitment to improving access to bilingual services and information and to enhancing the experience of Yukoners who rely on them.

Strategic framework

Last June, the Government of Yukon launched the Strategic framework for French-language services (2025–28), the most comprehensive to date. Its goal is clear: to improve access to services in French and the public's satisfaction with them.

The Strategic framework is structured around four key areas: delivering timely and consistent services at priority and high-traffic points of service, increasing awareness of available services, strengthening bilingual capacity across government, and supporting a thriving Francophone community.

Informed by a public consultation in spring 2025, the framework reflects input from participants and the Table de gouvernance de la Franco-Yukonnie. It sets a clear path toward French-language services that are more accessible, more visible, and best suited to users' needs.

Learn more about the strategic framework: [Government of Yukon releases the 2025–28 Strategic framework for French-language services | Yukon.ca](#)

Complaint resolution mechanism

On June 1, 2026, the Government of Yukon has conducted a soft launch of a complaint resolution mechanism for French-language services and communications. A broader public awareness campaign is planned for the fall.

The new online form makes it easier for Yukoners to share concerns about French-language services through a transparent and consistent process. It will help identify service gaps, strengthen how concerns are tracked, coordinated and resourced, and support ongoing improvements across government.

This initiative responds to a long-standing request from the Francophone community and aligns with priorities identified in the 2025–28 Strategic framework for French-language services.

Link to the complaint resolution mechanism form: <https://yukon.ca/en/submit-complaint-about-french-language-services>. ■

Alberta

Alberta Celebrates the Year of the Francophonie and Strengthens its French-language Service Offering

To recognize the significant contributions of Francophones to the cultural, social and economic fabric of Alberta, the government has declared 2026 the Year of the Francophonie in Alberta. This is in addition to the continued progress Alberta is making to implement its French Policy. The Policy guides actions to improve access to services in French and support the growth and strength of Francophone communities in the province.

Continuous progress has been made in key areas. In health, access to French-language services has increased, notably through the opening of the Saint-Thomas mobile clinic and expanded interpretation services. In education, improvements are reflected in the availability of more than 1,100 French-language educational resources for schools.

On the cultural front, the Royal Alberta Museum has launched *At Home: Francophonie in Alberta* (March 2026 to May 2027), the first exhibition entirely dedicated to the Francophone community of Alberta.

The public service continues to strengthen its capacity to deliver French-language services, including the launch of a five-module training program on the French Policy, as well as a new internal web-based tool that supports a consistent and coordinated government-wide approach to French-language services to Albertans.

Together, these initiatives are improving access to French-language services while supporting Alberta's growing Francophone population. ■

Saskatchewan

Initiatives for the Implementation of the French-Language Services Policy

One of the goals of the Government of Saskatchewan French-Language Services Policy is to facilitate communication, as much as possible, in the official language chosen by the client. The Francophone Affairs Branch is implementing several initiatives that contribute to this objective, including:

- Funding for French language courses offered to public servants enables many employees to take these courses and thereby improve their ability to communicate in French. In 2025–26, enrollment in these courses increased by 32% compared to the previous year.
- The introduction of monthly French conversation sessions, a new initiative aimed at providing concrete opportunities to practice speaking French and build self-confidence.

- The biennial government-wide employee language capacity survey, along with the ongoing support provided by French-language services champions, helps maintain and update an online directory, listing points of service where the public can be served in French.

These initiatives aim to strengthen the active provision of French-language services and improve the citizen experience by making it possible for them to interact in French whenever possible. ■

Newfoundland and Labrador

A New Momentum for French-Language Postsecondary Education

In January 2023, the *Fédération des francophones de Terre-Neuve et du Labrador* (FFTNL) established a round table on French language post-secondary education. This group brings together representatives from the province's Francophone community organizations, Memorial University (MUN), and College of the North Atlantic (CNA), and the provincial government to lay the groundwork for expanding post-secondary programming in French in this province.

In early 2026, the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador awarded the FFTNL approximately \$410,000 through a Labour Market Partnership (LMP) Agreement. Funded under the Canada-Newfoundland and Labrador Labour Market Development Agreement, this investment covers the period March 2026 to September 2028. It will support the creation of a French Language Post-secondary and Continuing Education Coordinator position aimed at strengthening and improving access to French language post-secondary education.

This role will also help address key challenges, including credential recognition, access to language certification, gaps in coordinated support for the Francophone community, while facilitating better integration into a bilingual labour market.

The coordinator will play an important role in supporting Francophone individuals as they enter the workforce, helping to increase the supply of qualified bilingual professionals needed to meet employer demand and contribute to the province's economic and social vitality.

Partners in this LMP Agreement include MUN, CNA, FFTNL, and Horizon TNL. ■

Nunavut

Uqausivut 2.0: Nunavut Continues Its Efforts

During the fiscal year 2025–2026, the Government of Nunavut completed the first statutory review of its territorial language legislation, namely the *Inuktitut Protection Act* and the *Official Languages Act*, which recognize English, French, and Inuktitut as the territory's official languages of equal status. The review process strengthened certain provisions relating to the Languages Commissioner's investigative powers and cooperation and accountability mechanisms, consolidated the Minister's responsibilities with respect to language promotion, and eliminated various legislative redundancies.

The evaluation of the *Uqausivut 2.0* languages strategic plan was initiated; a first report was produced, setting out twenty recommendations. An organizational reform aimed at strengthening the languages branch was approved, resulting in the creation of an assistant deputy minister position and a new division responsible for implementing language obligations.

Community funding was renewed, supporting twenty initiatives with projects set to begin in 2026–2027. ■

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