**Social Partnership Initiative (SPI) in OLMC (Social Development Partnerships Program (SDPP))**

Action Plan for Official Languages 2023–2028: Protection-Promotion-Collaboration:

$5.4 million over five years in funding for community organizations to boost their capacity and enable them to provide services to better meet the priorities of official language minority communities and work in partnership to address shared social development challenges, within the framework of the Social Partnership Initiative.

The Social Partnerships Initiative (SPI) in Official Language Minority Communities (OLMC) funds community organizations to increase their capacity and serve the needs of OLMCs. Intermediary funding recipients redistribute funds to OLMC-serving organizations to undertake projects.

This is the third phase of the SPI. The first began in 2013 and the second in 2018. Under this Initiative, two high-capacity organizations have been funded to act as intermediaries. There is one for Francophone communities outside of Quebec and another for Anglophone communities in Quebec.

The new investment of $5.4M over five years in the SPI builds on success to date and responds to stakeholder consultations. This amount includes both grants and contribution funding and operating funding.

For this third phase, Employment and Social Development Canada (ESDC) launched a funding call in January 2024 to select intermediaries. A project by la Fédération des aînées et aînés francophones du Canada (FAAFC), in collaboration with its partner organizations, is currently underway to support Francophone communities. For more information about their work, reach out to la FAAFC.

A potential project by an intermediary supporting Anglophone communities is currently under negotiation.

The intermediary role, which was in part piloted under the SPI, comes with multiple obligations for the responsible organization. The intermediary holds a funding agreement with ESDC and then runs a funding process to identify organizations who will be funded to deliver projects. The intermediary must put in place sub-funding agreements with these smaller community-based organizations. They are also responsible for reporting on results to ESDC and conducting an evaluation of their project.

In addition, intermediaries must have expertise and experience in social development and particularly in the area of increasing social inclusion, which is the ultimate objective of the Social Development Partnership Program under which the SPI is delivered.

The intermediaries are also responsible for delivering on three complementary objectives of the SPI: increasing the capacity of community-based organizations; better serving the needs of OLMC individuals, families and communities; and working in partnership to address common social challenges.

Examples of projects to date include enhancing social entrepreneurship; supporting youth leadership in communities; helping seniors age at home through senior friendship circles and support for caregivers; and designing/implementing workshops and activities for parents raising children in their own language.

**Note:** $4M over 5 years in existing funding is also identified in the Action Plan for the SPI. This funding is committed to projects underway that focus on OLMCs under the Social Development Partnerships Program (SDPP). These projects were funded through a 2021 open call for proposals.