



The Interdepartmental Coordination Network of Canadian Heritage (Network 42): An Overview of its Role and Achievements

A Word From the Network 42 Co-Chairs

The year 2019-2020 was marked by the celebrations of the 50th anniversary of the *Official Languages Act*. In this spirit, Network 42 worked with federal institutions to develop a common vision of interdepartmental cooperation. Ad hoc working groups were created to meet certain needs and to implement official languages activities in the regions. Coordination mechanisms in the regions have helped promote and encourage members to organize or participate in other official languages activities or events in their regions while providing support and tools to members. Each region is unique, but thanks to Network 42, initiatives and partnerships have created opportunities for dialogue between federal institutions and official language minority communities across the country. We share with you this overview of Network 42's great achievements in 2019-2020.

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Network 42 Co-Chair

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Profile of the Coordination Function at Canadian Heritage

Under section 42 of the *Official Languages Act* (OLA), the Minister of Canadian Heritage (PCH) encourages and promotes interdepartmental coordination of the federal commitment to:











- enhance the vitality of the English and French linguistic minority communities in Canada and support their development;
- foster the full recognition and use of both English and French in Canadian society.

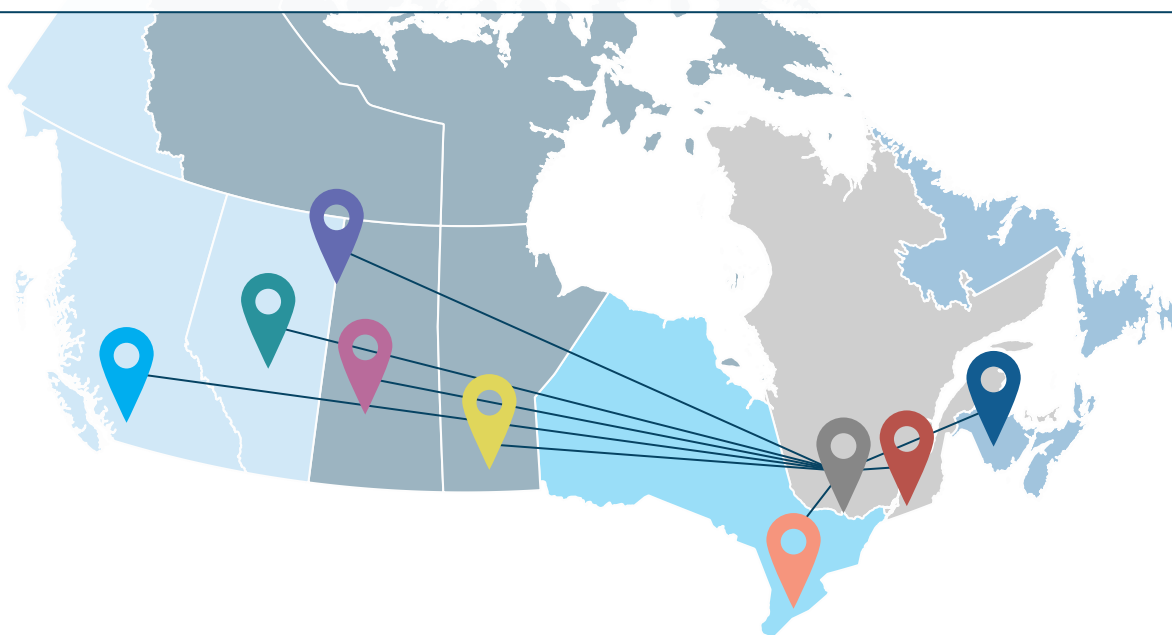
This mandate falls to the Interdepartmental Relations and Accountability Directorate (IRAD) and to coordinators in the five administrative regions of Canadian Heritage (PCH). Together, the IRAD and the "42 Coordinators" form the PCH Coordinators' Network (Network 42).

Interdepartmental Coordination Mechanisms

Network 42 creates opportunities for dialogue and promotes links between federal institutions and official language minority communities (OLMCs). Canadian Heritage provides guidance, tools and support to coordinators in federal institutions, both nationally and regionally. In addition, it participates in communities of practice and coordinates or chairs a diverse range of consultation mechanisms.

Main Interdepartmental Coordination Mechanisms by Region

-  British Columbia Federal Council Official Languages Committee (**BCFCOLC**)
 -  Prairies Official Languages Committee (**POLC**)
 -  Saskatchewan Interdepartmental Network of Official Languages (**SINOL**)
 -  Interdepartmental Network of Official Languages Coordinators of Alberta (**INOLCA**)
 -  Manitoba Interdepartmental Network of Official Languages (**MINOL**)
 -  Ontario Official Languages Interdepartmental Network (**OOLIN**)
 -  Quebec Federal Council-Official Languages Committee (**QFCOL**)
 -  Network 41 — National Section
 -  Network 41 — Atlantic Region
 -  Network 42
- *excerpt from the evaluation of the interdepartmental coordination function (section 42 of the *Official Languages Act*). From 2013-14 to 2017-18.



The Interdepartmental Coordination Network of Canadian Heritage

Develops a common vision of interdepartmental cooperation that results in better collaboration between PCH and federal institutions.

Creates awareness, empowers and mobilizes federal institutions on OLMC issues and priorities, and gives them tools related to section 41 of the OLA.

Strengthens links and develops partnerships between federal institutions and OLMCs at the national and regional levels.

Examples of Collaborations, Initiatives and Partnerships (2019-2020)

The regions and headquarters exercised their **role as Part VII advisors to federal institutions by providing information sessions and presentations** at bilateral meetings, management meetings, committees or forums.

Visit Canada.ca to find a tool presenting the **guiding principles for conducting consultations with OLMCs** as well as other resources available in the Official Languages Hub® of the Language Portal of Canada.

Headquarters created and distributed an **Inventory of Federal Programs of Interest to OLMCs**, which the regions were able to distribute to interdepartmental networks, associations and funding recipients in official language minority communities.

All regions and headquarters **participated in multiple round tables** with OLMCs spokespersons and other official languages stakeholders to learn about their issues and priorities, and shared them through interdepartmental coordination mechanisms.

To mark the 50th anniversary of the OLA, the Ontario Region held a **roundtable discussion for the Ontario Francophonie** with guests including an expert on linguistic insecurity, an artist-entrepreneur from the Francophone minority, as well as Statistics Canada, and opened this opportunity to share good practices with the interdepartmental committee.

The **Quebec Region's Annual Working Group on Arts, Culture and Heritage** continues to strengthen cooperation between federal institutions and the English-speaking community of Quebec in the arts, culture and heritage sector, and to help build bridges with other levels of government.

Under the leadership of its Sub-Committee on OL, the Atlantic Federal Council (AFC) supported **the May 2019 Atlantic Official Languages Week**. On this occasion, the AFC presented its first Official Languages Recognition Awards for Atlantic employees or teams.

The Western Region initiated a **pilot project with minority schools and community groups** in British Columbia, Alberta and Yukon in partnership with federal institutions to promote bilingualism and inspire youth. The in-school initiative involved seven federal partners and reached nearly 750 students in the Western Region.

The **official languages community micro-missions initiative** in the Atlantic and Prairie and Northern regions enabled 15 federal public servants to participate concretely in the development of OLMCs in seven provinces during the year.

The Prairies Official Languages Committee organized the **first "Prairies Linguistic Duality Week"** with interdepartmental activities in five cities and three provinces to mark the 50th anniversary of the OLA.

In 2019-20, six English-speaking organizations in Quebec were **invited to present the challenges** they face at the QFC-OL meetings.

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