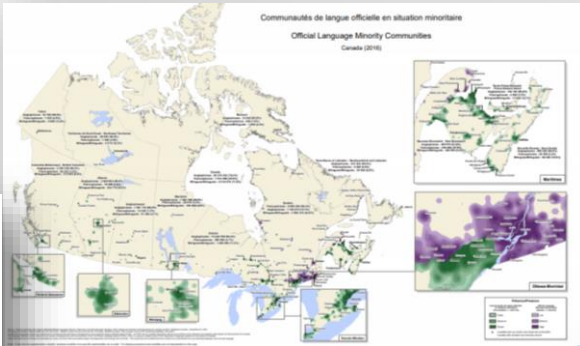


Canadian Heritage Virtual Kiosk



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 2020-2021 was marked by the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Official Languages Act. In this spirit, Network 42 worked with federal departments to develop a common set of interdepartmental objectives, needs and to implement official language activities in the region. Coordination mechanisms in the region have helped promote and activate official language activities and participate in other official language activities or events in their respective provinces and territories.

Profile of the Coordination Function at Canadian Heritage

Network 42, the Interdepartmental Network of Canadian Heritage (OLMCs) and the Minister of Canadian Heritage (OLMCs) encourage and promote interdepartmental coordination of the federal government to:

- enhance the vitality of the English and French linguistic minority communities in Canada and support their development;
- promote 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 administrative regions of Canadian Heritage (OLMCs) together with the "42 Co-Chairpersons" from the 42-Component Network (Network 42).

Interdepartmental Coordination Mechanisms

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



GUIDE FOR DRAFTING MEMORANDA TO CABINET

OFFICIAL LANGUAGES IMPACT ANALYSIS

Best Practices Digest

FOSTERING THE FULL RECOGNITION AND USE OF BOTH ENGLISH AND FRENCH IN CANADIAN SOCIETY

November 2020



Canada

Consultation process with official language minority communities (OLMCs)

Guiding principles

The Government of Canada has committed to encouraging Canadians to become more involved in public policy debates. Citizens participate fully when they play an active role in identifying issues, exploring potential solutions and determining resources and priorities.

Under the Official Languages Act (OLA), all federal institutions must take positive measures to promote the development of official language minority communities and foster recognition and use of English and French in Canadian society.

The OLA does not define the term "positive measures." The implementation of positive measures takes many different forms, depending on the mandate of each federal institution. By contributing to them to the communities and by demonstrating leadership, your institution will be able to identify positive measures.

Main guiding principles

- Carried out in a timely manner
- Predictable
- Efficient
- Adapted
- Transparent
- Founded on the principles of good faith, respect and mutual responsibility

Some facts on the Canadian Francophonie

The Canadian Francophonie by the numbers

- ▶ Canada has a population of nearly 35 million people. French is the first official language spoken for 22.8% of the population.
- ▶ The majority of Francophones (85.4%) live in Quebec and over 1 million Francophones live in other regions.
- ▶ Almost 10.4 million Canadians can carry on a conversation in French.

Education, media and culture

- Canada has more than 3,000 French-language primary and secondary schools, around 75 French-language colleges and nearly 30 French-language universities, a majority of which are located in Quebec.
- Outside Quebec, more than 150,000 Francophones study in their language at 624 primary and secondary institutions, managed by the communities.
- Francophones outside Quebec also have access to over 20 colleges and universities.



Official-Language Minority Communities Dashboard

Tableau de bord des communautés de langue officielle en situation minoritaire

English / Français

Part VII of the Official Languages Act

Under section 41 (Part VII) of the Official Languages Act, the Government of Canada is committed to enhancing the vitality of the English and French linguistic minority communities in Canada, supporting their development as well as fostering the full recognition and use of both English and French in Canadian society.

The commitment is binding on all federal institutions, which are required to ensure that positive measures are taken to implement it. The federal institutions must take into account the commitment during their entire activity cycle:

- strategic planning
- policy and program development
- implementation and evaluation

In all instances, federal institutions must keep their finger on the pulse of the official language minority communities, and determine whether their actions have an impact on these communities or on the advancement of both official languages in society.

Federal institutions are called upon to:

- raise employees' awareness about the needs of these communities and about section 41
- consult with interested members of the public during the planning and implementation of programs and policies
- determine whether policies and programs have an impact on the promotion of both official languages and on community development
- plan on the basis of impacts
- ensure that steps taken and decision processes are documented

TAKING POSITIVE MEASURES:

The Official Languages Act does not define the term "positive measures". The implementation of positive measures takes many different forms, depending on the mandate of each federal institution. Officials in your institution should have the same understanding of the Official Languages Act obligations. By continuing to listen to the communities and by demonstrating leadership, your institution will be in a position to identify positive measures.

TAPPING THE FULL POTENTIAL OF YOUR INSTITUTION

You should also optimize the full potential (services, policies, programs, expertise, facilities, etc.) available in your institution to fulfill its mandate. This might involve creating or adapting existing programs to take the needs of communities into account or looking at the possibility of calling on minority community organizations to deliver certain programs or services (what is referred to as the "to" and "for" approach).



Guide on Part VII of the Official Languages Act: Support to communities and promotion of English and French

Canada