

The OL Connection

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Headlines

New look for the Reporting resource page

The Reporting section of our <u>GCwiki</u>, previously called Monitoring, has been revamped. It now contains new and evergreen tools and information to keep you up to date with the work of the Official Languages Centre of Excellence (OLCE) in official languages monitoring, auditing, evaluation and reporting.

Annual Official Languages Review Exercise

The annual Official Languages Review Exercise was launched on March 14. Federal institutions required to submit a Review or official languages statistical data this year have until May 30 to do so. Information sessions were held in February and March to support federal institutions in submitting their Reviews and/or statistical data, as the case may be, and to announce that they must submit their Review through the System for Official Languages Obligations (SOLO) this year. It was also an opportunity to remind institutions that what they submit in their Review or in their official languages statistical data could be subject to audit and/or evaluation under the enhanced monitoring mechanisms established by TBS. All information related to the Review exercise, including frequently asked questions, a SOLO user guide, and information session presentations, can be found on the Community of Official Languages/Tools/Monitoring - wiki page.

If you have any questions about the Review exercise, please contact us at <u>OLReview-BilanLO@tbs-sct.gc.ca</u>.

Audit and evaluation pilot projects

TBS is currently working on pilot projects to evaluate and validate our new audit and evaluation procedures and processes before deploying them on a larger scale. Each federal institution selected for one of the pilot projects will be contacted individually. These institutions will be invited to preparatory meeting during which we will explain all aspects of the pilot projects in detail and answer any questions they may have.

The participation and collaboration of the selected federal institutions are necessary to ensure the success of these pilot projects.

Communication products are currently being developed and will be presented to federal institutions in the coming months.

If you have any questions about the audit and evaluation, please contact us at OLCEAudit-EvaluationCELO@tbs-sct.gc.ca

Official Languages Regulations Reapplication Exercise (OLRRE)

Offices subject to automatic rules:

The updated list of offices subject to automatic rules was published in Burolis in October 2024. In accordance with the <u>Directive on the Application of the Official Languages (Communications with and Services to the Public) Regulations</u>, institutions will have until <u>October 11</u>, <u>2025</u> to:

• implement the measures needed to fulfill their language obligations (<u>for newly designated bilingual offices.</u>)

or

• inform the minority population served of the date the bilingual services will no longer be provided at that office and where they can receive services in their preferred official language (for unilingual offices (that are no longer required to provide services in both official languages).)

If you are not sure whether your institution has offices subject to automatic rules, please contact us at info-ollo@tbs-sct.gc.ca

Measurement of demand for offices where demographic data is not relevant (routes, airports, train stations, ferries, offices outside of Canada, and offices offering services to a restricted and identifiable clientele):

In accordance with the <u>Directive on the Application of the Official Languages</u> (<u>Communications with and Services to the Public</u>) <u>Regulations</u>, the deadline for completing the measurement of demand for offices where demographic data is not relevant is <u>February 27</u>, <u>2026</u>.

The measurement of demand consists of a survey of an office's clientele on their preferred official language for communications and services. This February 2026 deadline is for offices required to measure the demand under provisions 5(3), 6(1) (a), (b), (d), (e), (f), 7(1) and 7(2) of the Official Languages (Communications with and Services to the Public) Regulations.

Measurement of demand for offices that do not offer key services and that have not met thresholds after defining their service area

In accordance with the <u>Directive on the Application of the Official Languages</u> (<u>Communications with and Services to the Public</u>) <u>Regulations</u>, the deadline for completing the measurement of demand for offices that do not offer key services and that have not met thresholds after defining their service area is <u>August 27, 2026</u>.

This August 2026 deadline is for offices required to measure the demand under provisions 5(1)d), (k) and (n) of the Official Languages (Communications with and Services to the Public) Regulations. We invite you to consult the OLRRE module in SOLO to verify if you have outstanding measurement of demand tasks.

The OLCE can provide advice on compliance with the Regulations and the Directive; however, please note that we do not have the responsibility or survey expertise to

review and approve measurement of demand methodologies. We therefore invite you to consult the <u>Best Practices Guide for Measurement of Demand</u> which we have developed in collaboration with Statistics Canada. This document contains a number of recommendations to guide you through the measurement of demand process. In addition, to ensure that your methodology provides proven results, we recommend that you determine early in the process whether the demand should be measured by internal resources (e.g., an internal audit group) or by an independent party. If you opt for an independent party, the services of survey specialists at Statistics Canada could be an option. For more information on the services offered by Statistics Canada, please consult their <u>Service proposal for measuring the demand</u>.

Toolbox

Spotlight on the Second Official Language Training Framework Tools: Accommodation Measures for Formal Language Training

Language learning is a journey, and every journey comes with its own unique challenges and opportunities for growth. That's where the TBS tool on **Accommodation Measures for Formal Language Training**, developed with support from the team responsible for the Directive on the Duty to Accommodate, can help. These measures are a key



tool in our <u>Language Training Hub</u> designed to create an inclusive learning environment.

Here's the breakdown:

- 1. **It starts with a conversation.** Employees are encouraged to clearly communicate their accommodation needs to their managers.
- 2. **Managers and employees work together to identify barriers and find solutions**. Tools like the <u>Workplace Accessibility Passport</u> and consultations with accommodation specialists can help pinpoint the best path forward.
- 3. **Choose the right learning situation.** Whether it is self-directed learning or formal training, the options are tailored to suit your learning style.
- 4. Once the plan is in place, it is time to put it into action. Managers will ensure that accommodations are in place and their employees get the support they need.
- Regular check-ins ensure the measures are effective. Managers will keep records and employees are encouraged to speak up when something is not working.
- 6. Accommodation measures do not stop at training. They also apply to Second Language Evaluations, with managers coordinating with the Public Service Commission to ensure a seamless process.

So, whether you're a manager or an employee, this tool is your ally in breaking down barriers and in improving your second official language.

Ready to dive deeper? Check out the <u>full guide</u> and let's make language training work for everyone!

Exclusions on medical grounds and Government of Canada Workplace Accessibility Passport

The Public Service Commission of Canada (PSC), in collaboration with the Office of Public Service Accessibility, is pleased to announce that employees who have been granted an exclusion on medical grounds under the Public Service Official Languages Exclusion Approval Order can now include this information in their

<u>Government of Canada Workplace Accessibility Passport</u>, supporting inclusive hiring under the Accessibility Strategy.

The information provided in the accessibility passport regarding an individual's medical exclusion may guide hiring managers to consider a non-imperative appointment, if measures can be put in place to ensure official languages obligations are met.

Subsequent requests for non-imperative appointments based on exclusion on medical grounds are streamlined and do not require a new medical file review. Approval from the PSC can be confirmed within a short period of time.

Community

Let's talk about artificial intelligence and official languages in November!



We are delighted to announce that the first edition of the Official Languages Symposium will be held from November 17 to 21, 2025 in Ottawa, with virtual options for all activities.

Taking place under the theme of "Artificial Intelligence in Support of Bilingualism", the Official Languages Symposium will explore how federal institutions can leverage artificial intelligence to promote a more bilingual, inclusive, and efficient public service, to the benefit of both employees and the public.

Stay tuned for more details in September. In the meantime, we invite you to reserve the week of November 17 to 21 in your calendar now and think about best practices you could share at this event.

Here's a preview of the program:

Monday, November 17: Panel discussion (Webcast)

Theme: Artificial intelligence in support of institutional bilingualism and bilingual service delivery

- For public servants
- In-person and virtual event
- Registration with the Canada School of Public Servant (link to come)

Tuesday, November 18 and Friday, November 21: Workshops and information sessions

- For public servants. No registration required.
- Various subjects related to official languages
- Virtual events

Wednesday, November 19: Discussion and sharing best practices related to artificial intelligence and official languages

- For PROL and PRP7
- In-person and virtual event
- Registration required. The registration link will be sent directly to invitees.

Thursday, November 20: Conference of Official Languages Champions

Theme: Leadership in artificial intelligence for a more bilingual public service

- For Official Languages Champions and members of the Committee of Assistant Deputy Ministers on Official Languages (CADMOL)
- In-person and virtual event
- Registration required. The registration link will be sent directly to invitees.
- PROL and PRP7 will be invited to listen virtually to the keynote speaker. The link will be sent directly to PROL and PRP7.

Thank you, and we look forward to seeing you at the Symposium!

Your Symposium Organizing Committee



Official Languages Day is back!



Mark your calendar! Every year, we celebrate Official Languages Day on the second Thursday in September. It's an opportunity to promote the languages that unite us across the country, and to foster appreciation of the country's two official language communities.

The flagship event for Official Languages Day 2025 will be held on September 11, from 1:30 to 3:00 p.m. (ET). This event is organized by the Council of the Network of Official Languages Champions, in partnership with TBS and the Department of Canadian Heritage, and in collaboration with the Canada School of Public Service. If you have any questions, contact the council.

Spring cleaning: update your official language contacts



As we welcome spring, it's the perfect time to ensure the accuracy of our list of PROL, Official Languages Champions, and PRP7 on the TBS website.

What you need to do:

- 1. **Review** the names and contact information of your institution's representatives.
- 2. **Contact** our team at <u>OLCEInformationCELO@tbs-sct.gc.ca</u> if any updates are needed.

Important reminder: The PROL and/or PRP7 receive official reporting and information requests on behalf of their institution and are the OLCE's institutional contact for all matters related to official languages. Each federal institution may appoint only one PROL and PRP7. If you have any questions about this requirement, please do not hesitate to communicate with our <u>support team</u>.

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Questions or comments? E-mail us at OLCEInformationCELO@tbs-sct.gc.ca

Lisez la version française