



# The OL Connection

October 2024

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## Headlines

### 2023-24 Annual Official Languages Review Exercise

The 2023-24 Annual Official Languages Review Exercise is coming to an end, and we would like to take this opportunity to thank federal institutions for participating in this exercise, jointly conducted by Treasury Board of Canada Secretariat (TBS) and Canadian Heritage (PCH).

Following the receipt of the Official Languages Reviews (refer to the [List: 2023 to 2025 Cycle](#)) and Official Languages Statistical Data from the federal institutions concerned, we are still in the process of revising and compiling information and data, and it is safe to say that everyone's participation was essential in making this transition year a great success.

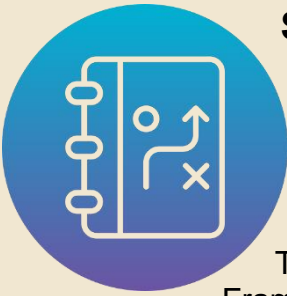
Once finalized, TBS and PCH will use the information collected to prepare their respective annual reports on Official Languages.

#### Stay tuned – 2023-2025 two-year cycle

TBS's strengthened responsibilities, reflected under the modernized *Official Languages Act*, include enhanced monitoring and reporting, and we are continuously working on developing tools and awareness to keep you informed. Please visit our evergreen [Monitoring and reporting page](#) for news and updates.

We would also like to remind you that as part of our new responsibilities, the methodology for the Official Languages Review Exercise now includes a two-year cycle, except for approximately 30 federal institutions required to submit a review on an annual basis. If your institution would like to position itself in the **2023-24 and 2024-25** period, you may visit our page to see the [List: 2023 to 2025 Cycle](#). Should you have any questions on monitoring and reporting, please contact us by email at: [OLReview-BilanLO@tbs-sct.gc.ca](mailto:OLReview-BilanLO@tbs-sct.gc.ca).

## Toolbox



### Spotlight on tools from the second official language training framework: Playbook

Is your institution looking for tools and resources to support employees in their language training journey?

Treasury Board Secretariat has launched the Language Training Framework to support second official language training for all federal public servants. The Framework includes a Playbook which features **three new self-directed learning paths (Level A, B and C)** for language training. Self-directed training is recommended as a first step in any language learning journey because it allows for the acquisition of basic proficiency, while improving the chance for success in subsequent formal training. This type of training follows a more flexible approach given that the learning is more spontaneous and conveniently integrated into daily or weekly routines. The learning paths propose a variety of self-directed online tools that are available free or at minimal cost.

Find out more about the [Playbook](#) and other second official language training tools on the [Language Training Hub](#).

Please promote these tools within your institutions!

### Official Languages Regulations Reapplication Exercise — Measurement of demand

A measurement of demand is a survey of an office's clientele on their preferred official language for communications and services. During the Official Languages Regulations Reapplication Exercise (OLRRE), you may be required to measure the demand in some of your institution's offices. If that is the case, a measurement of demand task will have been assigned to you under the OLRRE tab of the [System for Official Languages Obligations](#) (SOLO). You have until February 2026 to complete this task and enter your results in SOLO.

We would like to remind you that several resources are available to help you with this task:

- Section 6.3 of the [Directive on the Implementation of the Official Languages \(Communications with and Services to the Public\) Regulations](#);
- The [presentation](#) and [notes](#) used during the February information session on measurement of demand;
- The [Best Practices Guide for Measurement of Demand](#); and
- Statistics Canada's measurement of demand services offered on a cost-recovery basis (**For more information on these services, please consult [Statistics Canada's presentation](#)**).

The links to the above-mentioned documents and more can be found in the [Regulations Toolbox](#) on GCWiki!

We are counting on your continued collaboration to ensure a smooth OLRRE. If you have any questions, please contact the Part IV Regulations team at [info-ollo@tbs-sct.gc.ca](mailto:info-ollo@tbs-sct.gc.ca).

# Community

## The Translation Bureau Celebrates a Key Milestone in 2024



Did you know that the Translation Bureau is celebrating its 90th anniversary this year?

August 1, 1934, marked the beginning of the great adventure of the Translation Bureau, which was called the

Bureau for Translations until the early 1980s. Created to centralize translation services within the government, the Bureau remains the sole employer of translators, interpreters and terminologists within the core public administration. It is the exclusive supplier of linguistic services to Parliament and meets nearly 70% of the demand for linguistic services from federal departments and agencies.

The Bureau's history is punctuated by important events that have shaped Canada's linguistic landscape:

- 1953: The Bureau established the government's first terminology service to address the shortage of reliable dictionaries, reference works and technical glossaries.
- 1959: The Bureau launched simultaneous interpretation in the House of Commons. For the first time, English and French speakers could follow parliamentary debates simultaneously in their native languages.
- 1969: The *Official Languages Act* was passed, and the Bureau doubled its staff to help federal government employees work and communicate with Canadians in the official language of their choice.
- 1975: The Bureau acquired the University of Montreal Terminology Bank, which would be greatly expanded over time to become one of the largest terminology banks in the world: [TERMIUM Plus®](#).
- 1977: The Bureau acquired its very first machine translation system, designed for weather reports.
- 2009: As part of the Roadmap for Linguistic Duality, the Bureau launched the [Language Portal of Canada](#), making a wealth of language resources available to the general public.
- 2019: For the first time, the Bureau provided simultaneous interpretation of a speech given in an Indigenous language in the House of Commons.

Official languages enthusiasts will be thrilled to learn that the Translation Bureau is keeping up with developments in Canadian society. It is harnessing [new technologies, such as artificial intelligence](#), to meet growing demand, while drawing on the expertise of its language professionals to guarantee quality.

Wherever you are in the federal public service, you can turn to the Bureau for your needs in official languages, Indigenous languages, sign languages and foreign languages. Visit the [Translation Bureau's webpage](#) to learn more about the Bureau and its services.

## Interdepartmental portability of level A and B results for alternative methods of oral proficiency testing

The Public Service Commission (PSC) published a [Letter to Heads of Human Resources](#) (24-03) in July announcing greater flexibility in using alternative methods for oral proficiency testing (temporary measure 3).

At the discretion of deputy heads or their sub-delegated managers, levels A and B results from alternative methods for oral proficiency can be transferred between

departments and agencies subject to the *Public Service Employment Act*. Level C results are not portable between departments and agencies.

This change is based on evidence obtained from a PSC pilot and study on the effectiveness of alternative methods for oral proficiency testing.

The [questions and answers for human resources specialists](#) have been adjusted accordingly.

We invite you to share this information with hiring managers and colleagues in your organization who may be interested.



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Questions or comments? E-mail us at [OLCEInformationCELO@tbs-sct.gc.ca](mailto:OLCEInformationCELO@tbs-sct.gc.ca)

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