



# The OL Connection

Summer 2022

## HEADLINES

### **Changes to the Directive on the Implementation of the Official Languages (Communications with and Services to the Public) Regulations are taking effect**

The amended Directive on the Implementation of the Official Languages (Communications with and Services to the Public) Regulations will take effect at the end of this summer. Last fall, formal consultation on the proposed amendments took place and institutions were invited to provide feedback. These formal consultations were completed in February, and the amendments were well received for the most part by all stakeholders.

The Directive outlines the terms and timeframes for implementing the *Official Languages (Communications with and Services to the Public) Regulations*. The Regulations specify the circumstances under which federal institutions are required to provide their services in one or both official languages. They were amended in 2019. The Directive was modified to reflect these amendments and provide further support to institutions.

The amended Directive will be used to help institutions implement the modified Regulations during the Official Languages Regulations Re-Application Exercise (OLRRE). This exercise will be coordinated by TBS and conducted in a phased approach, starting in fall 2022 until 2025.

As part of this exercise, federal institutions will be required to review the linguistic designation of their offices. This will involve nearly 10,000 federal offices and nearly 700 additional offices could become bilingual across Canada. Some institutions may have to take a few steps to determine the language designation of their offices. For example:

- identify the geographic area served by their offices,

- measure the demand for services in the official language of the minority population, and/or
- consult the official language minority population they serve to determine the location of their bilingual offices.

Persons responsible for official languages (PROL), HR Council and OL Champions have been informed of the upcoming exercise. Institutions must plan for the human and financial resources required during the upcoming fiscal year.

Should you have any questions concerning the OLRRE, please contact the Official Languages Centre of Excellence ([info-ollo@tbs-sct.gc.ca](mailto:info-ollo@tbs-sct.gc.ca)).

## TOOLBOX

### Reminder: signature block requirements

The TBS Standard on Email Management (SEM) that included detailed guidance on the use of email signature blocks and official languages requirements was recently rescinded. It was replaced by the [Email Management Services Configuration Requirements](#) under the new Appendix G: Standard on Enterprise IT Service Common Configurations on May 04, 2022 (see section 5.5.3).

We would like to remind you that official language requirements for signature blocks found in the Directive on Official Languages for Communications and Services still apply when signature blocks are used:

**6.3.5 (E-mails and voicemails)** Ensuring that employees who occupy bilingual positions have e-mail signature blocks, voicemail messages and automated messages that are complete in each of the two official languages.

If you have any questions about this requirement, please contact our team: [OLCEInformationCELO@tbs-sct.gc.ca](mailto:OLCEInformationCELO@tbs-sct.gc.ca).



## CALL TO ACTION

### Explore! Resources for persons responsible for official languages

Did you know that we have two resources where you can find a wealth of information about official languages, best practices from other federal institutions, the OLCE newsletter, and much more? Take advantage of the peace and quiet that summer brings to explore these resources!

#### GCcollab

The Community of Official Languages is a collaborative space for the official languages community to share best practices, ask questions, foster learning opportunities, share job opportunities and network. If you don't already have an account, we invite you to create one. You will be pleasantly surprised by the multitude of discussions and files that you will find in this collaborative group.

#### GCwiki – Community of Official Languages

This collection of resources was developed for human resources professionals working in official languages. The collection is intended to make it easier for employees to find important information, tools and tips. Come and visit this platform where you will find references, tools, events, questions and answers, concerning official languages. This platform is updated on a regular basis, so don't hesitate to visit us often.

## COMMUNITY

### Employment opportunity

If you are looking for new challenges and want to join a dynamic and passionate team, the Treasury Board Secretariat's Official Languages Centre of Excellence would like to meet with you.

We are looking for analysts and advisors who will be asked to:

- Analyze and interpret Treasury Board official languages policies to provide advice and recommendations to federal institutions and senior management.

- Collaborate with key partners and stakeholders to identify and recommend solutions and tools to improve the bilingualism of the Public Service.
- Engage with the two official languages communities of practice to identify best practices and address horizontal issues.
- Prepare strategies, plans and analyses to respond to recommendations from various stakeholders.
- Participate in departmental and interdepartmental working groups to ensure effective consideration of official languages issues.
- Consider the impact of new ways of working and collaborating (e.g., telework, dispersed work teams) on official languages obligations.

The ideal candidates for this opportunity would have experience in drafting written material such as briefing notes, reports or presentations intended for senior management, interpreting policies, liaising with internal and external partners, reviewing Treasury Board submissions and/or drafting or providing advice on policy instruments. They would also be able to work under pressure and meet strict deadlines.

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

### Podcast: Let's talk bilingualism!

Not sure what to listen to on your next road trip? The Office of the Commissioner of Official Languages has published a three-part podcast series about the experiences of young bilingual Canadians who share the challenges and benefits of living in two official languages.

[Listen and subscribe](#) on Apple Podcasts, Google Podcasts or Spotify.

Happy listening!



### Contact information for the Official Languages Center of Excellence (OLCE)

A friendly reminder that it is important to use our generic mailboxes to contact the OLCE, particularly during the summer vacation season.

- Questions about the Annual Review on Official Languages: [OLReview-BilanLO@tbs-sct.gc.ca](mailto:OLReview-BilanLO@tbs-sct.gc.ca)
- Questions about the Official Languages Regulations and SOLO (System on Official Languages Obligations): [info-ollo@tbs-sct.gc.ca](mailto:info-ollo@tbs-sct.gc.ca)
- Interpretation services and general questions: [OLCEInformationCELO@tbs-sct.gc.ca](mailto:OLCEInformationCELO@tbs-sct.gc.ca)

Thank you for your continued cooperation!

### Important dates to add to your calendar

For Persons responsible for official languages (PROL):

**August 31** - Meeting of the Departmental and Crown Corporation Advisory Committees on Official Languages – more details to come

**October 26** - Meeting of the Departmental and Crown Corporation Advisory Committees on Official Languages – more details to come

For everyone:

**September 8** - Linguistic Duality Day - Stay tuned for more information on this event!

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Questions or comments? E-mail us at [OLCEInformationCELO@tbs-sct.gc.ca](mailto:OLCEInformationCELO@tbs-sct.gc.ca).  
Visit our website: [Community of Official Languages](https://www.canada.ca/en/official-languages/)

