



# The OL Connection

April 2023

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## Headlines

### New resource page on the Regulations



A wealth of resources and tools can be found on our [new Regulations page](#). This evolving resource will provide in one place all the tools required to better understand the Regulations and to ensure that the Official Languages Regulations Re-Application Exercise (OLRRE) is carried out successfully.

Should you have any questions on the Regulations or these resources, please contact us at: [info-ollo@tbs-sct.gc.ca](mailto:info-ollo@tbs-sct.gc.ca).

### Non-imperative appointments and deployments: updates and reminders

As per the Public Service Commission's (PSC) [Appointment Delegation and Accountability \(ADAI\) - Annex D](#), your organization must report every year to the PSC on the use of the [Public Service Official Languages Exclusion Approval Order \(PSOLEAO\)](#), the [Public Service Official Languages Appointment Regulations \(PSOLAR\)](#) and the number of non-imperative appointments.

When a person who enters into an agreement to become bilingual to be appointed or deployed on a non-imperative basis to a bilingual position, this person has an initial period of 2 years to meet the linguistic profile of the position. Extensions of the 2-year agreement to become bilingual must be approved and signed **prior to the end date of the initial agreement period**.

In 2022, the PSC updated the guidance tools and forms related to non-imperative appointments. To learn more, see: [Exclusions from meeting official language proficiency - Frequently Asked Questions - Canada.ca](#), and updated forms: [Request for Exclusion on Medical Grounds](#), [Statement of Agreement to Become Bilingual](#).

Have additional questions on the non-imperative staffing and reporting requirements? Contact your [Staffing Support Advisor](#).

# Toolbox

## New online self-study platform to learn English as a second language or French as a second language: user subscription licences

Federal institutions across Canada may now purchase annual user subscriptions for an online self-study platform using two new standing offers that were awarded on December 1, 2022, by Public Services and Procurement Canada. These services are aimed at providing federal employees across Canada with the opportunity to start, continue or refine learning English as a second language or French as a second language, or to maintain their English or French skills, through online web-based self-study solutions that can also include distance tutoring through virtual means.

### What's included in the subscription for learners?

- Learners can access learning modules which include written expression, learning comprehension and oral comprehension aligned with the Government of Canada Qualification Standards in relation to official languages from the beginner level (level A) to the advanced level (level C).
- The platform is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year and offers an online placement test to determine the learner's initial module.
- Online access to the learner's personal profile, progress reports and self-study progress.

### Optional professional services

Individual or group distance tutoring (part-time or full-time), oral language assessment and pedagogical follow-up for self-study learners may also be purchased at an additional cost.

### Price

The price per user for a 12-month annual subscription varies between both service providers and also depending on the number of licenses your institution is purchasing at the same time (batch call-ups).

### Information

For additional information on the use of the standing offers, please visit: [Online self-study program and virtual language training services across Canada](#) or contact Public Services and Procurement Canada by email at [tpsqc.paformationlinguistique-aplanguagetraining.pwgsc@tpsqc-pwgsc.gc.ca](mailto:tpsqc.paformationlinguistique-aplanguagetraining.pwgsc@tpsqc-pwgsc.gc.ca).

## Is my office subject to the Official Languages (Communications with and Services to the Public) Regulations?

Are you unsure whether the activities of an office in your organization are considered services to or communications with the public? The document [Is my office subject to the Official Languages \(Communications with and Services to the Public\) Regulations](#) contains the information you need to determine this, as well as the procedure to follow if your analysis shows that the office is not subject to the Regulations.



## New list of official language minority schools in Canada

In the [December 2022](#) newsletter, we shared the link to the new version of the Open Database of Educational Facilities (ODEF), released on November 28, 2022, by Statistics Canada as part of the Linkable Open Data Environment (LODE) initiative.

This data is essential in applying the new rule of the Official Languages (Communications with and Services to the Public) Regulations (the Regulations) according to which, if there is a minority language school in the service area of the office, the office is designated bilingual under one of the following provisions:

- 5(1)(d.1) the office or facility is located in a census metropolitan area that has fewer than 5,000 persons of the English or French linguistic minority population and the service area of the office or facility has at least one minority language primary or secondary public educational facility.
- 5(1)(h.1) the office or facility is located outside a census metropolitan area and within a census subdivision and the service area of the office or facility has at least one minority language primary or secondary public educational facility.



The ODEF contains information on approximately 19,000 educational facilities across Canada. For ease of use, we have prepared a document that includes only official language minority educational facilities. [View the document here.](#)

We would like to remind you that this new rule will be applied during the Official Languages Regulations Re-Application Exercise (OLRRE) scheduled to begin this spring. The OLRRE will be coordinated by TBS using the new System for Official Languages Obligations (SOLO). Once your office's service area has been defined, SOLO will notify you which rule applies and if there is a school in the service area.

## Call to action

### System for Official Languages Obligations: We need your support!



The System for Official Languages Obligations (SOLO) was recently launched. As this is a new Web application, we invite you to [report](#) any errors, whether they are technical problems, incorrect links or bugs related to the language of the interface.

We are counting on your collaboration to perfect SOLO and ensure a smooth OLRRE!

### Hybrid meeting facilities

The support to federal institutions team at the OLCE is looking for medium and large conference rooms equipped with hybrid meeting technology in federal institutions to organize advisory committee meetings (DACOL-CCACOL) and other OL events.

If your institution has a facility to accommodate these types of meetings and may be used by other federal institutions, please [connect](#) with us.



## Community

### Rollout of the Translation Bureau's GClingua solution continues!

Do you know GClingua?



Public Services and Procurement Canada's Translation Bureau is very proud to make this new translation request management solution available to its clients. GClingua offers many advantages: a user-friendly and easy-to-access interface, a secure environment that supports Protected A and Protected B documents, and numerous features designed to simplify request processing.

To ensure a smooth implementation of GClingua, the Translation Bureau has adopted a phased-in approach and officially launched it in January 2022. You may already be among the more than 40 departments and agencies that now have quality linguistic services at their fingertips with GClingua!

If not, the rollout of GClingua is still in progress; most of the people who do business with the Translation Bureau should soon have access to GClingua. The Translation Bureau will notify you of the exact date that GClingua will be available to your organization approximately two months in advance and will inform you of the simple process for submitting and managing your translation requests in this new solution.

To learn more about GClingua, visit the [Translation Bureau's website](#). If you have any questions about GClingua or the Translation Bureau's linguistic services, please contact us.



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

***Lisez la version française.***