

COUNCIL OF THE NETWORK  
OF OFFICIAL LANGUAGES CHAMPIONS



**REFERENCE GUIDE**  
FOR OFFICIAL LANGUAGES CHAMPIONS

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

3

Official languages champions

4

Champions' main responsibilities

6

Why a Council of the Network?

7

Council membership and operational structure

8

Vision and mission

9

Official languages governance

10

Annual events

11

Dare! Osez!

12

*Official Languages Act* in brief

13

Resources

15

Contact us

You can return to the table of contents from any page by clicking on this icon



# OFFICIAL LANGUAGES CHAMPIONS

The Network of Official Languages Champions includes approximately 215 official languages champions and co-champions, working within departments, agencies, Crown corporations and regional federal councils across the country.

# CHAMPIONS' MAIN RESPONSIBILITIES

The Treasury Board's [Policy on Official Languages](#) specifies the role of the champion.



Taking into consideration their institution's size and mandate, deputy heads are responsible for the following:

## 6.1.3 (Official Languages Champion)

Designating an Official Languages Champion, or any other person to fulfill this function, who supports the deputy head in developing an integrated vision for the official languages program within the institution, who promotes official languages, and who aims to have official languages considered in all its decision-making processes.

# CHAMPIONS' MAIN RESPONSIBILITIES



Exert influence and provide leadership in the development of action plans and the promotion of initiatives related to official languages within their institution.



Provide support to the deputy or agency head and senior officials responsible for the implementation of parts IV, V, VI and VII of the *Official Languages Act*.



Represent their institution on files related to official languages and share information with employees of their institution.



# WHY A COUNCIL OF THE NETWORK?



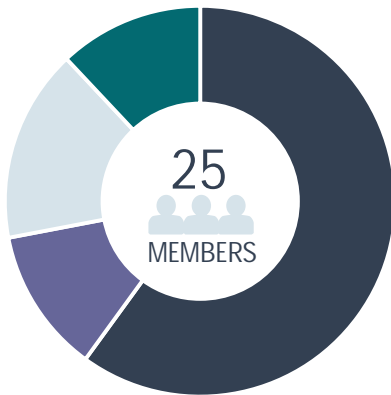
The Council of the Network of Official Languages Champions was founded in 2003 by a small group of champions in order to:

- Support and mobilize the champions
- Share information and best practices
- Identify common goals and challenges
- Provide advice and counsel to key partners
- Create horizontal coordination between departments, agencies and Crown corporations



# COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP

The Council comprises 25 members and provides a voice for 215 champions.



- 15 champions
- 3 regional representatives
- 4 key organizations (JUS, PCH, PCO, TBS)
- 3 key partners (Federal Youth Network, Human Resources Council, National Managers' Community)

# OPERATIONAL STRUCTURE



The Council meets four to five times per year.



The Chair, appointed by his/her peers, is supported by a vice-chair and a secretariat composed of one full-time employee.



The Council is funded annually by voluntary contributions from departments, agencies and Crown corporations.



# VISION



To be a valued partner that promotes a culture of bilingualism within the public service and celebrates diversity through the use of English and French.

# MISSION



Act as an agent of influence for official languages within the Government of Canada and mobilize deputy heads and official languages champions, with the aim of promoting common approaches and ensuring that official languages are a top-of-mind issue at the senior management level.






# OFFICIAL LANGUAGES GOVERNANCE

Many bodies play a key role with regard to official languages within the federal government:



 Federal institutions also have their responsibilities. For more details on official languages governance, please consult the Dare! Osez! website.

# ANNUAL EVENTS



## Conference of Official Languages Champions

This annual conference, usually held in June, gives champions an opportunity to discuss issues, challenges and lessons learned.

## Linguistic Duality Day

Linguistic Duality Day, held on the second Thursday of September, gives champions an opportunity to promote linguistic duality within their organization. In addition, an armchair discussion is held at the Canada School of Public Service and a new edition of the Commissioner's Dictation is posted on the Dare! Osez! website every year.

## Best Practices Forum on Official Languages

This annual flagship event, held on the last Thursday of November, reunites all the official languages community. This learning event provides participants with best practices and information on different issues with regard to official languages.

## Information sessions for new champions

Information sessions tailored to new champions' needs are organized in order to provide them with a clearer understanding of their new role and responsibilities.




# DARE! OSEZ!

For almost a decade, the Council has been aiming to increase awareness among federal government employees on the advantages and the value of linguistic duality in the workplace—hence the Dare! Osez! slogan, which you will notice throughout our material.

A supporting video is available on our website. It can be presented during the orientation sessions for new employees.



 **DARE TO DISCUSS!** Questions have been prepared to help you initiate an open dialogue on official languages in the workplace with your colleagues and employees.





# OFFICIAL LANGUAGES ACT IN BRIEF



PART IV: Communications with and Services to the Public



PART V: Language of Work



PART VI: Participation of English-speaking and French-speaking Canadians



PART VII: Advancement of English and French

Consult the *Official Languages Act* in its entirety.





# RESOURCES

## LAWS AND REGULATIONS

- [Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms](#)
- [Official Languages Act](#)
- [Official Languages \(Communications with and Services to the Public\) Regulations](#)
- [Public Service Official Languages Appointment Regulations](#)
- [Policy on Official Languages](#)

## INFORMATION

- [The Official Languages Act and you](#)
- [Information document on the Official Languages Act](#)
- [Official languages in communications and services to the public](#)
- [Official languages in the workplace](#)
- [Implementation of part VII of the Official Languages Act fact sheet](#)
- [Official languages governance](#)
- [List of persons responsible for official languages and official languages champions](#)
- [Roles and responsibilities of the Official Languages Champion](#)

## REPORTS AND ACTION PLANS

- [The next level: Normalizing a culture of inclusive linguistic duality in the Federal Public Service workplace](#)
  - [Dashboard on the status of the language of work recommendations](#)
- [Action Plan for Official Languages – 2018-2023: Investing in Our Future](#)
- [2018-2021 Strategic Plan: Leadership, Mobilization, Support, Partnerships \(Council of the Network\)](#)



# RESOURCES

## TOOLS AND RESOURCES

- [Dare! Osez! website](#)
- [Official Languages Hub](#)  
(Translation Bureau)
- [Language Portal of Canada](#)  
(Translation Bureau)
- [Portal for public servants](#) (Office of the Commissioner of Official Languages)
- [Dare to discuss](#)
- [Official Languages Governance: Checklist for Deputy Heads](#)
- [2017 Collection of Official Languages Resources](#) (Council of the Network)
- [Infographic on the Council of the Network](#)
- [Infographic on the role and responsibilities of Official Languages Champions](#)
- [Infographics on the official language minority communities in Canada](#) (Office of the Commissioner of Official Languages)
- [Council's contribution to Blueprint 2020/ Beyond2020](#)
- [Best practices video on official languages](#)
- [Dare! videos](#)
- [Video targeting high school students](#)
- [Video targeting university students](#)
- ["Seven": Video on Part VII of the Official Languages Act](#)
- [Other tools](#)



# QUESTIONS?



Anik Sauvé  
National Coordinator  
Council of the Network of  
Official Languages Champions



[Anik.Sauve@tbs-sct.gc.ca](mailto:Anik.Sauve@tbs-sct.gc.ca)



613-402-7885



[Dare! Osez! website](#)



[@OLChampionsLO](#)





DARE! OSSEZ!