



# The OL Connection

December 2022

In this edition:

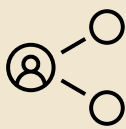
- 2023 Best Practices Forum on Official Languages
- To use, or not to use, machine translation: that is the question!
- 2022 Student Exit Survey: Official languages results
- List of official language minority schools in Canada
- Celebrate in both official languages!
- Event: Supporting Indigenous Talent
- Courses: Preparation for second language evaluations

## Headlines

### 2023 Best Practices Forum

The organizing committee is looking for innovators and leaders in the area of official languages to contribute to the Best Practices Forum on Official Languages being held from **February 6-10, 2023**.

#### Seeking innovative practices



On the menu:

- Armchair discussions (webcast)
- Virtual kiosks
- Workshops
- Videos, tools, resources and innovative initiatives

Do you have an inspiring or innovative practice (videos, resources, guides, etc.) that could be used in other federal institutions? You can share it in the Forum by:

- offering a workshop (virtual or hybrid)
- hosting a virtual kiosk
- publishing on the Forum's GCwiki page

If you are interested in any of these options, please fill out this [form](#) by **January 6, 2023**.

#### Information

Contact the organizing committee: [OLCEInformationCELO@tbs-sct.gc.ca](mailto:OLCEInformationCELO@tbs-sct.gc.ca).

## Connections

### To use, or not to use, machine translation: that is the question!

Machine translation tools are steadily improving, and you may be wondering how well they can meet your needs. It's a question that Public Services and Procurement Canada's Translation Bureau often gets asked... and that it's wondered about itself!

The Translation Bureau has been working with machine translation tools for a long time in an effort to leverage technology to effectively serve the many federal, provincial, territorial and municipal organizations that use its services. It has found that, while these tools can sometimes produce impressive results, they do have drawbacks that should be kept in mind:

- × They make meaning errors.
- × They don't take into account the cultural context or target audience.
- × They don't know how to formulate text in a "natural" way.
- × They don't know specialized vocabulary and don't take into account terminology preferences.
- × They can't resolve inconsistencies in the text being processed.

In addition, their servers are often located outside the country and can store the information that is provided to them, which is a threat to confidentiality.

This is why the Translation Bureau recommends using machine translation only if:

- The information isn't protected or classified.
- The subject matter isn't specialized.
- The presence of potential translation errors won't have any consequences, including non-compliance with the [Official Languages Act](#).
- The result won't be distributed or will be professionally revised before being distributed.

If any one of these criteria is not met, use the [quality services offered by the Translation Bureau!](#)

If you have never done business with the Translation Bureau before or you don't know if your organization has a service agreement with the Bureau, call 1-855-997-3300 or write to [bureaudelatraduction.translationbureau@tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca](mailto:bureaudelatraduction.translationbureau@tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca) and the Bureau will gladly answer all your questions.

Think quality and security, put your trust in the Translation Bureau!



*Note: Do you have a machine translation that you would like the Translation Bureau to revise? You should know that it often takes longer for the Bureau to revise a machine translation than it does to translate it. Send your original text and the Bureau's highly qualified employees will use the best tools to efficiently produce a high-quality translation.*

## 2022 Student Exit Survey: Official languages results

### Students encouraged to work in the official language of their choice within the public service

91% of students said they were encouraged to work in the official language of their choice during their employment in federal departments and agencies in 2022.

This is what the [2022 Student Exit Survey](#) (SES) reveals, which was administered from August 2 to September 16, 2022. A total of 6,324 students responded to the 2022 SES across 74 participating departments and agencies.

The Survey themes for this year included recruitment and onboarding, workplace experience, future employment in the federal public service, as well as questions related to well-being in the workplace. In this survey, there were two questions related to official languages.

For the question “I was encouraged to work in the official language of my choice,” 84% of the French-speaking respondents and 93% of the English-speaking respondents answered positively. In fact, only 5% of Francophones provided a negative answer, versus 1% among Anglophones.

If we compare these results with those from the 2021 SES, we can see an improvement of 4 percentage points among the Francophones that provided positive answers and of 1 percentage point among the Anglophones.

On the other hand, for 64% of the students, working in the official language of their choice was the 5th most important criterion for accepting their student employment offer in the federal public service, after gaining work experience in their field of study (80%), establishing contacts and networking opportunities for future work in the federal public service (77%), the timing of the job offer (77%) and the job location (69%). However, the language criterion outweighed the opportunity to telework (61%), the salary (59%) and an educational requirement (e.g., CO-OP, internship, etc.) (53%), the recommendations from other students working in the federal public service (37%) and that there were no other job offers at the time (27%) as reasons to join the Public Service for a summer job. 67% of English-speaking students found that working in the official language of their choice was a decision criterion (out of 4,918 respondents), while 54% of the French-speaking students did (out of 1,388 respondents). However, this criterion was slightly or not at all important for 22% of the Anglophones and for 30% of the Francophones. Nevertheless, when compared with the 2021 SES, the language of work criterion increased in value by 4 percentage points.

In addition to the Survey’s website, institutions can access the results through the Open Government web portal [at this address](#).

## Toolbox

### List of official language minority schools in Canada

Please find below the link to the new version of the Open Database of Educational Facilities (ODEF), published on November 28, 2022, as part of Statistics Canada's Linkable Open Data Environment (LODE) initiative. The ODEF contains information on approximately 19,000 educational facilities across Canada, and coverage was enhanced to include an educational facility's status as an official language minority school (OLMS): [The Open Database of Educational Facilities \(statcan.gc.ca\)](https://www.statcan.gc.ca)

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.

This new rule will be applied during the Official Languages Regulations Re-Application Exercise (OLRRE) scheduled to begin in the winter/spring 2023. 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.

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

## Celebrate in both official languages!

The season to celebrate is upon us! Using resources from the Language Portal of Canada, the Official Languages Centre of Excellence has put together a special toolbox to help you and your teams celebrate in both official languages this season:



- Blog: [Laugh and learn with holiday songs](#)
- Quiz: [How to write holiday greetings](#)
- Quiz: [How well do you know your Christmas carols?](#)
- Quiz: [Can you identify the correct French name for each holiday?](#)
- Quiz: ["The Night Before Christmas" trivia\\*](#)
- Quiz: [Christmas in literature](#)
- Quiz: [Winter in world literature\\*](#)
- Quiz: [Holiday season vocabulary](#)
- Writing tips: [Christmas, Xmas, Nowel, Yule, Twelfth Night\\*](#)

Use some of these resources during your workplace holiday celebrations this year to help promote the use of both official languages, and to celebrate both the anglophone and francophone cultures!

*\*Some of these resources are only available in English. Read the French publication to find equivalent content.*

## Community

### Event: Supporting Indigenous Talent

December 15, 2022 | 1:30 pm – 3:00 pm (EST)

This informative event is presented in partnership with the Public Service Commission of Canada and the Knowledge Circle for Indigenous Inclusion, and will highlight best practices for recruiting, retaining, and supporting the career progression of Indigenous public servants.

[Click here](#) to learn more about this event and to register!

## **Courses: Preparation for second language evaluations**

The FON401 and FON402 courses are once again available through the Canada School of Public Service's learning platform!

### **[FON401] Preparation for the English as a Second Language Evaluation: Written Expression and Reading Comprehension**

This online self-paced course presents practice tests that follow patterns and conditions similar to those of the official language evaluations for written expression and reading comprehension in English.

### **[FON402] Preparation for the French as a Second Language Evaluation: Written Expression and Reading Comprehension**

This online self-paced course provides exercises that assist learners in preparing for tests of written expression and reading comprehension in French as a second language.

Connect to the School's [new learning platform](#) to register for these courses.



Published by the Official Languages Centre of Excellence, December 2022.  
Questions or comments? E-mail us at [OLCEInformationCELO@tbs-sct.gc.ca](mailto:OLCEInformationCELO@tbs-sct.gc.ca)

*Lisez la version française.*