

2023–2024 ACHIEVEMENTS FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF SECTION 41

Part VII of the *Official Languages Act*

Tombstone Data

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Canadian Heritage

Institution's Code:

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Introduction

In 2023–2024, Canadian Heritage (PCH) spearheaded the modernization of the *Official Languages Act* (the Act), working in collaboration with several federal departments. That historic reform saw significant advances for official language minority communities (OLMCs).

Among the main achievements of the modernization were important changes to Part VII of the Act, as well as the enactment of a new statute, the *Use of French in Federally Regulated Private Businesses Act*. In imposing official languages obligations on private businesses in regions with a strong Francophone presence, the later statute represents a major step forward for the protection and promotion of the French language in Canada.

Following royal assent to Bill C-13 on June 20, 2023, PCH turned its attention to the development of two sets of regulations necessitated by that reform. The first set of regulations concerns the use of French in federally regulated private businesses, while the second deals with the power of the Commissioner of Official Languages to impose administrative monetary penalties to boost support for the official languages, which includes providing more support for Francophone minority communities.

The modernization represents a major shift in the role of our department: Canadian Heritage no longer has legislative responsibility for coordinating the implementation of section 41 of the Act. That responsibility now falls to the President of the Treasury Board, who is expected to exercise leadership in relation to the implementation of the Act. This shift towards horizontal coordination within a central agency signals a new era in federal linguistic governance.

Concurrently, in April 2023, the Government unveiled *Action Plan for Official Languages 2023–2028: Protection – Promotion – Collaboration*. Backed by an unprecedented investment of \$4.1 billion over five years, this ambitious plan aims to strengthen the protection and promotion of the official languages across Canada. At the heart of this plan is the establishment of a Centre for Strengthening Part VII of the *Official Languages Act* tasked with contributing to government-wide engagement in taking positive measures to enhance the vitality and support the development of OLMCs, advance the equality of status and use of the two official languages in Canada, and protect and promote French throughout Canada, including in Quebec. These functions are performed by PCH and TBS.

The initiatives and positive measures presented in this review speak of Canadian Heritage's commitment to meeting its obligations under Part VII of the Act, a commitment that is incorporated into all the Department's business lines and cycles. The questions the Department is answering reflect the strengthened requirements of the Act. It bears mentioning, however, that 2023–2024 was a year of transition, as the Department moved from the old Act to the modernized Act. During that year, the Department began implementing the new requirements across all its business lines and will continue to step up its internal outreach efforts, informing staff and providing them with the necessary tools to maximize compliance with the Act.

Advancement of the equality of status and use of English and French	
1(a)	<p>For questions 1(a), 1(b), 1(c) and 1(d), please describe the positive measures taken, their impact, the success factors and the results. Where possible, give examples from different regions of Canada. Some projects are small in scale but have a positive impact on official language minority communities (OLMCs). When you provide figures—for example, “our institution supported five projects in OLMCs”—provide supporting details: who, what, when, where, why and how?</p> <p>Draw on examples of positive measures from last year’s review: PCH 2022–2023 review – Part VII of the Official Languages Act</p> <p>Your institution ensured that positive measures were taken to advance the equality of status and use of English and French, in order to:</p> <p>Check if applicable.</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> enhance the vitality of official language minority communities (OLMCs) and support and assist their development</p> <p>In which of the following key sectors did you support and assist OLMC development? Check all that apply, and describe at least one example for each key sector checked.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Culture <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Education (from early childhood to post-secondary education) <input type="checkbox"/> Health <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Justice <input type="checkbox"/> Employment <input type="checkbox"/> Immigration <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify key sector)
	<p>Core responsibility: Official Languages</p> <p><i>Action Plan for Official Languages 2023–2028: Protection – Promotion – Collaboration (the Action Plan)</i></p> <p><i>Community Media Strategic Support Fund (CMSSF)</i></p> <p>In 2023–2024, 26 projects were funded by the CMSSF. In June 2023, following the announcement of the renewal of the community media support measures in the Action Plan, the Consortium des médias communautaires created an independent structure to better represent and serve OLMC community media. That structure is in line with the sector’s expectations in terms of representation, maximizing program reach and impact, and ongoing support. The Consortium’s 2022–2023 impact report highlights the positive effects the CMSSF is having, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More than 2,000 new print newspaper subscribers • Over 1,200 new digital newspaper subscribers • Upwards of \$1.6 million in additional revenues • More than 500 hours of radio content added to regular programming

Community Cultural Action Fund (CCAF)

The Association franco-ontarienne des parents et amis d'enfants ayant une cécité ou basse vision (AFOPEC) in Ottawa received \$24,500 from the CCAF for a project entitled "Pour une heure de conte accessible aux enfants avec une cécité ou une basse vision en Ontario!" [Towards accessible storytelling for blind or low-vision children in Ontario!]. The project brought together parents, friends and families of blind or low-vision children to foster closer ties among Francophone parents, schools and communities. Participants took part in workshops with a professional storyteller to create an accessible story in French, and a box of model books was distributed to families. The results include the removal of barriers to literacy, improved communication, increased parental confidence and the strengthening of the children's social and emotional skills. Over 40 participants benefited from this project.

Development of Official Language Communities (DOLC)

Community Cultural Action Fund (CCAF)

The Quebec Region supported the Literary and Historical Society of Quebec's "Building a Community – Celebrating Our Institutions and Built Heritage" project, which highlighted the accomplishments and built heritage of the Quebec City region's English-speaking community by examining past and present community institutions that have shaped the community's heritage. Activities included creating a mapped profile of the region's institutions and buildings, developing self-guided walking and driving tours, and hosting a launch event. The project received \$26,000 in 2023–2024.

Core responsibility: Creativity, Arts and Culture

Canada Arts Presentation Fund (CAPF)

In 2023–2024, in the Northwest Territories, the CAPF granted \$36,000 to the Association franco-culturelle de Yellowknife, the city's only French-language performing arts presenter, to deliver a season of professional performances entitled "Arts et culture francophone à Yellowknife." This multi-disciplinary series included a variety of professional music, comedy and circus performances designed to appeal to youth and adults alike.

Core responsibility: Diversity and Inclusion

Community Support, Multiculturalism and Anti-Racism Initiatives Program (MARP)

In the Prairies and Northern Region, to mark Black History Month, the MARP awarded \$24,500 to the "Black and Proud 2024" project, the third iteration of this event. This co-production of Théâtre Cercle Molière and photographer and video artist Wilgis Agossa included a bilingual exhibition of Agossa photos depicting portraits of black and mixed-race members of the community, with major events in Black history scrolling across the screen. Organized in collaboration with L'Accueil francophone du Manitoba and the Réseau en immigration francophone du Manitoba, among others, the project

	<p>sought to educate and raise awareness in the community about the contributions of Black people to Manitoban society.</p> <p>*Justice: see example of the Court Challenges Program in the question on promoting and protecting French.</p>
<p>1(b)</p>	<p>Your institution ensured that positive measures were taken to advance the equality of status and use of English and French, in order to:</p> <p>Check if applicable.</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> foster the full recognition and use of both English and French in Canadian society</p> <p>By way of illustration, the measures may have had the following objectives: Check all that apply, and describe at least one example for each objective checked.</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> project the bilingual character of Canada at home and abroad</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> foster an acceptance and appreciation of both English and French</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> other (specify objective)</p>
	<p>Core responsibility: Official Languages</p> <p><i>Best Practices Forum on Official Languages</i></p> <p>Canadian Heritage worked with the Treasury Board Secretariat and the Council of the Network of Official Languages Champions to develop an ambitious program for the February 2024 Best Practices Forum on Official Languages. Nearly 1,400 federal employees attended the six virtual workshops hosted by various federal institutions, and just shy of 2,000 people took part in the “Spotlight on the Modernized <i>Official Languages Act</i>” discussion with senior public servants.</p> <p><i>Official Languages Day</i></p> <p>The Prairies and Northern Region helped organize <i>Official Languages Day 2023</i>, which saw more than 2,700 people from across the country attend the webcast, which is now open to the public. Themed “Our Languages, a Window to the World,” the event showcased two OLMC organizations: the Association des francophones du Nunavut and the Regional Development Network. The two organizations spoke about the backgrounds of their members and the main activities of their organizations.</p> <p><i>Development of Official Language Communities (DOLC)</i></p> <p>PCH supported numerous educational and community infrastructure projects to enhance the vitality of OLMCs. These spaces are hubs for the majority and minority linguistic communities and primarily serve OLMCs. In 2023–2024, PCH supported 89 projects across the country for both Quebec’s English-speaking community and Francophone minority communities, allocating \$150.4 million to the provinces and territories for second-language learning.</p>

	<p>Core responsibility: Creativity, Arts and Culture</p> <p><i>Canada Music Fund (CMF)</i></p> <p>The CMF recognizes the distinct realities and challenges of the English- and French-language music markets by designating separate initial recipients (Musicaction and FACTOR), thereby ensuring balance and efficiency in the creation and promotion of, and access to, Canadian music. The approved programs and projects reflect the realities of these markets. In 2022–2023 (most recent data available), the CMF supported 773 artists working on French-language music projects and 1,962 artists working on English-language music projects, thereby contributing to the advancement of English and French in Canada.</p> <p>Core responsibility: Heritage and Celebration</p> <p><i>State Ceremonial and Protocol (SCP)</i></p> <p>The official languages are systematically promoted at state events organized by the SCP Directorate. For example, the programming celebrating the coronation of His Majesty King Charles III was designed to ensure equitable representation of English and French, both in the messages conveyed by the masters of ceremony and in the artistic elements and speeches.</p>
<p>1(c)</p>	<p>Your institution ensured that positive measures were taken to advance the equality of status and use of English and French, in order to:</p> <p>Check if applicable.</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> protect and promote the French language</p> <p>By way of illustration, the measures may have had the following objectives: Check all that apply, and describe at least one example for each objective checked.</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> support the creation and dissemination of information in French that contributes to the advancement of scientific knowledge (specify in which discipline)</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify objective) Justice</p>
	<p>Core responsibility: Official Languages</p> <p><i>Modernization of the Official Languages Act (MOLA)</i></p> <p>In 2023–2024, PCH led the modernization of the <i>Official Languages Act (Act)</i> with other federal departments, achieving significant advancements in the protection and promotion of French. These included significant changes to the Act, including the addition of five references to the fact that the <i>Government of Canada is committed to protecting and promoting the French language, recognizing that French is in a minority situation in Canada and North America due to the predominant use of English.</i></p> <p>A new statute, the <i>Use of French in Federally Regulated Private Businesses Act</i>, was created to strengthen French-language service and the presence of French in the private sector.</p>

Following royal assent on June 20, 2023, the team began developing two sets of regulations—the Use of French in Federally Regulated Private Businesses Act Regulations and the Administrative Monetary Penalties Regulations—to provide the Commissioner with additional powers with which to support both official languages, which includes providing more support for Francophone minority communities, who had been especially vocal about ongoing issues experienced while travelling.

[*Action Plan for Official Languages 2023–2028: Protection – Promotion – Collaboration \(the Action Plan\)*](#)

In 2023–2024, as part of the new Action Plan initiative to support the creation and dissemination of scientific information in French, PCH supported an initial French-language knowledge mobilization project. A \$30,000 grant was awarded to the Association canadienne-française pour l'avancement des sciences (ACFAS) to develop a national plan for mobilizing scientific knowledge in French. This plan, implemented by ACFAS headquarters and six regional chapters, is expected to have an impact on Francophone communities in both majority- and minority-language contexts.

Core responsibility: Heritage and Celebration

[*Canadian Heritage Information Network \(CHIN\)*](#)

CHIN, in collaboration with professionals from the French-speaking heritage community, offers a translation of the *Conceptual Reference Model of the International Committee for Documentation (CIDOC CRM)*. Developed by the International Council of Museums (ICOM), the model is used for the integration, mediation and interchange of cultural and heritage information by museums worldwide. This translation enables a multitude of Francophone communities to play an effective role on the heritage technology scene. It also enables the non-French speakers who use CIDOC CRM to better serve those communities by automatically leveraging translation in their own software and tools. The translation, as well as the supporting training materials, work tools and templates, are kept up to date and are available in various formats free of charge under an open licence (CC-BY), for the benefit of all.

Core responsibility: Diversity and Inclusion

[*Court Challenges Program \(CCP\)*](#)

In line with its commitment to advancing the equality of status and use of English and French, the CCP places particular emphasis on protecting and promoting the French language. By providing funding for legal interventions related to Part VII of the *Official Languages Act*—which specifically aims to advance English and French in Canadian society—the CCP actively contributes to the protection and promotion of the French language. Through its support for cases addressing the language rights of French speakers, the CCP upholds the principles of linguistic equality and works towards safeguarding and promoting the French language.

For example, in 2022–2023 (most recent data available), the CCP funded a case under section 16 of the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms* in relation to the right of litigants to hearings entirely in French before the country's administrative tribunals.

	<p>With funding from the CCP, the beneficiary brought an action claiming that a government’s failure to appoint bilingual decision-makers to administrative tribunals constituted a violation of section 16 rights. This case will provide an opportunity to re-examine the scope of section 16 and, more specifically, the implications of subsection 16(3) of the <i>Charter</i>.</p>
<p>1(d)</p>	<p>Your institution ensured that positive measures were taken to advance the equality of status and use of English and French, in order to:</p> <p>Check if applicable.</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> advance formal, non-formal and informal opportunities for members of English and French linguistic minority communities to pursue quality learning in their own language throughout their lives, including from early childhood to post-secondary education</p> <p>By way of illustration, the measures may have had the following objectives: Check all that apply, and describe at least one example for each objective checked.</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> promote and support the learning of both official languages</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> other (specify objective)</p>
	<p>Core responsibility: Official Languages</p> <p>Mauril.ca</p> <p>In 2024, PCH’s deputy minister, a champion of the official languages community, encouraged her fellow champions in the universities to invite students to get to know the free Mauril.ca app. Thanks to the featured CBC and Radio-Canada audio and video content, learning English or French is an entertaining and stimulating proposition. Since its launch, Mauril has been downloaded more than 400,000 times across all the provinces and territories of Canada. Based on the user profiles, 66% of users are learning French, while 34% are learning English.</p> <p>Development of Official Language Communities (DOLC)</p> <p>Teacher Recruitment and Retention Strategy in Minority French-Language Schools</p> <p>In 2023–2024, the Fédération culturelle canadienne-française (FCCF) received funding for a two-year project entitled “Recruter et retenir les enseignants en arts : La Ruchée, Phase II” [Recruiting and retaining arts teachers: the Ruchée]. The aim of this project was to provide more resources and support for arts education teachers and students. It included coaching for 50 teachers, training for 6 artists to design educational activities, and a workshop on creative confidence for 25 education students and 25 teachers. The project also saw the publication of a review of the academic literature on arts education.</p> <p>Development of Official Language Communities (DOLC)</p> <p>In 2023–2024, DOLC signed provisional arrangements with each province and territory to the tune of \$332.8 million. These agreements were intended to support the provinces and territories in their efforts to provide quality minority-language education in keeping with their obligations under section 23 of the <i>Canadian Charter of Rights and</i></p>

	<p><i>Freedoms</i>. These bilateral agreements also included the new investments announced in Budget 2023 to support second-language learning for Canadians across the country, as well as the funding in Budget 2021 to support post-secondary education in the minority language.</p> <p>Core responsibility: Creativity, Arts and Culture</p> <p><i>TV5 Québec-Canada</i></p> <p>TV5 Québec-Canada in introducing various initiatives to promote and support learning French, such as the “Chroniques de bureau” [Office chronicles] series launched in winter 2023 with the support of the Office québécois de la langue française (OQLF), which focuses on learning French. TV5 Québec-Canada also manages Francolab, a free-of-charge educational platform from TV5 and Unis TV for teachers and learners of French.</p> <p>Core responsibility: Diversity and Inclusion</p> <p><i>Exchanges Canada Program (ECP)</i></p> <p>The ECP takes positive measures to support informal opportunities for youth from OLMCs to pursue quality learning in their own language by subsidizing their travel within the country so they can participate in reciprocal official language minority exchanges. For example, Destination Canada delivered OLMC-focused exchanges for 413 young people, where groups or individual youth from OLMCs throughout the country were twinned to exchange in their first official language.</p>
<p>2.</p>	<p>Your institution developed <u>mechanisms</u> and practices to take into account the Government of Canada commitments with respect to advancing the equality of status and use of English and French (reference: commitments in question 1).</p> <p>Check the box that applies. If you checked “Yes”, provide at least one example.</p> <p>Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>No <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Please provide examples of measures adopted by your institution, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ the implementation of procedures to ensure that program decision-making processes incorporate a consideration of OLMC needs and the taking of positive measures in programs and services ▪ the evaluation and monitoring of those processes, and adjustments to address any shortcomings identified ▪ mechanisms for consulting or engaging key stakeholders and partners ▪ initiatives implemented, impact, success factors and results
	<p>Core responsibility: Official Languages</p> <p>PCH has mechanisms in place to systematically incorporate an official languages lens into policy and program development. Official languages resource persons comment on the official languages impact analyses for Memoranda to Cabinet and Treasury Board</p>

	<p>submissions, applying a specific validation process. Advice is also provided on changes to guidelines or the development of official language clauses for funding agreements. In 2023–2024, various tools were developed, including a checklist to ensure that the new obligations under Part VII of the Act are taken into account in decision-making.</p> <p><i>Action Plan for Official Languages 2023–2028: Protection – Promotion – Collaboration (the Action Plan)</i></p> <p>In 2023–2024, with a view to renewing the <i>Collaboration Agreement for the Development of Arts and Culture in the Francophone Minority Communities of Canada 2018–2023</i>, PCH continued to work with the signatory federal institutions as well as organizations represented by the Fédération culturelle canadienne-française (FCCF), encouraging open dialogue and the search for synergies. For example, PCH facilitated bilateral meetings and thematic working groups aimed at addressing the priorities and challenges of Francophone communities. This initiative supports the cultural and artistic development of Francophone and Acadian communities, and contributes to Canada’s cultural diversity.</p> <p><i>Official Languages Support Programs (OLSPs)</i></p> <p>During the year, the Atlantic region organized and hosted a presentation on Part VII of the Modernized Act for the Fédération acadienne de la Nouvelle-Écosse (FANE), with some 30 members in attendance. In addition, program officers and management provided personalized coaching to more than 25 OLMC clients, discussing needs and funding opportunities in connection with the Community Spaces Fund.</p> <p>Core responsibility: Creativity, Arts and Culture</p> <p><i>Creative Export Strategy (CES)</i></p> <p>To increase equitable access to CES programs and services, stipulations and results targets are included under the renewed CES to ensure the prioritization of equity-deserving groups, including OLMCs, in the evaluation process for both Creative Export Canada (CEC) applications and applications to participate in trade missions. The CEC program includes funding reserved specifically for organizations that fall within priority groups, which include OLMCs.</p> <p>Core responsibility: Sport</p> <p><i>Hosting Program (HP)</i></p> <p>The HP developed a support tool for all employees working to establish contracts, particularly research-related contracts. The tool determines the type of contract required and the information that must be included. It also addresses official languages considerations, for example, reminding users that all material for public consumption must be available in both official languages, with both versions being released simultaneously.</p>
3.	<p>During the reporting year, your institution conducted dialogue or consultation exercises with official languages stakeholders, including official language minority</p>

	<p>communities (OLMCs). Please specify who the stakeholders were and what the objectives of the dialogues or consultations were.</p> <p>Check the box that applies. If you checked “Yes”, provide an explanation.</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No</p>
	<p>Core responsibility: Official Languages</p> <p><i>Action Plan for Official Languages 2023–2028: Protection – Promotion – Collaboration (the Action Plan)</i></p> <p>In April 2023, the Action Plan announced \$20.1 million over 5 years for the creation of a new <i>Centre for Strengthening Part VII of the Official Languages Act</i> (the Centre). This horizontal strengthening initiative operated in partnership with the Treasury Board Secretariat was created and publicly launched amidst calls from Canadians for federal institutions to do more in taking positive measures in support of the government commitments in the <i>Official Languages Act</i>.</p> <p>From February to April 2024, there were five virtual consultations on the Centre attended by nearly 350 official languages stakeholders:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Groups representing Francophone minority communities 2. Groups representing the interests of Quebec’s English-speaking communities 3. Groups representing organizations involved in the learning and appreciation of English or French as a second language and bilingualism 4. Groups working to protect French in Canada, including in Quebec 5. Representatives of the provincial and territorial governments, specifically those responsible for Francophone affairs <p>At the conclusion of these consultations, stakeholders expressed a desire for better collaboration between federal institutions, stakeholders and the various levels of government, as well as consultations that were better coordinated, better planned and synergistic, fostering effective participation and supported by the sharing of materials in advance to avoid “consultation <i>fatigue</i>.” A full report will be released in summer 2024.</p> <p>In March 2024, Western Region program advisors participated in community dialogue sessions on the Action Plan for Official Languages with official languages community stakeholders in Alberta and British Columbia to discuss their needs. In addition, throughout the year, official languages program advisors created and offered virtual training sessions for all applicants from official language minority communities on the process for submitting a funding application, as well as offering one-on-one training for new employees and new members of the boards of official languages organizations to answer any questions they might have about the process and better support them.</p> <p>The Prairies and Northern Region maintains close ties with four advocacy organizations in the region: Société de la francophonie manitobaine, Assemblée communautaire fransaskoise, Fédération franco-ténoise, and the Association des francophones du Nunavut. They meet at least once a year to discuss community needs, issues and priorities, or to discuss specific files. Members of management or the regional official</p>

languages team attend the annual general meetings of these organizations, either in person or virtually. In March 2024, dialogue sessions on the implementation of the Action Plan were held in the region (Manitoba and Northwest Territories) in collaboration with the Official Languages Branch.

Core responsibility: Creativity, Arts and Culture

Canada Periodical Fund and its components

Local Journalism Initiative (LJI)

In the area of journalism, Canadian Heritage supports Réseau.Presse (RP) and the Quebec Community Newspapers Association (QCNA), the two delivery organizations responsible for the LJI serving OLMCs. The regular roundtable discussions are an opportunity to share and reiterate certain needs, and to gain a better understanding of the specific issues and challenges.

In the 2023 evaluation of the LJI, RP, the QCNA and OLMC media were consulted on their needs and on what best practices to adopt. The results of that evaluation, which will be released by August 2024, will inform future funding cycles.

Canada Book Fund (CBF)

The CBF conducted virtual roundtable discussions with industry stakeholders in the summer and fall of 2023. The objective of the engagement sessions was to hear from key stakeholders, including the Association of English-Language Publishers of Quebec (AELAQ) and the Regroupement des éditeurs franco-canadiens (REFC), on how the Government of Canada can further support the growth of the Canadian publishing sector and the promotion of Canadian-authored books at home and abroad through the CBF. In particular, the program wanted to better understand the current Canadian publishing landscape and how recent trends might inform program priorities and renewal. By consulting these groups, the CBF gains insights into the challenges specific to each OLMC.

Canada Media Fund (CMF)

The CMF works to understand the needs and priorities of OLMCs by organizing annual meetings with key industry representatives. Such consultations, a stipulation of the contribution agreement, serve to foster and maintain dialogue with communities, specifically OLMCs. The CMF also consults creators, producers and stakeholders in the Canadian industry in a formal and inclusive manner when designing or modifying its programs and guidelines.

For example, each year, the CMF organizes consultations with Francophone broadcasters outside Quebec, such as TFO and UNIS, and minority producer groups, such as the Alliance des producteurs francophones du Canada (APFC) and the Quebec English-Language Production Council (QEPC).

In 2023–2024, discussions identified a need for additional support for the French-language market. What is more, as part of certain annual consultations, many

	<p>participants shared concerns about the decline of the French language, not only in Quebec, but also in the rest of Canada, particularly among the younger generations. To them, it was very important that rules be in place to ensure Canadian content meaningfully includes original French-language content. The CMF subsequently reported on the concerns and solutions raised during these consultations.</p>
<p>4.</p>	<p>If applicable to your institution, when negotiating agreements with provincial and territorial governments (including funding agreements) in sectors that may contribute to enhancing the vitality of official language minority communities (OLMCs), fostering the recognition and use of English and French in Canadian society, protecting and promoting the French language or learning in one’s own language, your institution had a mechanism in place to promote the inclusion of official language provisions in those agreements.</p> <p>Check the box that applies. If you checked “Yes”, provide an explanation.</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Not applicable to your institution or to the reporting year in question.</p>
	<p>Core responsibility: Official Languages</p> <p><i>Development of Official Language Communities (DOLC)</i></p> <p><i>Enhancement of Official Languages (EOL)</i></p> <p>Through bilateral agreements with the provincial and territorial governments on minority-language services, the Official Languages Branch (OLB) supports a multitude of sectors key to official language minority communities. These resources support the provinces and territories in their efforts to deliver provincial and municipal services in the minority language within their jurisdictions and to improve access to such services.</p> <p>For example, in the area of culture, the support for minority-language services will enable Saskatchewan to improve French-language services at the Royal Saskatchewan Museum (Canada-Saskatchewan Agreement – 2028). Similarly, in Manitoba, this support will strengthen promotion for the purposes of recruiting Francophone newcomers (Canada-Manitoba Agreement 2023–2028).</p> <p><i>Development of Official Language Communities (DOLC)</i></p> <p><i>Service agreements</i></p> <p>In 2023–2024, DOLC supported the delivery of minority-language services through bilateral agreements with each of the provinces and territories where French is the minority language, in order to support expanded service offerings in that language. Budget 2023 allocated an additional \$10.4 million to these agreements. PCH is committed to covering all expenses related to providing services in the minority language (e.g. French, in the territories).</p> <p><i>Education agreements</i></p> <p>To support French-language instruction in Francophone minority communities, provisional arrangements were signed with the 12 provinces/territories with French as</p>

	<p>the minority official language. These arrangements, worth just over \$131 million in total, provide support for the education continuum as a whole.</p> <p>Core responsibility: Sport</p> <p><i>Sport Support Program</i></p> <p>Bilateral contribution agreements were signed with all 13 provinces and territories to bolster physical literacy and boost sport participation among children and youth, including through culturally relevant community sport programs for Indigenous children and youth.</p> <p>Each agreement includes an official languages clause whereby the provinces or territories must identify the target audience and the needs of the relevant OLMCs in the case of an activity or the development of a program, as well as ensuring that communications and services to participants are offered in both official languages.</p> <p>The official languages requirements are reviewed before the bilateral contribution agreements are signed.</p>
<p>5.</p>	<p>During the year, your institution ensured that positive measures were taken to protect and promote the presence of strong institutions serving official language minority communities.</p>
	<p><i>Development of Official Language Communities (DOLC)</i></p> <p>As the following example shows, the DOLC program and its three components—Community Life, Minority-Language Education and Infrastructure Projects—enhance the vitality of English- and French-speaking minority communities and support their development:</p> <p>The Fédération des communautés francophones et acadienne (FCFA) received \$955,154 from the Cooperation with the Community Sector sub-component for a project to implement a public policy support service for the Fédération’s member organizations. The three-year project (2022–2023 to 2024–2025) involves supporting community organizations in order to boost their capacity to proactively influence public policy so that such policy is more responsive to the needs of Francophone minority communities. The service provides support in four areas: (1) data and knowledge mobilization, (2) development of arguments and interventions, (3) legal advice, (4) strategic communication. In addition, the project includes establishing an issues table bringing together public policy and communications staff to share best practices and explore common intervention approaches. Through this project, the organization aims to increase the representation and strategic-communications capacity of Francophone organizations in minority settings, thereby enabling those organizations to more effectively influence the development of public policy so that such policy meets their needs and enhances the vitality of Francophone communities.</p>
<p>6.</p>	<p>In developing a disposal strategy for a surplus federal real property or federal immovable, the institution consulted official language minority communities and other stakeholders in order to take into account the needs and priorities of the</p>

	<p>English or French linguistic minority communities of the province or territory where the federal real property or federal immovable was located.</p>
	<p>Canadian Heritage does not own any buildings. It is a tenant under leases managed by Public Services and Procurement Canada.</p>
<p>7.</p>	<p>Please give one or two examples of best practices that your institution has put in place as part of its commitment to Part VII of the OLA.</p>
	<p>Core responsibility: Official Languages</p> <p>With the June 2023 adoption of Bill C-13, which modernized the Official Languages Act (the Act), Canadian Heritage’s official languages co-champions immediately stepped up their outreach efforts within the Department, hosting information sessions for executives where they presented the main changes to the Act. A dozen other information sessions were given by those responsible for official languages during the year to inform and raise awareness among departmental employees at all levels.</p> <p>In collaboration with the Treasury Board Secretariat, the team responsible for modernizing the Act made some twenty presentations to federal institutions and various community groups. These presentations, aimed at explaining the modernized Act, its main principles and the federal government’s new obligations, reached audiences such as Network 41, the Committee of Assistant Deputy Ministers on Official Languages (CADMOL), Official Languages Day and the Best Practices Forum on Official Languages including the participation of the Deputy Minister of Canadian Heritage.</p> <p>Many other initiatives have been put in place at PCH to publicize the changes to the Act. For example, the Official Languages@PCH, Now We’re Talking! intranet page has a new section: Official Languages and the Modernization of the Act. Documents to help employees implement the Act are gradually being added. For example, the Overview of the Modernized Official Languages Act describes the new obligations for all federal institutions, as well as the specific commitments for the Minister of Canadian Heritage.</p> <p>In addition, throughout the year, short information capsules on official languages were disseminated via the weekly email summary sent out by PCH Internal Communications to all departmental employees. These capsules cover various current and emerging aspects of official languages.</p> <p>A new “Official Languages@PCH” MS Teams group was also created to announce new developments, share tools and resources, and promote activities relating to official languages.</p> <p>Lastly, three issues (May, October, December) of the Official Languages Branch’s The Reflex newsletter were sent out to recipients of the OLB’s Official Languages Support Programs and were shared with employees via the Canadian Heritage intranet. The main objective of the newsletter is to highlight and share information about the work being done to implement the Act and as part of PCH’s role of supporting the Minister responsible for Official Languages.</p>

Our institution has also developed mechanisms and practices to take into account the federal government's commitments to progress towards the advancement of equality of status and use of English and French, for example:

PCH has mechanisms in place to systematically incorporate an official languages lens into policy and program development. Official languages resource persons comment on the official languages impact analyses for Memoranda to Cabinet and Treasury Board submissions, applying a specific validation process. Advice is also provided on changes to guidelines or the development of official language clauses for funding agreements. In 2023–2024, various tools were developed, including a checklist to ensure that the new obligations under Part VII of the Act are taken into account in decision-making.

Action Plan for Official Languages 2023–2028: Protection – Promotion – Collaboration (the Action Plan)

In 2023–2024, with a view to renewing the Collaboration Agreement for the Development of Arts and Culture in the Francophone Minority Communities of Canada 2018–2023, PCH continued to work with the signatory federal institutions as well as organizations represented by the Fédération culturelle canadienne-française (FCCF), encouraging open dialogue and the search for synergies. For example, PCH facilitated bilateral meetings and thematic working groups aimed at addressing the priorities and challenges of Francophone communities. This initiative supports the cultural and artistic development of Francophone and Acadian communities, and contributes to Canada's cultural diversity.

Official Languages Support Programs (OLSPs)

During the year, the Atlantic region organized and hosted a presentation on Part VII of the Modernized Act for the Fédération acadienne de la Nouvelle-Écosse (FANE), with some 30 members in attendance. In addition, program officers and management provided personalized coaching to more than 25 OLMC clients, discussing needs and funding opportunities in connection with the Community Spaces Fund.

Core responsibility: Creativity, Arts and Culture

Creative Export Strategy (CES)

To increase equitable access to CES programs and services, stipulations and results targets are included under the renewed CES to ensure the prioritization of equity-deserving groups, including OLMCs, in the evaluation process for both Creative Export Canada (CEC) applications and applications to participate in trade missions. The CEC program includes funding reserved specifically for organizations that fall within priority groups, which include OLMCs.

Core responsibility: Sport

Hosting Program (HP)

The HP developed a support tool for all employees working to establish contracts, particularly research-related contracts. The tool determines the type of contract

	required and the information that must be included. It also addresses official languages considerations, for example, reminding users that all material for public consumption must be available in both official languages, with both versions being released simultaneously.
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