

Official Languages Lens

Part VII of the *Official Languages Act* (OLA)

Federal institutions' commitments and duties

Legal duty to take positive measures to implement commitments to:



Enhancing the vitality and supporting the development of official language minority communities (OLMCs) and promote the full recognition and use of English and French

Protecting and promoting the French language

Advancing opportunities for learning in the language of the minority

What is a positive measure?



Example of a positive measure to foster the full recognition and use of English and French in Canadian society:

- ➔ Include the obligation to acknowledge the source of federal funds in both official languages in all funding agreements

Example of a positive measure to enhance the vitality of OLMCs:

- ➔ Make OLMCs a priority in calls for proposals

Example of a positive measure for the protection and promotion of the French language:

- ➔ Encourage funding recipients to offer their website in both official languages (OL)

Example of a positive measure to advance minority-language learning opportunities:

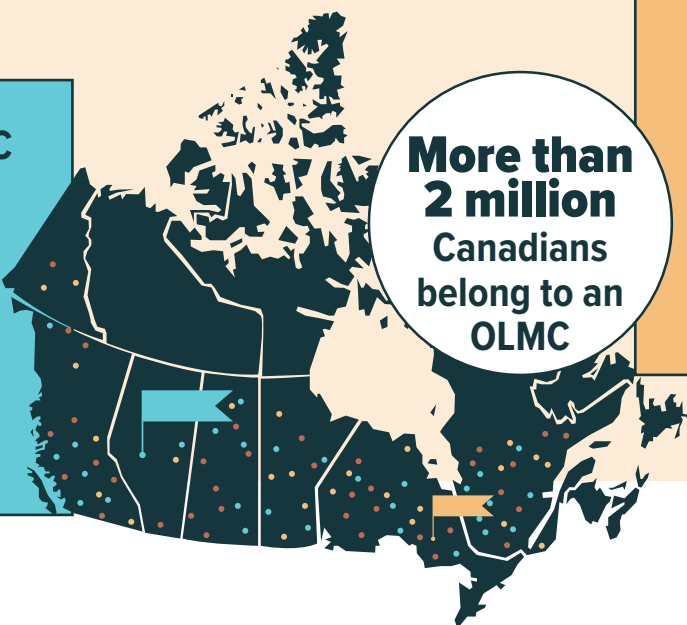
- ➔ Encourage funding recipients for projects with a training component to ensure that training is available in both official languages (OL)

OLMCs

OLMCs are defined by both their geographic location (where they are situated) and collective identity associated with the use of an official language in a minority setting. A community can be defined primarily by the sense of unity and belonging of its members. Such a group shares a culture that it generates through its language, practices and symbols by which it represents itself (e.g., community-based organizations).

Examples of French-speaking OLMC representatives :

- ➔ Fédération des communautés francophones et acadienne du Canada (FCFA)
- ➔ Réseau de développement économique et d'employabilité du Canada (RDÉE Canada)
- ➔ Fédération des aînés et aînées francophones du Canada (FAAFC)



Examples of English-speaking OLMC representatives:

- ➔ Quebec Community Groups Network (QCGN)
- ➔ Community Economic Development and Employability Corporation (CEDEC)
- ➔ Regional Development Network (RDN)

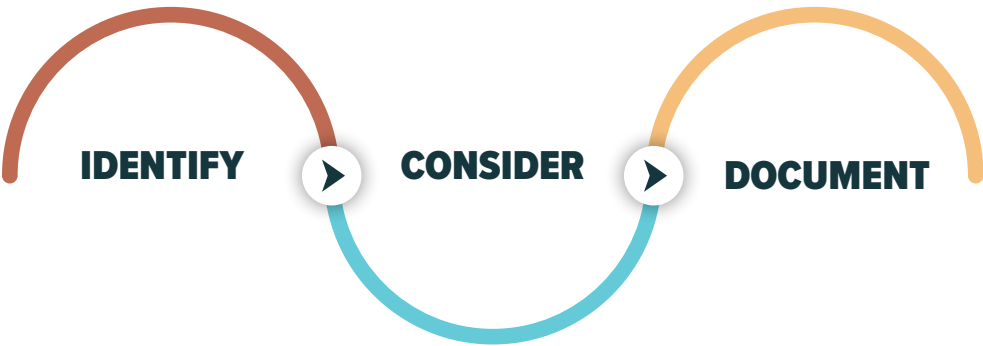




As a tool, the OLCA allows to discern the potential impacts of programs, projects and initiatives on OLMCs, to understand their needs, and to identify relevant positive measures.

INTERSECTIONALITY	
OLCA enables a number of identity factors to be taken into consideration in order to better understand the diversity within OLMCs.	
STEPS	QUESTIONS TO ASK
Strategic Planning	
Identify the region targeted by the program, policy or project. Determine if an OLMC is present.	- In which region will the program or project be implemented? - Is there a school in the minority official language? - Is there an official language minority community organization in the region? - Does the federal government have demolinguistic statistics on the population living in the region? - Is the program or project national in scope? If so, how can it be adapted to the needs of different OLMCs, each with its own specific needs?
Implementation	
Facilitate implementation.	- What performance indicators have been selected? - Is this taken into account in the choice of funded activities? - Are the needs identified taken into consideration in the call for proposal? - Does the funding agreement contain an official language clause?
Accountability	
Accountability.	- What are the results of the implementation of the program or project? - Does the analysis of the selected performance indicators lead to the conclusion that the activities have had a positive impact? - What are the impacts of the funded activities? - Does the evaluation show that adjustments are needed? - Are the existing performance measurement and reporting mechanisms adequate?

Part VII Implementation



How to write an *Official Languages Act* Part VII conclusion in a Memorandum to Cabinet or Treasury Board submission?

- ➔ Take notice of the requirements of the Cabinet, Treasury Board, and the Directive on Transfer Payments.
- ➔ Do an OLCA;
Provide an evidence-based conclusion:
 - Support the conclusion with evidence-based facts (literature review, consultations, guides, representatives’ websites, etc.)
 - Showcase the relationship between the programs’ objectives, the potential impacts and OLMCs’ needs.
 - Clearly identify what positive measures have been implemented.

Funding Agreement

The funding agreement must contain a description of how the recipient’s activities will meet ESDC’s Part VII obligations. Inclusion of an official languages clause is strongly encouraged.



How to determine whether an OLMC is present?

- ➔ **Burolis**: Burolis database offers information on federal government service points in Canada.
- ➔ **School**: The presence of a school that provides instruction in the minority official language.

Part VII Centre of Expertise

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Official Languages Lens (esdc.prv)

Guidance Tool for Official Languages Considerations When Developing Strategic Documents (iservice.prv)