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Canadian Heritage

# OFFICIAL LANGUAGES

Interdepartmental Coordination 2001-2002

Canada

## Implementation of section 41 of the *Official Languages Act*

The Government of Canada is committed to enhancing the vitality of the English-speaking and French-speaking minority communities in Canada and supporting their development (section 41). The Department of Canadian Heritage, in consultation with other departments and agencies, encourages and promotes a coordinated approach to the implementation by federal institutions of these commitments (section 42).

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# Interdepartmental Coordination:

## partners working for the well-being of the official-language minority communities

This insert in the Minister of Canadian Heritage's *Annual Report on Official Languages* presents a summary of the main achievements resulting from the 2001-2002 action plans of the 29 key federal departments and agencies covered by the accountability framework that the federal government established in August 1994 for the implementation of section 41 of the *Official Languages Act*. This section sets out the Canadian government's commitment to enhancing the vitality of Canada's French-speaking and English-speaking minorities, supporting their development and promoting the full recognition and use of French and English in Canadian society.

During the current fiscal year, nine departments and agencies were added to the list of those which concluded memoranda of understanding under the Interdepartmental Partnership with the Official-Language Communities (IPOLC). This is an initiative of the Department of Canadian Heritage that offers additional funding to the contributions made by

other federal departments and agencies to encourage them to support initiatives that correspond to the priorities of the official-language minority communities. IPOLC's main objective is to create sustainable links between these communities and the participating departments and agencies. The achievements described here are a testament to the Canadian government's tangible and concerted commitment to linguistic duality. These actions help to enhance and enrich the Canadian social fabric. The increased vitality of official-language minority communities goes hand in hand with Canada's efforts to benefit from the diversity of its population. Readers who would like more information about specific action plans and related achievements can contact the department or agency of their choice directly. To that end, the inside cover of this insert contains a list of resource persons and telephone numbers. This document is also available on the Department of Canadian Heritage's Web site:

<http://www.pch.gc.ca/progs/lo-ol/publications/2001-02/english/insert.html>.

## Cultural Sector

### CANADA COUNCIL FOR THE ARTS

In 2001-2002, the Canada Council for the Arts (CCA) carried out two major initiatives. CCA signed a memorandum of understanding with Canadian Heritage within the framework of the Interdepartmental Partnership with the Official-Language Communities (IPOLC) for the cultural and artistic development of the Anglophone community in Quebec. It also participated in the renewal, for a five-year period, of the Agreement for the

Development of French Canadian Arts and Culture. One of the steps taken under this multipartite agreement in 2001-2002 was a study on the situation of Francophone visual artists in minority communities.

The Council pursued a number of initiatives to ensure artists from official-language minority communities have equal access to its programs, while considering the specific situations they work in. The CCA regularly organizes consultation and

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information meetings with artists in the region, Anglophones in Quebec and Francophones outside Quebec. It continued to maintain direct working relationships with the *Fédération culturelle canadienne-française*. The Council also participated in regular meetings with national coordinators responsible for the implementation of section 41 of the *Official Languages Act*.

### CANADIAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION

In the 2001-2002 fiscal year, the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (CBC), along with other federal institutions, was involved in the renewal of the Agreement for the Development of French Canadian Arts and Culture with the *Fédération culturelle canadienne-française*. The purpose of this agreement is to increase and facilitate the promotion and visibility of Francophone and Acadian artists in all disciplines. Further to commitments undertaken with the CRTC during the renewal of licences, French Television set up the Regions' Panel, which has met twice and has already had a major impact: the four western stations each produce a weekly public affairs magazine. The number of journalists, especially those covering the cultural scene, has also been increased, and ten news bureaux have been created.

In order to support its investments in the regional independent production industry, French Television helped establish a development program for French-language writers and producers working and living outside Quebec. Its partners in the project were Telefilm Canada, Canadian Heritage, through the Interdepartmental Partnership with the Official-Language Communities (IPOLC), and the *Alliance des producteurs francophones du Canada*. French Television added a noon news bulletin to its programming in the Atlantic region. It also invested more in independent regional productions through the variety series *Un air de famille* and *Pour l'amour du country*, and the drama series for young people *Service point.com*. All of these programs are

produced by independent businesses operating outside Quebec. Moreover, there has been increased co-operation between regional stations, resulting in the broadcast of weekly programs.

The highlight of the year for French Radio was the CRTC decision to grant 18 new licences to install transmitters for the cultural network in every province. French Radio has also increased the number of regional production and broadcasting facilities, so that certain programs can be produced regionally and broadcast on the network. French Radio particularly supports the promotion and development of talent. To this end, it was involved in the creation of the *Réseau national des galas de la chanson* and continued its work by giving the next generation access to professionals, its studios and advice, with assistance provided by Canadian Heritage under IPOLC.

On the international scene, CBC launched in Paris a new music site for the 15-to-30 age group called *bandeapart.fm* during the week of *La Francophonie*. Radio and Television have continued to work with stations and broadcasters from Europe and Africa through the production of programs, the sharing of journalists and training, among participating countries.

### CANADIAN HERITAGE

In 2001-2002, the Department of Canadian Heritage continued supporting the development of official-language minority communities, enhancing their vitality and fostering the full recognition of English and French in Canadian society. One of the Department's major advances is the Interdepartmental Partnership with the Official-Language Communities (IPOLC). Since IPOLC was created in January 2000, 13 memoranda of understanding have been signed with 12 federal organizations, and official-language minority communities have received more than \$17 million in funding.

In education, Canadian Heritage has signed special agreements on the quality of education and on post-secondary education with most provinces and territories. For example, under the Canada-Ontario Special Agreement for the Completion and Full Development of French-Language Colleges in Ontario and through Human Resources Development Canada, there will be \$8.1 million in additional funding for new professional development programs in growth sectors. In addition, as a result of federal-provincial agreements in education, thousands of minority-language students are studying in their language in approximately 1,000 schools throughout Canada, and around 2.6 million youth are learning English or French as a second language. Canadian Heritage also participates in implementing various minority-language provincial and territorial services in areas such as culture, health and social services.

Other components of the official languages program foster the learning and promotion of English and French. These include the Summer Language Bursary and the Official-Language Monitor programs, Young Canada Works in Both Official Languages, the Program for the Development of Official-Language Services, the Assistance for Interpretation and Translation Program, the National Program for the Integration of Both Official Languages in the Administration of Justice (POLAJ) and the Support for Linguistic Duality Program. As well, in order to direct the development of Canada's linguistic duality policy, the Department of Canadian Heritage set up an endowment fund at the *Université de Moncton*, in March 2002, to support the creation of the Canadian Institute for Research on Linguistic Minorities. Canadian Heritage also gave the City of Ottawa \$2.5 million in funding over five years to introduce bilingual services. It also funds *Les Rendez-vous de la Francophonie*, an important event promoting the French language and culture in Canada.

The Department's cultural and sport programs also support linguistic duality in Canada. Museums, theatre, publishing, broadcasting, music, media arts, visual arts, performing arts and major sporting events are all areas of focus. We would like to mention the support provided for events and organizations such as the *Salons du livre*, the *Festival CinéFranco* (Toronto), the *Réseau Ontario des arts de la scène*, the *Centre culturel francophone de Vancouver*, the *Solstice d'été* (Inuvik, NWT) and the *IV<sup>th</sup> Games of La Francophonie*. In addition, the Agreement for the Development of French Canadian Arts and Culture was renewed on March 18, 2002. This agreement, which draws upon a number of portfolio agencies, made it possible to carry out numerous distribution and promotion projects.

Some departmental programs make a significant contribution to the use of French in new media. The Canadian Culture Online Program, which represents approximately \$200 million over three years, almost half of which is devoted to digitizing French-language content, is a good example of this. The Department also helped develop the Canadian government's new communications policy, which came into effect on April 1, 2002 and encourages federal departments and agencies to communicate effectively with minority communities. Canadian Heritage also coordinates the Government of Canada's participation in the international French-language television network *TV5*.

### NATIONAL ARTS CENTRE

In 2001-2002, the National Arts Centre (NAC) signed the Agreement for the Development of French Canadian Arts and Culture, which was reached by various federal cultural agencies and the *Fédération culturelle canadienne-française*. It also hosted the third *Festival du théâtre des régions*, formerly known as *Les 15 jours de la dramaturgie des régions*, which brought together French-language troupes from Canada and around the world. True to its mandate,



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the NAC intends to continue supporting this biennial cross-Canada event. In early 2002, it conducted a major consultation of the heads of theatre companies operating in a French-language minority environment in order to look at opportunities to work together in the future.

### NATIONAL CAPITAL COMMISSION

The National Capital Commission (NCC) is active in congresses and colloquiums throughout the country looking for new talent, of which many come from official-language minority communities. These artists participate in special events, ceremonies and celebrations such as Canada Day. As part of the promotional activities for its youth programs, the Commission participated in the *Salon des enseignants de français langue maternelle*, organized by the *Alliance canadienne des responsables et des enseignants et des enseignantes en français langue maternelle (ACREF)*. It placed inserts in a number of second-language publications, including publications of the *Association québécoise des enseignants de langue seconde*, Teachers of English as a Second Language (TESL Ontario), the Canadian Association of Immersion Teachers, the Canadian Association of Second Language Teachers and Canadian Parents for French. The NCC coordinated the systematic distribution of educational resources promoting Canadian capitals in schools and official-language minority communities (2,000 schools in total).

### NATIONAL FILM BOARD OF CANADA

The National Film Board of Canada (NFB) broadcast a number of French-language productions on Canadian channels such as *Radio-Canada*, *Réseau de l'information* and *Télétoon*, enabling viewers in official-language minority communities to access more NFB productions. Furthermore, NFB helped organize viewings of its movies in a number of these communities. Three films produced in Quebec by Anglophone filmmakers had their television debut in Quebec. A number of NFB films were presented at

festivals in cities with large official-language minority communities.

Information is easily accessible from the NFB bilingual Web site, the toll-free telephone number, the French online shop and the online catalogue. Five issues of *@ctiONFilm*, the French Program's online newsletter for the general public and institutions, were published during the fiscal year and permanently posted on the NFB Web site.

Finally, the NFB joined the list of signatories for the Agreement for the Development of French Canadian Arts and Culture. This agreement between the federal government and the *Fédération culturelle canadienne-française* fosters cooperation, mutual support and synergy. Over the year, it held a number of meetings with the *Alliance des producteurs francophones du Canada*.

### PARKS CANADA

In 2001-2002, Parks Canada maintained solid relations with official-language minority communities. Within the framework of its heritage presentation programs, Parks Canada consulted Francophone communities to develop bilingual programs that reflect the identity of these communities and their contribution to the history of the region. Parks Canada held wide-spread public consultations on the management plans of national parks and ensured that the official-language minority communities participated in the process. Furthermore, authorities from numerous national parks and historic sites collaborated with official-language minority groups to promote Francophone tourism in their region. Parks Canada also worked with other levels of government, institutions and the private sector to promote Canada's linguistic duality.

### TELEFILM CANADA

For the third consecutive year, Telefilm took a lead role in organizing the Immersion Program for Francophone Producers outside Quebec, in cooperation with Canadian Heritage and the *Alliance*



*des producteurs francophones du Canada* (APFC). The objective of the program is to bring together French Canadian producers far from the decision-making centre in French Canada and French-language distributors.

Again in 2001-2002, the *Institut national de l'image et du son* held development workshops for French-language writers and producers working and living outside Quebec, with funding from the Interdepartmental Partnership with the Official-Language Communities (IPOLC). This training is intended to improve professional practice in writing and producing works of fiction. The training workshops were held in Montreal for screen writers, and at CBC studios in Ottawa for producers.

In addition to holding its own consultations, Telefilm attended several national and regional meetings organized by Canadian Heritage in 2001-2002, and was part of a working group on media arts. This group brought together several key stakeholders, including APFC, the Canadian Television Fund, broadcasters, Canadian Heritage and the National Film Board. During the year, 37 French-language projects outside Quebec received funding from Telefilm. Telefilm's participation in French-language projects in minority communities increased by 37 per cent to \$4.7 million. English-language

production in Quebec increased considerably: there were 85 projects, with \$15.7 million in funding from Telefilm Canada.

The Canadian Television Fund, the Canada Feature Film Fund and the Canada New Media Fund also contributed to the increase in production in minority-language communities. Telefilm also maintained its versioning assistance with financial commitments totalling \$1.5 million. Under these initiatives, Telefilm supported festivals showing films in the minority official language of a given province: *Cinémental* and the *International Festival of Films for Kids of all Ages* (which has a major Francophone component) in Winnipeg, the *Rendez-vous du cinéma québécois et francophone* in Vancouver, the *Festival international du cinéma francophone* in Acadia and *Cinéfest* in Sudbury. In addition to this funding, Telefilm granted additional money for electronic subtitling to several festivals in Quebec, which made it possible for both official-language groups to see the films. Lastly, Telefilm sponsored *Cinémania*, the festival of English-language films in Montreal.

## Economic Sector

### AGRICULTURE AND AGRI-FOOD CANADA

The progress made by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) in 2001-2002 reflects a number of commitments and measures designed to strengthen partnerships with official-language minority communities and to foster their development and vitality. The Department's three objectives were to establish a partnership with official-language communities; to support the two human resources development committees (one for Canada's

Francophone communities and one for the Anglophone community in Quebec) of Human Resources Development Canada (HRDC); and to hold consultations on the Agriculture Policy Framework.

In 2001-2002, AAFC concluded a three-year memorandum of understanding with the Department of Canadian Heritage under the Interdepartmental Partnership with the Official-Language Communities (IPOLC). This memorandum resulted in six projects and the preparation of a rural

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development planning initiative for official-language minority communities. AAFC contributed to the development of leadership among young people; the modernization of electronic networks; strengthening the role of Francophone associations dealing with farming enterprise management; the dissemination of agricultural information in French; an assessment of the health of Yukon's Francophone community; and a community animation project for rural communities in Alberta. Through its involvement with the two HRDC committees, AAFC also took part in the joint committee of Ontario's *Réseau de développement économique et d'employabilité*. It also added the Community Tables of the national Anglophone and Francophone committees to the list of consultations on the Agriculture Policy Framework.

### ATLANTIC CANADA OPPORTUNITIES AGENCY

Over the last fiscal year, the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency (ACOA) supported two specific projects. The first is related to the preparation of celebrations for 2004 commemorating the arrival of the French in the Americas. The other involves the Canada Winter Games 2003, to be held in Bathurst-Campbellton, New Brunswick. Through its programs, ACOA continued to provide assistance to the Community Business Development Corporations, Canada Business Service Centres, community economic development agencies and Francophone and Acadian community associations. In order to better reach these communities, ACOA opened two new satellite offices. Together with Canadian Heritage and under the Interdepartmental Partnership with the Official-Language Communities (IPOLC), the Agency helped develop a distance training course about starting up and managing SMEs in Atlantic Canada.

Specifically, ACOA was represented in various Francophone government organizations and participated in some events of the Francophonie. It conducted a study on economic development in the Chaleur-Restigouche area and a survey of young

entrepreneurs. The results will be used to launch new entrepreneurship projects, also directed to young Francophones in the area. ACOA offered entrepreneurial training and information sessions to aspiring young entrepreneurs and to companies. In addition, it helped create a new business incubator in Nova Scotia, with an emphasis on the knowledge economy. In New Brunswick, together with various campuses of the *Université de Moncton*, ACOA fostered the development of international trade and entrepreneurship. Finally, it helped establish the first Francophone biomedical research centre outside Quebec.

### BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT BANK OF CANADA

The Business Development Bank of Canada offers services through its 80 branches and strives to provide a presence in official-language minority communities throughout Canada. In 2001-2002, the BDC assessed the eligibility of these communities for its programs and services. In particular, it conducted consultations with Ontario's Francophone community. It also continued to participate in the activities of the National Committee for Canadian Francophonie Human Resources Development (NCCFHRD). Moreover, the BDC fostered the growth of economic associations and groups in Ontario, the Atlantic Provinces and in Quebec through conferences and seminars. In Manitoba, it established the Franco-Manitoban loan program. Finally, it used the minority media and ran television ads on the CBC's *Réseau de l'information* (RDI) and *Radio-Canada* to promote its services.

### CANADA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (QUEBEC REGIONS)

In the 2001-2002 fiscal period, Canada Economic Development reviewed the obligations of Community Futures Development Corporations (CFDC) under the provisions of the *Official Languages Act*. The Department signed a three-year memorandum of understanding with Canadian

Heritage, under the Interdepartmental Partnership with the Official-Language Communities (IPOLC). Six new projects for Quebec's Anglophone community were carried out under this memorandum of understanding.

During the same period, Canada Economic Development continued to participate in the activities of the National Human Resources Development Committee for the English Linguistic Minority. The support it provided for the development of the Anglophone community in Quebec helped increase the number of funded projects, which rose from 37 in 2000-2001 to 48 in 2001-2002.

### CANADIAN TOURISM COMMISSION

After becoming a Crown corporation on January 2, 2001, the Canadian Tourism Commission (CTC) agreed to be one of the key federal agencies included in the 1994 accountability framework for the implementation of section 41 of the *Official Languages Act* (OLA). It accordingly undertook to foster new approaches to increasing the effectiveness of its official languages program. In the 2001-2002 fiscal period, the CTC continued to offer a range of tourism development programs and also conducted negotiations with representatives of official-language minority communities. This was designed to secure the participation of all provinces in Canada in a series of programs on tourism in official-language minority communities in Canada. These measures also led to the consideration of other projects that might be undertaken with official-language minority organizations in the future, in particular with the French-language press outside Quebec.

### INDUSTRY CANADA

In 2001-2002, Industry Canada (IC) worked with various regional development agencies (Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency, Canada Economic Development for Quebec regions, Western Economic Diversification Canada) to implement a strategy to

optimize the participation of official-language minority communities (OLMC) in its programs and services. Throughout Canada, its staff increased efforts to promote awareness among OLMCs. The communities in turn played a more active role in programs. Its staff implemented plans to improve services and increase economic development opportunities in the communities. Industry Canada launched the second component of its internal awareness campaign. It launched its intranet site, ProAction 41, to better inform its employees about section 41 of the *Official Languages Act* and about OLMCs. It continued its efforts to promote internet access for OLMCs and implemented its three-part strategy emphasizing communications, analysis and research, and increased participation in existing programs.

During this period, Industry Canada contributed to ten projects through Canadian Heritage's Interdepartmental Partnership with the Official-Language Communities (IPOLC). It also conducted economic development activities. Here are three examples: a two-day workshop on e-commerce in the Pacific region; investments of over \$1,185,000, through FedNor, in Ontario; and a seminar addressed primarily to Francophone delegates from New Brunswick, with the participation of American representatives from the consulates in Boston and Atlanta. In Quebec, various tools made Anglophone businesses more aware of opportunities for trade and partnerships. In particular, workshops and seminars were given by embassy staff, and businesses and associations were visited to promote trade with countries in Africa and the Middle East.

### PUBLIC WORKS AND GOVERNMENT SERVICES CANADA

In the past year, Public Works and Government Services Canada (PWGSC) contributed in a significant way to the success of the *IV<sup>th</sup> Games of La Francophonie*, held in the National Capital Region in July 2001. Among other things, it supplied

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accommodation for officials and their staff, assisted the organizing committee through more than a hundred PWGSC volunteers, loaned computers and offered translation services. In addition to this substantial effort, the Department donated 42 computers and 2 printers to the official-language minority community associations; maintained the federal government's reduced accommodation rates program to qualified community organizations; distributed TERMIUM on CD-ROMs or TERMIUM Plus on the Internet; and, in partnership with several Canadian universities and colleges, continued its involvement in the University Partnership Program (practicums in translation).

### WESTERN ECONOMIC DIVERSIFICATION CANADA

Western Economic Diversification Canada (WD) maintained its support to the operations of the four Francophone Economic Development Organizations (FEDOs) to ensure that they are able to provide a full range of services vital to business development, such as information, training, mentoring, counseling and entrepreneurship promotion. The FEDOs and other Francophone organizations received funds from WD's Special Economic Development Initiatives to

identify issues and opportunities in the West. The FEDOs include the *Société de développement économique de la Colombie-Britannique*, the *Chambre économique de l'Alberta*, the *Conseil de la coopération de la Saskatchewan* and the Economic Development Council for Manitoba Bilingual Municipalities.

WD maintained and strengthened the current operations of Francophone entrepreneurs and SMEs. Multi-year funding allows for long-term planning, an increase in the accountability of these organizations, access to capital, partnership with WD's Service Delivery Network and finally, the support of economic development initiatives in priority sectors as defined by the Francophone communities themselves. In 2001-2002, all four FEDOs negotiated agreements with a financial institution in their province.

WD also relied on the Department of Canadian Heritage's Interdepartmental Partnership with the Official-Language Communities (IPOLC) to promote Franco-Manitoban entrepreneurship and initiate heritage tourism projects in Alberta. These projects have contributed to the development of the Francophone tourist corridor and promoted the elaboration of the development plan for the *Grande Place francophone de Calgary* initiative.

## Human Resources Development Sector

### CANADA POST CORPORATION

Over the past fiscal year, the Canada Post Corporation sought to support the French language and to encourage children to write by sponsoring the *Cartes du monde* initiative, in cooperation with the *Fondation Paul Gérin-Lajoie*, as part of *Les Rendez-vous de la Francophonie*. It also developed the Cyberquest corner for young people on its Web site, providing young people with tools to help them use their first or second official language. Canada Post supported the French for the Future project, which enables students to take

full advantage of the opportunities associated with knowing a second language. As part of the 25<sup>th</sup> annual convention of the *Association de la presse francophone*, the Corporation sponsored awards of excellence that were given to *Le Franco* in Alberta and *Le Madawaska* in New Brunswick. Moreover, it used minority-language radio to support its sales and marketing activities and to reach official-language minority groups within and outside Quebec.

Under the Community Access Program, the Corporation continued to work with Industry Canada

on the installation of computers connected to the Internet in certain postal outlets. The Canada Post Literacy Awards were given to members of official-language minority communities in recognition of the exceptional work they do as teachers and leaders in their communities and in the business sector.

### CANADIAN CENTRE FOR MANAGEMENT DEVELOPMENT

In 2001-2002, the Canadian Centre for Management Development (CCMD) conducted a series of orientations and roundtables for Deputy Ministers and associate Deputy Ministers which reinforce the leader's role in promoting official languages in the workplace. The learning component of the Management Trainee Program contains a module on the *Official Languages Act* covering section 41, which contributes to an understanding by future leaders of their responsibility towards the development of the official-language minority communities and the promotion of linguistic duality. CCMD also consulted with official languages branches in central agencies with a view to clarifying the treatment of various official languages themes, including section 41, and integrating messages regarding linguistic duality into the core curriculum.

In collaboration with CCMD, the Regional Councils of Senior Federal Officials of the four Atlantic provinces joined forces to organize and hold the Atlantic Symposium on Official Languages. This Symposium mobilized 29 federal institutions to rethink and renew the Official Languages Program. In addition, CCMD organized socio-economic learning trips for the educational component of the Career Assignment Program where participants met with members of minority-language groups in various regions. It also offered, for the first time, an American program in French to Francophone executives and managers by hiring French-speaking facilitators and arranging for course material to be translated into French. Furthermore, it sponsored a research project with the *Université de Moncton*

which looked at ways to improve relations between citizens and the public service in the regions.

### HEALTH CANADA

In 2001-2002, Health Canada worked very actively with official-language minority communities, both at headquarters and in the regions. Departmental and regional coordinators, as well as officials from the regional offices and programs at headquarters, endeavoured to better meet the needs of official-language minority communities and forge lasting relationships with them. Health Canada accordingly supported many projects submitted by community groups right across the country. It also continued to implement the memorandum of understanding concluded with Canadian Heritage under the Interdepartmental Partnership with the Official-Language Communities (IPOLC).

In addition, Health Canada supported the work of the Consultative Committee for French-Speaking Minority Communities. This committee commissioned the *Fédération des communautés francophones et acadienne du Canada* to conduct a major study on access to health care services in French. The committee submitted a report with seven recommendations to the Minister of Health. Health Canada published this report for the national forum called *Santé en français*, held in Moncton in November 2001. It also supported the work of the Consultative Committee for English-Speaking Minority Communities, which seeks to foster access to health care services in English for Anglophones in Quebec. It must also address issues of demography and vitality through improved coordination and enhanced cooperation between networks of public institutions, community institutions and community organizations. In response to the recommendations made by these committees, particularly with regard to the importance of "networking," Health Canada launched a public health program for official-language minority communities.



## Human Resources Development Sector

### HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT CANADA

In 2001-2002, Human Resources Development Canada (HRDC) continued to follow through on the federal commitment to foster the growth and vitality of official-language minority communities. In December 2001, under the Interdepartmental Partnership with the Official-Language Communities (IPOLC), the Department concluded a memorandum of understanding with Canadian Heritage. HRDC regional offices provided financial assistance for the many projects carried out throughout the country. At headquarters, the branches and directorates played an active role in the implementation of section 41, encouraging each province to support literacy initiatives. They foster the creation of human resources partnerships suited to the needs of official-language minority communities. They add a linguistic dimension to some of the research conducted on health care professionals. Moreover, the Youth Initiatives Directorate signed an agreement with *Forum Ontario francophonie mondiale* to help Francophone trainees enter the labour market. Together with federal partners, the Applied Research Branch worked to ensure the oversampling of official-language minority communities. It did this through two major studies, the *Adult Literacy and Lifeskills Survey* and the *Youth in Transition Survey*.

Through the Secretariat, Official Language Minority Communities (SOLMC), HRDC works with the two national human resources committees (one for Francophone communities in Canada and one for Quebec's Anglophone community) to enable them to carry out their strategic plan, thereby fostering human resources development and employability and strengthening community skills. HRDC opened a satellite office of the Secretariat in Montreal to support the work of the National Human Resources Development Committee for the English Linguistic Minority. The Department can now rely on the support of six other departments to move ahead with this committee's work. In March 2002, the Minister

announced the renewal of the Support Fund, with \$24 million in funding, for two years.

### SOCIAL SCIENCES AND HUMANITIES RESEARCH COUNCIL OF CANADA

The Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) continued to ensure that its selection committees awarding grants and scholarships are representative of both official-language groups. In addition, the Council provided financial assistance to researchers from official-language minority communities and for research about linguistic duality. This research includes a study on the weaknesses in the sciences among minority Francophones; a review of language-related issues on the basis of 2001 Statistics Canada census data; and a scientific evaluation of the hypothesis that the English spoken in Quebec is undergoing structural changes due to contact with the French language. The Council renewed the Community-University Research Alliances program (CURA), which supports the creation of special alliances between universities and organizations working with communities. The next competition will be in 2002-2003. In announcing the renewal of the CURA program, the Council addressed all relevant groups and networks. It also publishes a list of all funded projects relating to Canada's bilingual nature and to the development of Anglophone and Francophone minority communities. SSHRC distributed information widely to minority communities, relating to all its strategic programs; funded research programs; and hopes in turn to see official-language minority researchers and community groups derive full benefit from the opportunities offered by its various programs.

### STATUS OF WOMEN CANADA

In 2001-2002, Status of Women Canada provided funding in support of seventeen initiatives aimed at building the intervention capacities of official-

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language minority women's organizations. The objective was, on the one hand, to allow these organizations to contribute to institutional and political changes and, on the other hand, to educate the public on issues of concern to women. The organization also funded initiatives aimed at addressing the concerns of more diverse groups of women, while encouraging significant participation by official-language minority women. Status of Women Canada also entered into a partnership with two Francophone groups, namely *Relais-femmes* and *Réseau national d'action éducation femmes*, as part of a national initiative to raise awareness and increase understanding among the broader women's community of the role and value of gender-based

analysis, through an electronic interactive dialogue. Furthermore, Status of Women Canada encouraged the greater participation of official-language minority women and their women's organizations in activities it organized to commemorate key dates for the advancement of women's equality. For example, one of the recipients of the Governor General's Awards in Commemoration of The Persons Case is part of an official-language minority community.

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### CANADIAN INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

The Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) puts a considerable amount of money towards educating official-language communities in a targeted way about CIDA's mission and mechanisms. In 2001-2002, Quebec's Anglophone minority benefited from CIDA's programs through bilateral and institutional financing windows. McGill University has carried out numerous projects for CIDA, and the Montreal General Hospital has continued to implement a multilateral program on nutrition and the fight against HIV/AIDS. Over the course of the year, 20 Anglophone organizations in Montreal took advantage of the Industrial Cooperation Program.

In addition, 63 scholarship recipients from throughout the French-speaking world are continuing their studies in French in ten educational institutions outside Quebec. Various projects have been approved to support the international French-speaking community. The *Association des enseignants franco-ontariens* and the Faculty of Law

at the University of Ottawa received a total of \$600,000 for three projects. As well, in 2001, CIDA renewed the Canadian College Partnership Program, which has already generated a great deal of interest in French-speaking minority communities in the Atlantic region and in Ontario.

### CITIZENSHIP AND IMMIGRATION CANADA

Throughout the year and in consultation with the communities, Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC) continued its efforts to support the integration of immigrants into official-language minority communities (OLMC) through the sharing of best practices and by improving the delivery of settlement and language instruction services. Measures were also taken to ensure that the interests of the OLMC were incorporated into departmental policies and programs, e.g. the inclusion of clauses recognizing the Government of Canada's objectives with respect to the OLMC. Official-language clauses were incorporated into contribution agreements with service-providing organizations. CIC also provided updated information to regional offices and missions



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abroad and delivered information sessions on related issues. Information regarding Canada's French-speaking minorities is now an integral part of the training received by visa officers overseas. To promote awareness about CIC's programs and its commitment to linguistic duality, CIC invited members of the OLMC to citizenship ceremonies.

In January 2002, CIC signed a memorandum of understanding under the Interdepartmental Partnership with the Official-Language Communities (IPOLC), and two projects were funded. In March 2002, the Department established the Citizenship and Immigration Canada–Francophone Minority Communities Steering Committee to facilitate the promotion of OLMCs abroad so as to encourage the recruitment, selection and integration of newcomers within these communities.

### DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

In order to make official languages more visible in 2001-2002, the Department of Justice put in place a network on bilingualism comprised of volunteer employees from all areas of the Department to discuss action to be taken to ensure active compliance with the *Official Languages Act*. The position of senior policy analyst was created to help maximize departmental activities that would impact the development of official-language minority communities. In addition, the Official Languages Champion initiated meetings with organizations involved in access to justice in both official languages as well as with the Commissioner of Official Languages.

Raising public awareness, specifically with the legal community, was achieved by updating the *Annotated Language Laws of Canada*, a work prepared by the Official Languages Law Group (OLLG), and by participating in conferences, seminars and other educational activities such as *Old Conflicts, New Arguments: Language Rights in Light of Recent Decisions in Ontario and Quebec*. The OLLG was involved in developing the new Treasury Board

policy on diversification of methods of delivery, in effect since April 2002, in response to various studies on government restructuring (Fontaine and Savoie reports).

A national study entitled *Environmental Scan: Access to Justice in Both Official Languages* is available on the Justice Department Web site. An evaluation framework for the Department was prepared so that the annual action plan can better reflect its activities; moreover, a series of principal needs was identified and will be taken into account in the action plan. A few of these needs are, among others, access to legal aid in the language of the client; the capacity of the judicial system to provide bilingual services; and defining new partnerships based on the example of Manitoba's Working Group on the improvement of minority-language services and the pilot projects it has developed. A symposium celebrating the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Program for the Integration of Both Official Languages in the Administration of Justice (POLAJ) was an excellent opportunity to promote its resources, know-how and expertise.

### FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND INTERNATIONAL TRADE

In 2001-2002, the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (DFAIT) continued to promote Canada's linguistic duality as an integral aspect of its mandate, and demonstrated the efforts it made in assisting the official-language minority communities. This was achieved through the funding of a large number of activities by its Francophonie Affairs Division. A few highlights such as the *Radio Jeunesse 2001* and The *Société des jeux de l'Acadie: Académie jeunesse internationale* during the IV<sup>th</sup> Games of La Francophonie were held in the Ottawa-Hull region. As in the past, DFAIT also supported New Brunswick's participation in the activities of *La Francophonie*.

DFAIT was also very active in the funding of arts promotion for both the Francophone and Anglophone minority communities. The Department

began negotiations with Canadian Heritage to sign a memorandum of understanding under the Interdepartmental Partnership with the Official-Language Communities (IPOLC). The International Academic Relations Division has continued to reflect the linguistic diversity of Canada abroad through participation in international education-related activities and the marketing of Canadian education. DFAIT supported several initiatives through their Cultural Relations Program, such as the *Commission d'encadrement d'une mission économique Manitoba-France-Belgique* and the *Simulation du Parlement européen* in which more than 10 Canadian universities participated.

### INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT RESEARCH CENTRE

In 2001-2002, the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) continued its funding of the Montreal Inter-University Initiative in International Development Studies. This initiative supports research and research skills development for students of international development at Montreal's four universities. Other funding was provided to Canadian organizations with representatives from both official-language minority communities. These include Glendon College, at York University, which hosted the symposium *Brazil: The Emergence of a World Power*, and the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada, which fostered cooperation on development research. The IDRC has a scholarship program in both official languages, and information about this program is available on the Internet. This program is designed to help young researchers from an official-language minority community acquire experience in their field of interest. The IDRC continues to invest the necessary resources to make its information available in English and French on the Internet, even for sites developed and updated in other countries.

### STATISTICS CANADA

In 2001-2002, Statistics Canada officials took part in consultations held by Canadian Heritage. They also held discussions with select community groups. Finally, they raised awareness of section 41 of the *Official Languages Act* among regional staff. In this regard, a pamphlet entitled *Official Languages at Statistics Canada* is available at community consultations and at all Statistics Canada regional offices. As part of its program to release the 2001 census data, the agency undertook consultations in order to improve the CD-ROM, *Portrait of Official Language Communities in Canada*. Statistics Canada published articles in *Bulletin 41-42* and also took part in a reflection exercise on literacy and the written word, organized by the *Fédération canadienne pour l'alphabétisation en français*. Finally, at the last convention of the *Association francophone pour le savoir* held in May 2002, it presented two papers about Francophones in New Brunswick and Ontario in urban and rural communities.

Statistics Canada is part of the Interdepartmental Working Group on Official Languages Research, chaired by Canadian Heritage. Through its work with this group, Statistics Canada provides information about forming partnerships, in particular with Canadian Heritage and Treasury Board Secretariat. The Department also continued the work begun through various studies, including the *Adult Literacy and Lifeskills Survey*, the *Program for International Student Assessment* and the *Canadian Community Health Survey*.

### TREASURY BOARD OF CANADA SECRETARIAT

In 2001-2002, the Treasury Board of Canada Secretariat (TBS) continued to analyse submissions to the Treasury Board to optimize their impact on official languages. In this connection, it incorporated into the revised version of the *Guide to Preparing Treasury Board Submissions* a section on official languages reflecting the TBS decision in this

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respect. The new *Communications Policy for the Government of Canada* reflects the TBS insistence on the need to take official-language objectives into account in developing new government policies. TBS increased its activities to support the champions of official languages in their efforts to incorporate official languages into their organization's activities. It consulted both the *Fédération des communautés francophones et acadienne du Canada* and the Quebec Community Groups Network on major government initiative, such as Modernizing Human Resources Management and the Policy on Alternative Service Delivery. It also held meetings of its advisory

networks in the regions so that the official-language minority communities could voice their needs and aspirations. As well, TBS continued to support the National Committee for Canadian Francophonie Human Resources Development and the National Human Resources Development Committee for the English Linguistic Minority.