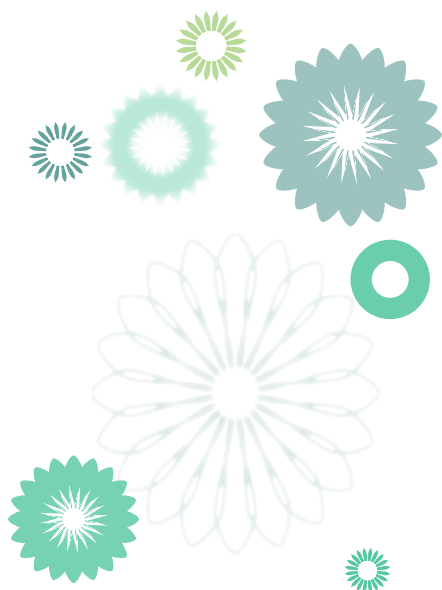




JUSTICE IN OFFICIAL LANGUAGES – NEWSLETTER

ACCESS • SERVICES • COMMUNITIES • TRAINING

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INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the new issue of the Justice in Official Languages Newsletter. This issue is dedicated to the challenges involved in acquiring and maintaining language skills in the official minority language in the field of justice.

If justice stakeholders are unable to express themselves in both official languages, people involved with the system will find it difficult to exercise their language rights. Since the creation of the Access to Justice in Both Official Languages Support Fund in 2003, the Department of Justice Canada has continued to focus on the importance of language training for the various stakeholders in the justice system.

This issue looks at certain measures that have been taken to foster the development of language training adapted to the specific needs of justice system stakeholders. In addition, this training will soon include the use of new technology, particularly interactive tools.

During the 2010-11 fiscal year, the Department of Justice Canada invested more than four million dollars in contributions to move the justice in official languages issue forward. The Newsletter provides a summary of some of the funded projects.

Finally, don't miss the list of highlighted events.

Enjoy!

The JOL Team

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LANGUAGE TRAINING FOR JUSTICE STAKEHOLDERS: A PRAGMATIC APPROACH

The *Roadmap for Canada's Linguistic Duality 2008-2013: Acting for the Future* – the Government of Canada's commitment towards linguistic duality – identified the justice sector as providing essential services to official language minority communities. In response, the Government invested an additional \$20 million in the Access to Justice in Both Official Languages Support Fund. This money will serve to finance training projects for justice stakeholders for the purpose of improving the provision of justice services in both official languages.

The training projects that receive financial support from the Support Fund are a reflection of the people who are, either directly or indirectly, interested in justice in official languages: these projects are proactive, innovative and, above all, seek to meet the needs of justice stakeholders.

These projects take on various forms, from traditional training sessions to innovative teaching methods.

“Justice must reflect the country's linguistic reality. [...] For Canadians, this will mean improved access to justice services in the official language of the minority both today and in the future.”¹

Addressing the Requirements

The *Canada-Wide Analysis of Official Language Needs in the Area of Justice* was conducted in 2009 at the request of the Department of Justice Canada to ensure that the new funds were directed as effectively as possible.

Through interviews, case studies and a panel of experts, the Analysis came up with a series of strategies that should be given priority in order to strengthen existing training

activities and to identify areas where needs have only partially been met.

The Analysis revealed that the justice system relies on a significant number of justice stakeholders who have enough basic knowledge to communicate in both languages, but do not have sufficient mastery of legal vocabulary to fully carry out their duties. The Analysis also revealed that on-the-job training was often the only way for some stakeholders to master legal discourse in both official languages and that more training sessions were needed to meet the demand.

To meet the training needs identified in the Analysis it would be necessary to develop activities that give stakeholders the opportunity to improve their skills and fluency so they could work effectively in both official languages.

This led to an ambitious project which began with the creation of the Centre canadien de français juridique (CCFJ) in January 2010. The Centre has the specific mission to meet the demand and the legal terminology training needs identified in the Analysis. (See the article on pages 2 and 3.)

All in all, the Department of Justice Canada's commitment to Canada's linguistic duality within the justice system is evident, and the motivation of justice stakeholders and community organizations is a driving force that is essential to making a difference in the area of justice in official languages in Canada.

THE CENTRE CANADIEN DE FRANÇAIS JURIDIQUE: BETTER SERVING FRANCOPHONES IN THE COURTS

The *Centre canadien de français juridique* (CCFJ) was created in January 2010 with the goal of addressing the need and demand for French legal terminology training identified by the *Canada-Wide Analysis of Official Language Training Needs in the Area of Justice*.

Rénald Rémillard, executive director of the CCFJ, gave an interview to the Newsletter.

Q What does the Centre do, exactly?

A For the time being, the target clientele for our activities are Crown attorneys, court clerks, probation officers and provincially appointed judges. It is not inconceivable that, in the coming years, the CCFJ could develop specific training activities for other key stakeholders in the judicial system.

Q How do you operate?

A Currently, our biggest program is the Canada-wide legal French training program. It offers one-day training activities in twelve regions across Canada, as well as intensive regional and national sessions over five consecutive days. We also offer customized training activities based on the specific needs expressed by certain groups of justice professionals.

For example, from September to December 2010, the CCFJ offered one-day training sessions on impaired driving to 105 participants in Calgary, Edmonton, Halifax, Iqaluit, Regina, St. John's, Saskatoon, Vancouver, Whitehorse, Winnipeg and Yellowknife. In the winter of 2012, we will offer a new series of one-day training sessions on a different topic in these same cities.

¹ Government of Canada, *Roadmap for Canada's Linguistic Duality 2008-2013: Acting for the Future*, Ottawa, Canadian Heritage, 2008, p. 12.

From January to March 2011, we offered two intensive five-day training sessions on the theme of witness testimony in Vancouver and Halifax. The sessions included mock trials, workshops on court assessment of witness credibility, legal terminology games, and presentations by experts on ballistics, psychiatry, narcotics, crime scenes, etc.



Rénald Rémillard



Donald Legal



Sylvie Léger

Q Who are your trainers?

A First and foremost, I should point out that the program has been developed by Donald Legal and Sylvie Léger, two jurists who have been working for nearly a decade in the field of training and who have solid experience and expertise in legal French training. They are responsible for designing, creating and presenting all of the program content. They also provide training to all of the trainers who lead our sessions.

All of our trainers have three essential qualities: superb knowledge of French, strong fluency in French, and an excellent familiarity with the professional environment of our target clientele. Our training team currently consists of a dozen professionals

from across Canada, including Crown attorneys, court clerks and probation officers. The professional knowledge of our trainers not only enriches the participants' experience but also makes the training sessions more useful and relevant.

Q Do participants need to be perfectly bilingual in order to participate in CCFJ training sessions?

A Our program is not a "French as a second language" program. In order to participate, you must be able to express yourself in French. You do not need a perfect command of

French, but you have to be able to express your thoughts clearly and make yourself understood, both orally and in writing. For the time being, people who want to participate in our program must undergo an informal evaluation of their language skills, which can be done over the telephone. In cases where an applicant's language skills are not strong enough to enrol in the program, we suggest he or she take French-language classes first. Several institutions, colleges, universities and schools offer these kinds of classes across Canada. For example, Winnipeg's Collège universitaire de Saint-Boniface offers basic French training.

Q What instructional tools and methods do you use?

A We adapt our tools and methods to the needs of our clientele. In addition to classroom training activities, we are currently developing projects using new Web-based educational technology in order to create online training programs. Thanks to additional financial support from the Access to Justice in Both Official Languages Support Fund, we are actively working to integrate information technology into our current training offerings and to develop tools that could be used as part of continuing education, outside of formal training sessions. We are also considering creating webinars on specific justice-related topics, as well as videos, podcasts and other activities that promote networking among stakeholders in the justice system.

Conclusion

The CCFJ is a good example of an initiative that specifically addresses a number of needs identified by the *Canada-Wide Analysis*. Thanks to the activities and tools created as part of its Canada-wide legal French training program, the CCFJ is helping to improve the linguistic skills of many key stakeholders in the Canadian justice system. To find out more about the CCFJ and its activities, we invite you to visit its Web site at www.ccfjinc.ca.

ACCESS TO JUSTICE IN BOTH OFFICIAL LANGUAGES SUPPORT FUND

Each issue of the Newsletter highlights a number of projects that are financed by the Access to Justice in Both Official Languages Support Fund. Each of these projects, in its own way, is evidence of the dynamic growth of the access to justice in both official languages network.

Pre-law Program

As of September 2011, the University of Ottawa's Faculty of Law (Common Law Section) will offer a pre-law program for new francophone or francophile immigrants registered in the French Common Law Program who have not previously studied at a Canadian university.

The program's objective is to improve these students' chances of success by giving them time to adapt to Canadian educational and university realities and letting them know what tools are available to the student population.

Portal of Legal and Jurilinguistic Tools

The Centre for Legal Translation and Documentation at the University of Ottawa, in cooperation with the Association des juristes d'expression française de l'Ontario (AJEFO), is working to develop an Internet portal containing all of the legal and jurilinguistic tools and resources available in

Canada. In addition to allowing for widespread dissemination of tools and resources for the entire legal community, as well as the general public, this platform will foster networking by providing a forum for exchanging and sharing expertise.

Justice for All

The Association des juristes d'expression française de la Nouvelle-Écosse (AJEFNÉ) will write 25 public service announcements for radio to help educate and inform Nova Scotia's Acadian and Francophone communities about various aspects of the law. The public service announcements will be broadcast on local community radio stations throughout Nova Scotia.

Mission Justice!

The AJEFO is organizing a series of eight camps in May 2011 and 2012 (four each year) for grade five students attending French-language schools in Ontario. These camps will introduce these young people to Canada's justice system, foster their awareness of the concept of citizenship, reinforce their affinity for Canadian Francophonie, and inform them of the possibility of pursuing a career in law.

HIGHLIGHTED EVENTS

Round-Table on Justice and Annual General Assembly

The Association des juristes d'expression française de l'Alberta (AJEFA) organized a roundtable on justice, which brought together stakeholders from the legal community as well as leaders from the Alberta francophone community with the aim of enhancing community potential in matters of access to justice in both official languages. The Honourable Michel Chartier, Associate Chief Judge of the Provincial Court of Manitoba, was the keynote speaker. Following the roundtable, the AJEFA held its Annual General Meeting.

DATE: June 3, 2011

LOCATION: Edmonton (Alberta)

INFORMATION: www.ajeфа.ca

Annual Convention of the Association des juristes d'expression française de l'Ontario (AJEFO)

The AJEFO held its 2011 convention, whose theme was "Justice in French: Across Generations."

DATE: June 23 to 25, 2011

LOCATION: Ottawa (Ontario)

INFORMATION: www.ajefo.ca

Centre canadien de français juridique

The Centre will be holding a "Legal French Improvement Week" for court clerks, probation officers and Crown attorneys.

DATE: November 14 to 18, 2011

LOCATION: Montréal (Québec)

INFORMATION: www.ccfjinc.ca