



JUSTICE IN OFFICIAL LANGUAGES – NEWSLETTER

ACCESS • SERVICES • COMMUNITIES • TRAINING

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INTRODUCTION

In matters of official language minorities, we talk about the French-speaking communities outside of Quebec and the English-speaking community within Quebec. But do they face the same challenges? The same issues? What is the distinction between these communities? Do they require different kinds of initiatives?

This issue of the Newsletter does not claim to answer these questions, but rather to present some of the means used by the Department of Justice Canada's Justice in Official Languages (JOL) Team and its partners to better serve these communities. A greater understanding of the realities and characteristics of official language minority communities is essential to the development of profitable partnerships that respect the communities' diversity.

The following pages highlight Éducaloi, an organization that works to enhance access to justice in Quebec by providing public legal education and information. We also present a few initiatives that have been developed to meet the needs and specific requirements of Quebec's English-speaking community.

Enjoy!

The JOL Team

Come visit our website at the following address:
<http://canada.justice.gc.ca/eng/pi/franc/index.html>

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A FEW FACTS ABOUT OFFICIAL LANGUAGE MINORITY COMMUNITIES

According to the 2006 Census data, 23.6 percent of the Canadian population is French-speaking whereas 74.8 percent is English-speaking. Though the majority of Francophones live in Quebec, nearly a million are part of minority communities throughout the rest of the country. These communities are scattered across Canada, with significant numbers in Ontario and New Brunswick.



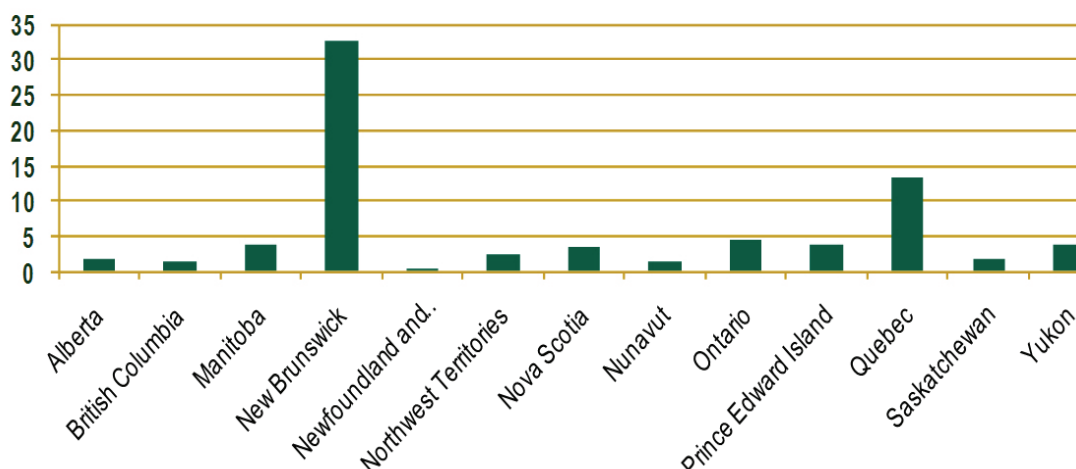
The English-speaking minority community resides in Quebec¹. A significant number lives in Montreal and the surrounding area, as well as relatively numerous populations in the Outaouais

and Estrie regions. These populations represent 13.4 percent of the Quebec population: 994,725 Anglophones out of a total population of 7,435,905². Proportionally, the English-speaking community in Quebec is the country's

second largest official language minority community after New Brunswick's Acadian and Francophone communities³. But are the issues facing Quebec's English-speaking community similar to those affecting the Francophone minority communities?

According to the Senate Standing Committee on Official Languages' report entitled *The Vitality of Quebec's English-Speaking Communities: From Myth to Reality*⁴, the realities and challenges of these communities are both similar and different, and sometimes require implementing means adapted to the specific needs of each community. In fact, the Senate Committee's conclusion confirms the legitimacy of the work philosophy of the Department of Justice Canada's JOL Team: to promote a spirit of collaboration and work in accordance with the realities, needs and characteristics of each community. The means used to enhance the vitality of the communities therefore depend on both the needs they express and the initiatives developed by the organizations that serve them.

Proportion of Official Language Minority Communities with the total population in each province and territory (%)



Source: Statistics Canada, *Portrait of Official-language Communities in Canada. 2006 Census*, Cat. No. 92-592-XVB.

¹ The term "Quebec's English-speaking community" is used to refer to all English-speaking populations in Quebec.

² Statistics Canada, "First Official Language Spoken, Mother Tongue, Age Groups and Sex for the Population of Canada, Provinces, Territories, Census Divisions and Census Subdivisions", *2006 Census*, Cat no. 97-555-XCB2006030, 2007.

³ The New Brunswick Acadian and Francophone populations represent nearly a third (32.7%) of the province's entire population.

⁴ The Honourables Maria Chaput and Andr  e Champagne, *The Vitality of Quebec's English-Speaking Communities: From Myth to Reality, Report of the Standing Senate Committee on Official Languages*, Ottawa, Senate of Canada, March 2011.

ACCESS TO JUSTICE IN BOTH OFFICIAL LANGUAGES SUPPORT FUND

As part of collaborative efforts with its governmental and non-governmental partners, the JOL Team supports innovative projects developed by and for official language minority communities, as well as the adaptation of content and services that meet the needs of these communities. As this issue of the Newsletter focuses on Quebec's English-speaking community, the following is a brief description of a few projects funded by the Access to Justice in Both Official Languages Support Fund that aim to improve access to justice for this community.

Civil Code of Quebec

The Department of Justice Canada provides funding for the project set forth by the Joint Committee of the Barreau du Québec and the Chambre des notaires to ensure that the English version of the Quebec *Civil Code* accurately reflects the official French version.

Training for the Quebec Court of Appeal Staff Members

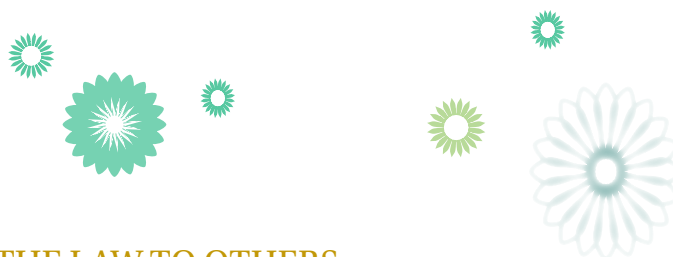
English language training for the Quebec Court of Appeal staff members is another undertaking that increases the ability of stakeholders in the court system to serve the Anglophone community.

Quebec Research Centre of Private and Comparative Law

A partnership with McGill University's Quebec Research Centre of Private and Comparative Law is an opportunity for the Department of Justice Canada to help develop civil law tools in English.

Éducaloi

Éducaloi offers services to Quebec's English-speaking community. The project involves not only the translation of existing resources and tools, but also an adaptation of the content to fit with the English-speaking community's cultural references, as well as the development of new material better geared to the community. The strategies for communicating and distributing the content must use mechanisms specific to the Anglophone community in order to effectively disseminate the information.



ÉDUCALOI: PASSIONATE ABOUT EXPLAINING THE LAW TO OTHERS

In October 2010, Éducaloi celebrated 10 years of promoting plain-language legal information to Quebec's English-speaking and French-speaking populations alike. Counsel Sarah Dougherty, Content Manager for Éducaloi, accepted our invitation to discuss the organization's approach to providing services to the province's English-speaking community⁵.



Counsel Sarah Dougherty

Q What is your role within the organization?

R Éducaloi has offered services to the English-speaking community of Quebec since the organization was founded in 2000. Offering these services was part of our philosophy of trying to make our information accessible to as many people as possible. The position of English Content Manager that I now hold was created to develop and coordinate the services that we could provide. One of my responsibilities is to build relationships with the English-speaking community and to create content that meets its needs.

Q What services are offered to the Quebec English-speaking community? Do they differ from those offered to the French-speaking community?

R Approximately 99 percent of the content of our Web site is available in English. Communication tools and new content are developed, created and adapted based on the specific needs and concerns pinpointed by various mechanisms. These include an analysis of the number of visits to our Web site, the topics receiving the most attention, and the activities organized by the communities. For example, we developed content which dealt specifically with linguistic rights in Quebec, English education, and the use of French in the workplace.

We recently developed a family law project in English and are now concentrating on another project, dealing with domestic violence. To do so, we used technology such as videoconferencing to make the information available to all English-speaking communities in Quebec. These communities are scattered throughout the province, and we must develop communication strategies that foster knowledge sharing and information dissemination to as many people as possible, wherever they may be.

⁵ The following is a resume of the discussions with S. Dougherty.

The resources developed for education were also adapted for use in Quebec's English schools.

When we adapt content for the English-speaking community, we pay particular attention to the terminology and examples, as well as the choice of information media and dissemination means. This ensures that the meaning and the cultural references are relevant to this group's reality.

Q Who are your partners?

R Our main partners are the Quebec Community Groups Network, the Community Health and Social Services Network, the Legal Information Clinic at McGill, and the Montreal Bar Association Committee on Access to Justice in English. We also work with many other organizations that contribute to the livelihood and development of Quebec's English-speaking community. As well, our partnerships with the Fédération des associations de juristes d'expression française de common law and various provincial associations of French-speaking jurists (AJEFs), allow us to benefit from their experience in designing and distributing legal information to official language minority communities.

Éducaloi maintains ties with several organizations and citizens from the English-speaking community, both throughout Quebec and across the country. By actively participating in social and community activities, our team establishes close ties with various community stakeholders, which allows us to stay in tune with their needs and concerns.

Q How do you decide which services to develop and provide to the English-speaking community?

R We discuss ideas and needs and share data with our network of partners in the English-speaking community. For example, we use data collected by the Community Health and Social Services Network for its scientific research. Also, two projects enabled us to assess the needs of the English-speaking community by holding meetings in the field and inviting citizens to express their concerns.

Q What are the challenges and concerns of Quebec's English-speaking community?

R Among the English-speaking community of Quebec's main challenges are the aging population and the exodus of its youth. In some areas, the migration of rural youth to cities has had a significant impact on the demographics, shifting the balance towards older people. Young people who might have lent a hand to older community members in their search for information or services are no longer there. Consequently, it is essential for Éducaloi to design and disseminate legal information with an older population in mind, and look for ways to reach this more vulnerable clientele.

Some challenges facing the English-speaking community of Quebec are similar to those of Francophone communities in other provinces and territories. Many Anglophones understand basic information when it is provided in French. However, when it comes to more technical, specialized or delicate subjects, an English version of the information is useful – even essential – to ensure the content is well understood and to facilitate interaction with service providers.

Q Do the means used to communicate with the province's English-speaking community differ from those used for Quebec's linguistic majority?

R Quebec's English-speaking community has its own traditions, as well as its own organizations and media. We therefore use existing media to reach them more efficiently. Our electronic articles are sent to *The Gazette*, and we also publish a free electronic newsletter.

Because they are a minority, certain English-speaking communities sometimes feel isolated, so, other than the information they find on our Web site, their best communication tools remain personal contact via telephone or e-mail.

Lastly, the Community Learning Centres⁶ act as natural bridges since they provide networking and partnership opportunities between schools, families and communities. These partners are crucial for building links to the English-speaking population. It is therefore important for us to establish ties with these Centres so that we can continue to improve the services we offer in both official languages.

For more information on Éducaloi, please visit their Web site at www.educaloι.qc.ca.



⁶ "The Community Learning Centres initiative is intended to assist so-called traditional English schools to become community schools that combine education with other resources such as health and social services (Éducation, Loisir et Sport Québec, *Community Learning Centres*, http://www.mels.gouv.qc.ca/scolaire/centres/index_en.asp?page=accueil).

HIGHLIGHTED EVENTS

New Section 41 Coordinator in Quebec



Kim Sheppard

We are pleased to announce that Kim Sheppard, counsel with the Quebec Regional Office, is the new Section 41 Coordinator for Quebec, responsible for implementing Section 41 of the Official Languages Act within the Department of Justice Canada. She replaces Francisco Couto, who was appointed Director General of the Quebec Regional Office. Representatives for Quebec's Anglophone groups should therefore contact

Kim Sheppard to learn more about the Department of Justice Canada's programs and initiatives.

E-mail: kim.sheppard@justice.gc.ca

The Status of the French Language in the Regulation of the Legal Profession

The University of Ottawa Faculty of Law's Common Law Section organized a conference on the status of French in the regulation of the legal profession. Topics included the history and status of bilingualism in law societies. Access to the legal profession, continuing legal education and professional discipline in French was also discussed

DATE: September 23, 2011

LOCATION: Ottawa, Ontario

INFORMATION: <http://www.commonlaw.uottawa.ca/en/news/common-law-section-news/le-statut-du-francais-dans-la-reglementation-de-la-profession-juridique.html>

French Language Institute for Professional Development

The Ontario Attorney General's Office is pursuing its partnership with the Department of Justice Canada for the French Language Institute for Professional Development. The purpose of this project is to offer language training sessions to justice system stakeholders who are responsible for providing services in French. The training includes presentations on the legislative framework and case law, mock trials, simulated guilty plea and examination exercises, and legal terminology workshops.

DATE: October 24 to 28, 2011

LOCATION: Sudbury, Ontario

INFORMATION: mirjeta.dhamo@ontario.ca

French Training for Provincial Court Judges

French training for provincial court judges, offered by the Centre international d'apprentissage du français (CIAF), is intended for bilingual judges who would like to improve their knowledge of legal French and their ability to manage legal activities in French.

DATE: October 24 to 28, 2011

LOCATION: Caraquet, New Brunswick

INFORMATION: josee.godin@umcs.ca

Reminder: Legal French Improvement Week



The Centre canadien de français juridique is offering Crown prosecutors, probation officers and clerks a five-day training session in Montreal, with the aim of strengthening the court system's bilingual stakeholders' knowledge of legal French.

DATE: November 14 to 18, 2011

LOCATION: Montreal, Quebec

INFORMATION: <http://ccfjinc.ca> (in French only)

