

BULLETIN 41-42

OFFICIAL LANGUAGES

Community Development and
Linguistic Duality

IMPLEMENTATION OF SECTIONS 41 AND 42 OF THE OFFICIAL LANGUAGES ACT

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Canadian
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Canada



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The *Bulletin 41-42* is published by the Interdepartmental Coordination Directorate of the Department of Canadian Heritage. It takes its name from sections 41 and 42 of the *Official Languages Act* (OLA). Section 41 commits the federal government to enhancing the vitality of official-language minority communities (OLMCs), as well as fostering the full recognition and use of both English and French in Canadian society. Section 42 mandates the Department of Canadian Heritage, through interdepartmental coordination, to promote and encourage a coordinated approach to this commitment.

The *Bulletin 41-42* aims to promote measures taken by federal institutions to support the development of OLMCs and promote linguistic duality, and to reflect concrete results stemming from interdepartmental coordination.

We celebrate on February 28... and talk about it all year long!

February 28 is Official Languages Day at Canadian Heritage. This commemorative day represents one of the strategies identified in an official languages awareness campaign, launched for the first time in 2007 by Canadian Heritage and designed to inform its employees of their rights and obligations regarding official languages. Whether dealing with communication with the public, language of work, equitable participation or support for the communities (referring respectively to Parts IV, V, VI and VII of the *Official Languages Act*), the campaign aims to create original opportunities for learning and sharing information.



This year, February 28 served to kick-start some of the campaign strategies such as: the slogan "Official Languages @PCH, Now We're Talking!"; the chameleon mascot, the Intranet site on official languages, the language buddies program, and, a novelty this year, "Chameleon Cinema". This activity aims to feature films in English and French twice a month during lunch hour in order to promote the use and learning of both official languages.

The official languages awareness campaign is an initiative of the Working Group on Official Languages at Canadian Heritage, presided over by Official Languages Champion, Nicole Bourget, and Co-Champion, David M. Robinson. The Working Group's mandate is to raise awareness across the Department in order to promote official languages and foster a greater respect for the spirit of the Act in all the areas it covers.

International Year of Languages

In collaboration with H el ene Asselin, Canadian Heritage

The United Nations General Assembly has proclaimed 2008 the International Year of Languages, to be coordinated by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). The Director-General of UNESCO, Koichiro Matsuura, stated at the launch on February 21, 2008, that "Far from being a field reserved for analysis by specialists, languages lie at the heart of all social, economic and cultural life. That is the meaning of the slogan launched by UNESCO for the International Year of Languages: *Languages matter!*"

Judith A. LaRocque, Deputy Minister of Canadian Heritage, noted that language was vital to identity, recalling that in the International Year of Languages, UNESCO was urging us to bear

certain facts in mind: languages are not only communication tools, they are also vehicles for cultural expression and represent a key factor in the identity of groups and individuals. Languages represent an essential aspect of the living heritage of mankind. Yet more than 50 per cent of the 6,700 or so languages spoken around the world are threatened with extinction. Experts estimate that 96 per cent of languages are spoken by only 4 per cent of the world's population, one language disappears on average every two weeks, and 80 per cent of African languages have no written form. Ms. LaRocque also noted the importance of taking every opportunity to promote languages during the international year to celebrate them, given the special role played by Canadian Heritage with respect to linguistic and cultural diversity.

Quebec City

400th Anniversary



A word from the Honourable Josée Verner

Minister of Canadian Heritage, Status of Women and Official Languages and Minister for la Francophonie

The year 1608 is a historic date for all of Canada and North America. It is from this date that we truly started to become what we are today, for the founding of

Quebec City also marks the founding of Canada as a country. It reminds us that French is the language in which our country was first built.

The survival of French on North American soil for the past four centuries is no accident of history. Rather, it was through the courage, the determination, and the creativity of generations of Francophones who settled throughout the country.

Four hundred years later, French and English have come together to make Canada a country renowned for its linguistic duality and pluralism.



As Minister of Canadian Heritage, Status of Women and Official Languages and Minister for la Francophonie, I am proud that the Government of Canada recognizes the importance of the celebrations for the 400th anniversary of Quebec City. There are few cities in North America that can celebrate such a past. From Newfoundland

and Labrador to Yukon and the Prairies to the Maritimes, Canadians across the country will celebrate this important event. I invite you all to take part.

Voices from the Crossroads

In collaboration with Katia Grubisic, Canadian Heritage

The Literary and Historical Society of Quebec, in cooperation with Anglophone and Francophone community organizations in the Quebec City area, including the Morrin Centre, the Quebec Anglophone Heritage Network, Shalom Quebec and Voice of English-speaking Québec, is organizing a series of projects to mark the 400th anniversary of Quebec City and emphasize the political, military and cultural contribution of the city's minority Anglophone community.

On the theme "Voices from the Crossroads" (*À la croisée des voix*), and with support from the *Société du 400^e*, the projects include conferences, dramatic and musical performances,

workshops, public lectures, a writing contest, historical recollections, the Quebec City Celtic Festival and a tea party to mark the 100th anniversary of Plains of Abraham Battlefield Park.

The Official Languages Support Programs Branch of Canadian Heritage is assisting with project coordination. In addition to celebrating the diversity of Quebec City's heritage, "Voices from the Crossroads" reflects multiculturalism, architecture, religion, sport and maritime history.

Theme song: *Tant d'histoires*

The song *Tant d'histoires*—[So many stories] by singer and composer Danny Boudreau of Petit-Rocher, New Brunswick, is the grand winner of the *Québec, je te chante!* song contest, organized by the CBC's French network's *Espace musique*, in cooperation with the *Société du 400^e anniversaire de Québec*.

The contest attracted nearly 300 entries. The jury selected three finalists, and it was CBC listeners and Web site visitors who voted online for the winning song.

With lyrics by Louis Mathieu, the performer's loyal partner, Danny Boudreau's *Tant d'histoires* will accompany celebrations of Quebec City's 400th anniversary. With the theme *Rencontre*, or encounter, the song pays tribute to the city and its 400-year history, extolling its modernity and the welcome it offers to the world. To hear the theme song, please visit www.dannyboudreau.com.

Francoforce: a creative force!

In collaboration with Sylvie Lapointe, Canadian Heritage

Organized in conjunction with celebrations to mark the 400th anniversary of Quebec City, *Francoforce* is a participatory project to showcase the vitality of Canada's Francophone culture nationwide. From May to September 2008, this cross-Canada cultural project, the most important in the history of Canada's Francophonie, will feature a team of artists and craftspeople from many parts of the country travelling to 13 cities, in addition to a three-week stop in Quebec City. Entertainment, multimedia presentations and participatory activities will be held in the *FrancoDôme*, a mobile geodesic structure specifically designed for the event. Interestingly, a welcoming committee at each stop will be adapting the programming to tell the French-speaking community's story with a local emphasis. The result will be a heightened feeling of belonging for all of Canada's Francophones, and a strengthening of the ties between Anglophones, Francophones and allophones.



Francoforce is a partnership between the Government of Canada, particularly Canadian Heritage and Parks Canada, the provincial and territorial governments and Francophone community organizations nationwide. The *Fédération culturelle canadienne-française* is coordinating this major project, in cooperation with the *Fédération des communautés francophones et acadienne du Canada*. It is a fine example of cooperation among various levels of government to promote the vitality of French-speaking communities through their culture, a key ingredient in their development.

To see when *Francoforce* will be in your area, please visit www.francoforce.com.

The Beaver tells the story of Quebec City

To mark the 400th anniversary of Quebec City, the authoritative Canadian history magazine *The Beaver* has, for the first time, published an issue in both official languages. Produced as two separate magazines, this special issue is devoted to the story of the men and women who shaped the origins of Quebec City. *The Beaver* was founded in 1920. At that time, it was a newsletter for employees of the Hudson's Bay Company. In time it developed into a magazine of Canadian history. Editor Mark Reid believes that Quebec City's 400th anniversary is a landmark event because, as he puts it, the founding of Quebec City was

also the beginning of Canada. This issue represents the first time that material by major Anglophone and Francophone historians—including Jacques Lacoursière, Denis Vaugeois, Desmond Morton, Denys Delâge, Marianna O'Gallagher and Christopher Moore—has been brought together in a single publication. Richly illustrated with reproductions of historical works, this issue is the largest ever published. Canadian Heritage has contributed to the cost of distributing 100,000 copies, twice the usual press run. On newsstands until July 2008, it is widely regarded as a collector's item. For more information, please visit www.beavermagazine.ca.

Vancouver 2010 Winter Games



Representatives from Canadian Heritage and the
Fondation canadienne pour le dialogue des cultures

National coordinators and the Vancouver 2010 Winter Games

In collaboration with Mariam Adshead, Canadian Heritage

Some 80 participants from 36 federal institutions met on February 21, 2008, to learn about and share ideas on how Canada's Francophone communities could make a significant contribution to the organization and presentation of the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games to be held in Vancouver. A presentation by the 2010 Games Federal Secretariat gave the national coordinators a better idea of the extent of the preparations for such a world-class event, including venues, timeline and Canada's total investment. The goal is for such an event to produce several legacies for Canada: economic development opportunities, environmental benefits,

showcasing Canada's cultural diversity, encouraging members of the Francophone communities to seize opportunities from such an event, and economic and social benefits for Canada's Aboriginal peoples.

The *Fondation canadienne pour le dialogue des cultures* and the *Fédération des francophones de la Colombie-Britannique* each presented its action plan for the Games. The "Place de la Francophonie" in downtown Vancouver would provide a meeting place for discovery and celebration and ensure a visible and diversified presence for Canada's francophonie.

Other planned initiatives include: the creation of a “*Village de la francophonie*”, in Maillardville, offering visitors an authentic Francophone cultural experience and showing the historical presence of a dynamic Francophone community in British Columbia; ensuring that Francophone communities are included in the Olympic torch relay route; educational programming to encourage the Olympic spirit in schools; a virtual relay, a major participation activity for schools across the country; and provision of media coverage of the Games through the eyes of young Francophone journalists and presenters.

National coordinators were asked to share their ideas as well as information on their institutions’ programs that would help the organizers in their preparations. Workshops were set up in

three broad areas: business and tourism; education and youth; and sports, recreation and physical activity. Many ideas were brought forth, covering areas as diverse as: intergenerational contact; links with the environment (e.g. pollution of coastal waters); use of Francophone minority media to cover the Games; participation of Francophone postsecondary campuses; involvement of provincial ministries responsible for the Francophonie; proper nutrition; forging strategic alliances between Francophone businesses in and outside Quebec; tourism marketing (e.g. with Quebec City for its 400th anniversary); wellness programs; and using the networks of federal exchange programs to attract bilingual students.



Sumi is an animal spirit who lives in the mountains of British Columbia. Like many Canadians, Sumi’s background is drawn from many places. He wears the hat of the orca whale, flies with the wings of the mighty thunderbird and runs on the strong furry legs of the black bear.

Quatchi is a young sasquatch who comes from the mysterious forests of Canada. Quatchi is shy, but loves to explore new places and meet new friends. Although Quatchi loves all winter sports, he’s especially fond of hockey. He dreams of becoming a world-famous goalie.

Miga is a young sea bear who lives in the ocean with her family pod, out past Vancouver Island near Tofino, British Columbia. Sea bears are part killer whale and part bear. Miga is part Kermode bear, a rare white bear that only lives in British Columbia.

Francophone communities' active engagement

In collaboration with Tanya Fournel, Canadian Heritage

The signing of the collaborative protocol between the Vancouver Organizing Committee for the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games (VANOC), the *Fondation canadienne pour le dialogue des cultures (Fondation)* and the *Fédération des francophones de la Colombie-Britannique (FFCB)*, in June 2006, marked the beginning of the Francophone communities' active engagement in the 2010 Winter Games.

The *Fondation* and the FFCB, in consultation with representatives from Francophone communities across the country, developed a joint national action plan to target priority areas to ensure the promotion and participation of Canada's Francophones in the planning, organizing and hosting of the 2010 Winter Games. The plan was formally presented to VANOC in the spring of 2007.

The plan sets out 13 proposed initiatives aimed to showcase the clear presence of the Canadian Francophonie in its entirety and to heighten its influence at home as well as abroad. These initiatives range from a "Place de la francophonie" to "Francophone Tourism Products and Experiences."

While the *Fondation* and the FFCB are responsible for coordinating the implementation of the national action plan, each initiative and project set out in the plan will be led by Francophone community organizations in their area of expertise.

Canadian Heritage fully recognizes the unique visibility and development opportunities this world-class event provides to the Francophone and Acadian communities across the country and is providing support to the *Fondation* and the FFCB through its Official Languages Support Programs to pursue their coordination role.

The 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games Federal Secretariat, which is responsible for supporting the coordination and comprehensive federal participation in this event, is committed to the full incorporation of Canada's official languages into the planning and hosting of the 2010 Winter Games. The 2010 Federal Secretariat is working closely with VANOC, the *Fondation*, the FFCB and other partners to ensure that these Games reflect Canada's linguistic duality and the rich Francophone heritage of the country.

For more information on the national action plan and the contribution of the Canada's Francophonie to the success of the 2010 Winter Games, please contact the *Fondation* (fondationdialogue@rogers.com) or the FFCB (ffbc@fcb.bc.ca).

Fostering 2010-related business opportunities

In collaboration with Jean Laberge, Industry Canada

A partnership between Industry Canada, Western Economic Diversification Canada, the *Réseau de développement économique et d'employabilité (RDÉE)*, with the expertise of the *Société de développement économique de la Colombie-Britannique*, has led to the creation of business opportunities geared toward Francophone businesses across the country. A workshop on the *2010 Business Opportunities* handbook has also been developed and is available on-line through the Canada 2010 website at: www.Canada2010.gc.ca. These initiatives aim at ensuring that the business community is aware of the high offering for Canadian small and medium businesses to participate in the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games-related

procurement opportunities. The Vancouver Organizing Committee (VANOC) and its partners are expected to invest more than \$4 billion in the Games through the purchase of a wide range of products and services — over \$2 billion by VANOC and a further \$2 billion by the Olympic Family, which includes government partners, sports organizations, corporate sponsors and the media. These investments translate into important business opportunities for Canadian firms in the form of procurement contracts and joint ventures with official suppliers and licensees. Companies also gain unique opportunities to develop new business partnerships, improve their production capacity and supply chains, and increase their overall market presence.

A voice for French-language media during the Olympics

In collaboration with Josée Martel, Canadian Heritage

In order to improve outreach for the vitality of Canada's French-speaking community, Canadian Heritage is supporting the *Franco Médias 2010* project. The goal is to provide a means of live communication in French from the main Games sites, and offer young French-speaking Canadians a rewarding journalistic experience. Some fifteen 18- to 25-year-olds from official-language minority communities will be preparing articles, reporting on the

Games, and focussing on the exploits of French-speaking athletes from their parts of the country. The content will be distributed to Francophone and Acadian community radio stations and newspapers, covering Games results, activities and happenings. It will also be available online. The organizers are proudly looking forward to presenting Canada's linguistic duality and cultural diversity in this way.

"Energy, Passion"



LES JEUX

de la francophonie CANADIENNE

Edmonton, Alberta, août 2008

This theme defines the upcoming Canadian Francophone Games to be held in Edmonton, Alberta, from August 14 to 17, 2008. The Games will feature two demonstration disciplines: 3-on-3 wheelchair basketball and dance. In addition, the organizing committee, mindful of how important it is to respect the environment, has created a division responsible for ensuring that everyone observes the principles of sustainable development in all areas of organization for these first-ever "Green Games."

Participation by 13- to 18-year-olds will be in one of the following disciplines: Sports (track and field, badminton, 3-on-3 basketball, volleyball, and wheelchair basketball); Arts (visual arts, dance, improvisation, and music); Leadership (apprentice *chef de mission*, event organization, and media); and Cooperative (this component provides opportunities for socializing and discussion among participants who join a provincial or territorial team other than their own for a few hours).



EDMONTON
2008

Une énergie, une passion

The concept of the Canadian Francophone Games was put forward by the *Fédération de la jeunesse canadienne-française*, following a report entitled *Vision d'avenir*. This report underlined the importance of practising sport and recreational activities in French as a way to promote the development and maintenance of French-Canadian culture. Since that time, the Games have been held three times in various parts of Canada: Memramcook, New Brunswick, in 1999; Rivière-du-Loup, Quebec, in 2002; and Winnipeg, Manitoba, in 2005.

Canadian Heritage provides firm support for this initiative through its Development of Official-Language Communities Program. In January 2008, it announced a financial contribution of \$1.2 million to hold this event. The organizers can also rely on financial support from the Alberta Lottery Fund totalling \$400,000.

For more information about the activities planned for the Canadian Francophone Games Edmonton 2008, visit www.jeuxfc.ca.



Info-culture

Development of Canadian talent!

In collaboration with Jeanine Basile, Telefilm Canada

This fall, Telefilm Canada launched its new Official Languages Activities (OLA) Program, a new term that embraces a range of industry development initiatives. These are supported by Canadian Heritage through the Interdepartmental Partnership with the Official-Language Communities (IPOLC). Canadian Heritage has agreed to renew its agreement with Telefilm for a period spanning two fiscal years (2007–2008 and 2008–2009), with a total contribution of \$1.1 million. Telefilm has undertaken to allocate \$1.2 million over two years to the OLA program.

As Wayne Clarkson, Executive Director of Telefilm, put it when launching the OLA Program, in its 40 years of existence the agency has become a leader in the audiovisual industry by

promoting regional talent and cultural diversity in its policies and programs. The launch was an integral part of the official languages strategy, designed to enable all creators to enjoy the same opportunities for professional advancement.

Three OLA initiatives were launched in 2007–2008, all of them devoted to the development of Canadian talent: *Écrire au long* for Francophone creators working on feature films outside Quebec, or in Quebec but outside Montreal; *Feature it!* for their Anglophone counterparts in Quebec; and *Initiative 3* for Francophone producers outside Quebec.

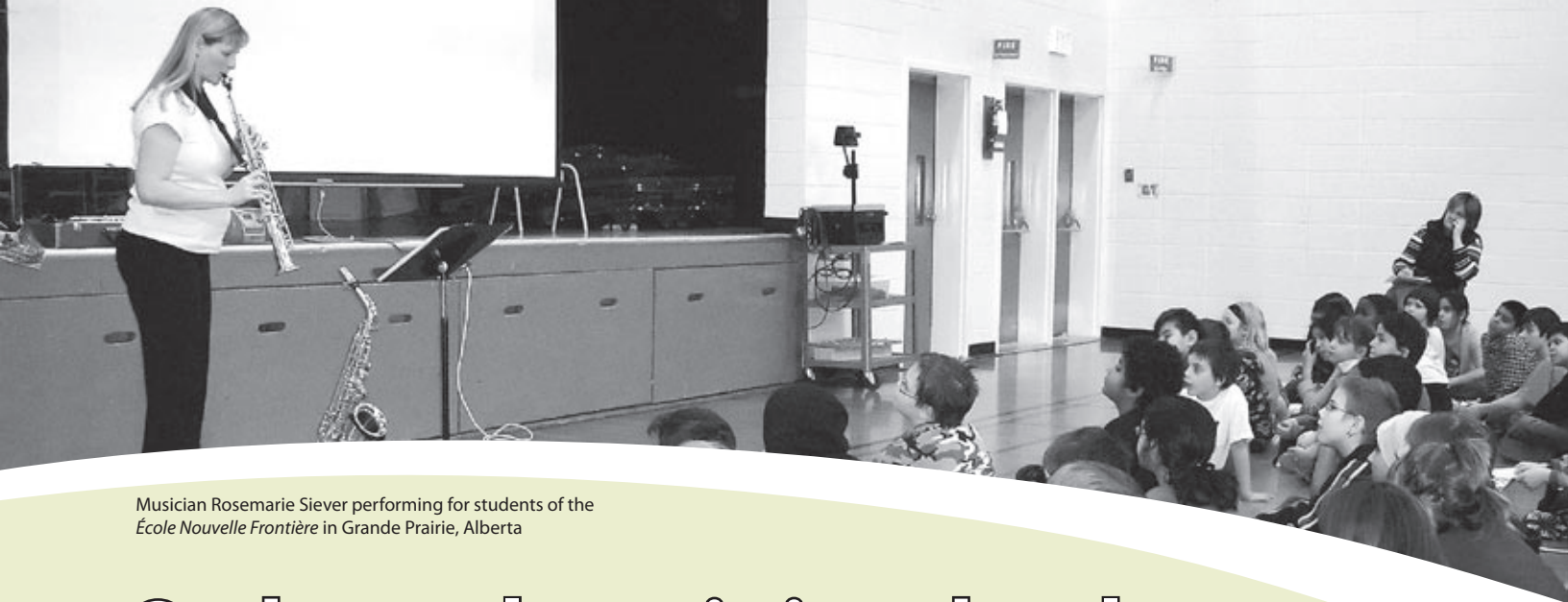
TV5 focusses on living in French in Canada

In collaboration with Armine Tchakmakchian, Canadian Heritage

In order to improve access to *TV5 Québec Canada* for a growing number of Francophones and Francophiles throughout Canada and ensure the development of a strong audiovisual industry in the official-language minority communities, Canadian Heritage, in cooperation with *TV5 Québec Canada*, supports a number of projects and activities. One example is the production of the documentary *Spoken langue : la francophonie canadienne en 2008*, which aired on March 20, 2008, to mark the International Day of La Francophonie. This documentary illustrates the lives of Canadians who choose to live in French—even though living in English seems to be easier—and who thus contribute to the growth and vitality of the language. Produced with special financial support from Canadian Heritage, the documentary will be included in the teaching kit for second-language teachers, which will include three-minute video clips showing

people speaking French, and study guides to facilitate classroom discussions. The kit will be launched in July and will be available at the Canadian Association of Second Language Teachers (CASLT) Web site at www.caslt.org.

Another example is the production of vignettes about the French language in Canada, available beginning in May 2008. These provide snapshots of life in French in Canada. Their purpose is to inform by portraying routine activities and illustrating day-to-day realities encountered by people living in French throughout Canada in all sectors of activity, highlighting every dimension of the use of the language, whether the purpose is cultural, utilitarian, sentimental or emotional. *TV5 Québec Canada* has developed this project in partnership with the *Fédération internationale des professeurs de français*.



Musician Rosemarie Siever performing for students of the *École Nouvelle Frontière* in Grande Prairie, Alberta

Orchestral music in schools

In collaboration with Anne Tanguay, National Arts Centre

The National Arts Centre's Music Ambassador Program (MAP) is designed to introduce children in primary schools in Saskatchewan and Alberta to orchestral music.

At no cost, participating schools receive teaching resources geared to the objectives of the music education programs of the two provinces, and a visit by a professional teaching musician. These resources and the visits enable the students to learn about the sounds that make up a symphony orchestra and the lives and works of composers through stimulating and enjoyable interaction incorporated into various subjects.

The MAP is intended mainly for rural schools, not all of which have a teacher with music training. Every year, some 100 schools are selected to take part in the program. Of these, 10 were Francophone or French-immersion schools in 2006 and 2007, and this will increase to 12 in 2008. The strong participation by French-language schools reflects the support

for the program from the Francophone divisions of the Saskatchewan and Alberta departments of Education. The MAP also receives financial support from individual donors and corporations through the National Arts Centre Foundation and from Canadian Heritage through the Interdepartmental Partnership with the Official-Language Communities (IPOLC).

Michelle Hunter, Principal of the *École Nouvelle Frontière* in Grande Prairie, Alberta, points out that, as a French-language school in a minority community, it sometimes loses credibility, given the diversity of programs available at neighbouring schools. It thus welcomes its partners' contribution with open arms. The MAP has just been renewed for three years.

Through MAP, the National Arts Centre will continue to be a valued partner in music teaching programs in the schools and an enthusiastic promoter of linguistic duality across Canada.

Three reserved seats

In collaboration with Susanne Jeanson, Canadian Heritage

For the second edition of the contest *Fauteuil réservé – un carnet de rendez-vous* [Reserved seating – an appointment book] organized by the *Front des réalisateurs indépendants du Canada* (FRIC), projects by three directors were chosen. The jury selected a documentary project by France Benoît (Northwest Territories), a fiction feature by Carole Ducharme (British Columbia) and another fiction feature by Laurence Véron (Manitoba). The directors thus had an opportunity to participate in the 25th *Rendez-vous du cinéma québécois* in Montreal from February 14 to 24, 2008.

Fauteuil réservé is a professional development activity that gives Canadian Francophone directors an opportunity to meet with colleagues in the audiovisual production community of Quebec. Using the concept of an artist residency, the directors have an opportunity to converse with other creators and explore the theme and cinematographic approach of one of their projects under development. The project's initiator, FRIC, is an association dedicated to defending the rights and interests of independent Francophone directors. This activity is supported by the National Film Board, the Quebec government's *Secrétariat aux affaires intergouvernementales canadiennes*, Telefilm Canada and Canadian Heritage.



Dignitaries attending the launch of the *Rendez-vous de la Francophonie*



Daniel Richer, storyteller, crier, actor

Rendez-vous de la Francophonie 2008 in the public service of Canada

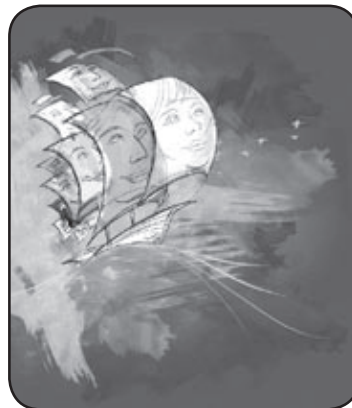
In collaboration with Madeleine Simard, Canada Public Service Agency

On March 7, 2008, the Canada Public Service Agency, with the help of representatives from various federal institutions, kicked off celebrations for the 10th *Rendez-vous de la Francophonie* within the public service of Canada. For the fifth consecutive year, the launch took place under the watchful eye of the stately totems adorning the Canadian Museum of Civilization in Gatineau.

The *Rendez-vous* is a nation-wide celebration intended for the Canadian public, which offers a unique opportunity to promote a better understanding of the social, cultural and linguistic environment of Francophones in Canada. Activities from coast to coast during the two-week celebration are intended to encourage Francophones to take pride in using their mother tongue, and also to encourage Francophiles to make greater use of French in their workplace in order to improve their French-language skills and offer better service to the Canadian public.

The theme this year, *D'hier à demain, la Francophonie m'appartient*, was chosen to emphasize the passing down of Francophone heritage from generation to generation and the feeling of belonging to the greater Canadian Francophone community. The ships' sails serve as a visual metaphor for the generations of Francophones who set sail into la Francophonie and navigated it from one end of the country to the other. This

year's celebration highlighted the 400th anniversary of Quebec City and the vitality of the Canadian Francophonie, as well as intergenerational ties.



The celebration and official launch of the *Rendez-vous* within the public service has a special significance. It gives federal public servants the opportunity to simply celebrate Francophone culture and heritage and the richness it brings to Canadian society. This celebration creates awareness among federal employees, complementing the federal obligation to promote both official languages and encourage the vitality of the Francophone minority communities from coast to coast.

Paul Lefebvre, artistic attaché with the National Arts Centre, was the master of ceremonies for the launch once again this year. The 500 or so members of the audience, all brought together to proudly celebrate their ties to and their bond with the French language, included deputy ministers and assistant deputy ministers, official languages champions and co-champions, official languages directors, persons responsible for official languages, and Francophones and Francophiles from all levels within the public service.

The program included inspiring presentations by various leaders and important Francophone cultural figures, including opening speeches by Monique Boudrias, Executive Vice-President of the Canada Public Service Agency, and Pierre Lemieux, M.P. for Glengarry-Prescott-Russell, who spoke

on behalf of the Honourable Josée Verner, Minister of Canadian Heritage, Status of Women and Official Languages and Minister for la Francophonie. The Francophile M.P. took the opportunity to note the Government of Canada's commitment to promoting the French language and French-speaking cultures across Canada. Other notable presenters and performers included: actors Roch Castonguay and Daniel Richer, Commissioner of Official Languages and former journalist and author Graham Fraser, famed Acadian novelist and playwright Antonine Maillet and singer-songwriters Catherine Major and Jean-François Breau.

The program also included fun and games in the form of a quiz called *Chassez les proverbes, ils reviennent au galop*, which matched language professionals from the Translation Bureau against teachers from the Canada School of Public Service. The game focused on proverbs that express a moral or piece of folkloric advice.

This year's launch was a huge success. A big thank you to all Francophones and Francophiles who came out in large numbers to attend this event, an activity that no doubt served to build bridges between the two linguistic communities. For more information, please visit www.psagency-agencefp/ollo.



Antonine Maillet, Acadian novelist and playwright

Proverbes de chez nous

In collaboration with Jules Chiasson, Canadian Broadcasting Corporation

S In March 2008, for the second consecutive year, the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (CBC) launched its French-language contest in conjunction with *Les Rendez-vous de la Francophonie*. Entitled *Les proverbes de chez nous*, or homespun proverbs, the contest invited listeners of 24 television and radio programs to suggest proverbs. Five per program were chosen and voted on by Canadians from across the country on the Corporation's Web site. Contestants were eligible to win a trip to Guadeloupe or one of 13 trips for two

to Quebec City to attend a Cirque du Soleil performance. The contest was very popular among Web surfers; the *Radio-Canada* website received almost 90,000 hits. The proverb that won the popular vote was *Le bonheur c'est comme le sucre à la crème, quand on en veut, on s'en fait*, or [Happiness is like fudge: when you want some, you make some], by Line Richer of Montreal. To read the other proverbs that were finalists and see the names of the prizewinners, visit the contest Web page: www.radio-canada.ca/francophonie.



Research

Research

Results from the Survey on the Vitality of Official-Language Minorities

In collaboration with Sylvie Lafrenière, Statistics Canada

Last December, Statistics Canada released an initial analysis of data from *Minorities Speak Up: Results of the Survey on the Vitality of Official-Language Minorities*, the post-censal survey on the vitality of official-language minorities. The primary goal of the survey was to gather data on numerous factors considered priorities by official-language minority communities, particularly childhood education and access to services in the minority language in such areas as health care, education and government services, in order to develop an overview of the current situation of these communities. The second aim was to disseminate information of value to federal institutions for policy development and program implementation.

The survey collected data on French-speaking adults outside Quebec, English-speaking adults in Quebec and their children. In addition to the mother-tongue criterion, first official language spoken was also used to identify the target population. Thus, taking into consideration mother tongue and, in the case of allophones, language knowledge and language spoken in the home, the survey was designed to be more inclusive: it includes adults whose mother tongue is neither English nor French, but who have some knowledge of the minority official language. In addition, special attention was paid to allophones in Montreal to enable studies comparing allophones in Quebec who lean towards English and those who lean towards French.

The results indicate that the use of English in daily activities by English-speaking adults in Quebec is much more widespread than the use of French by French-speaking adults outside Quebec. This result is affected by province of residence, the relative numbers of official-language minorities in their community, and main language used. These factors provide a better understanding of the use of the minority language outside the home. For example, the predominant use of French in everyday life by French-speaking adults outside Quebec is a reality only in some parts of New Brunswick and Ontario. We see a similar result for English-speaking adults in Quebec: the use of English outside the home is much less widespread in the Quebec City area than it is in, for example, West Quebec.

The predominant use of French in everyday life by French-speaking adults outside Quebec is a reality only in some parts of New Brunswick and Ontario.

Given the analytical potential of the survey, Statistics Canada's intention over the next few months is to work with its various partners to derive maximum benefit from this important source of data.

A complete list of topics covered by the survey is available under "Statistics by subject," under the "Languages" heading at www.statcan.ca.



Symposium on official languages research issues

In collaboration with Jo Ann Gagnon, Canadian Heritage

Aeld in Ottawa in January 2008, the symposium entitled Official Languages Research Issues focused on the current status of official languages research in Canada, and identified avenues to improve its relevance and the use of research in policy development and to generate commitment. Some 165 participants from the community, academic and government sectors attended the event, which was an initiative of the Coordinating Committee on Official Languages Research, an interdepartmental committee of persons responsible for research. Participants were thus able to review the key findings of the 2006 Census and the Survey on the Vitality of Official-Language Minorities: the data were released in December 2007. They also had an opportunity to consider such sectoral issues as health care, education, immigration, economic development and culture, and identify topics for future research.

The symposium received financial support from Canadian Heritage, Citizenship and Immigration Canada, Industry Canada, Statistics Canada, Health Canada, Public Works and

Government Services Canada (for the interpretation), the Office of the Commissioner of Official Languages and the Canadian Institute for Research on Linguistic Minorities (CIRLM). These agencies were also represented on the steering committee that planned the event.

Following the symposium, its executive director identified areas for follow-up action: promotion of a synergy between networks of pan-Canadian researchers in the area of official languages; support for or creation of sectoral thematic tables; development of human or financial resources to support official languages research; development of tools for the distribution and vulgarization of research; increase in level of awareness and commitment on the part of federal agencies; and giving new momentum to the federal government's Official Languages Research Coordination Committee.

Useful material, including the program, presentations and report, can be found at the CIRML Web site at www.icrml.ca

Upcoming events

Joint Conference of Official Languages Champions

Theme: Official Languages: In Pursuit of Excellence
Dates and location: June 3 and 4, 2008, in Quebec City

Please note that the conference will begin on Monday, June 2, at approximately 6:30 p.m. with a welcoming reception. The conference is organized jointly with the Council of the Network of Official Languages Champions. This year, the partners are Parks Canada, Canadian Heritage and the Quebec Federal Council.

Jeux de la Francophonie canadienne 2008

Dates and location: August 14 to 17, 2008, in Edmonton, Alberta (see article on page 9)

Meeting of national coordinators of designated federal institutions

Date and location: Fall 2008.
The coordinators will meet the Anglophone community of Quebec.

Ministerial Conference on the Canadian Francophonie

Dates and location: September 17 and 18, 2008, Quebec City.

This annual conference provides an opportunity to discuss intergovernmental issues relating to the Canadian Francophonie and a dialogue that is favourable to the development of public policies that strengthen Canada's linguistic duality.

Building Canada: Investing in Canadian communities

In collaboration with Christine Roger, Infrastructure Canada

Modern infrastructure is essential to the vitality of our communities. Our quality of life depends on the good state of our infrastructure. No matter where we live, Canadians need reliable water treatment and wastewater systems. We need better bridges, roads and public transit to connect our communities and keep us safe.

The Government of Canada's new infrastructure plan will invest in infrastructure across the country over the next seven years. In particular, the \$33-billion Building Canada plan includes a 'communities component' that targets municipalities with populations of less than 100,000.

The 'communities component' will help small communities face their particular infrastructure challenges in categories such as: drinking water; wastewater; public transit; green energy; disaster mitigation; local and regional airports; broadband; and local roads. Building Canada also offers support for sports and culture infrastructure projects providing significant regional or economic benefit.

The federal government's historic investment will provide municipalities with funding to improve on existing infrastructure and to build new infrastructure. Before funding can flow for infrastructure projects under the 'communities component', framework agreements need to be concluded with the Government of Canada. These agreements provide for overall governance of the shared infrastructure investments.

With the framework agreements in place, municipalities with populations of less than 100,000 will be able to submit infrastructure projects under this component. In the territories, Building Canada funds will be streamlined and will have a capacity to respond to their unique infrastructure needs.

Since Building Canada was launched in November 2007, Infrastructure Canada has met with the following municipal associations representing official-language minority communities as part of its commitment under the *Official Languages Act*:

- *Fédération des communautés francophones et acadienne du Canada*
- *Association francophone des municipalités du Nouveau-Brunswick*
- *Association des municipalités bilingues du Manitoba*
- *Federation of Prince Edward Island Municipalities*
- *Association française des municipalités de l'Ontario*

In these briefings, association representatives learned how elements of the Building Canada plan could support the broader infrastructure needs of official-language minority communities.

For more information on Building Canada and the types of infrastructure projects that are eligible, please visit www.buildingcanada.gc.ca.

An RCMP presence in Canadian schools

In collaboration with Jo-Anne Lecompte, Royal Canadian Mounted Police

Canada has over 16,500 schools, serving more than 250,000 students. The RCMP provides services for approximately 5,000 of these schools. In a bid to educate students from these schools on crime prevention, the RCMP has launched the National Youth Officer Program, part of its National Youth Strategy. Youth Officers attend every parent-teacher interview and meeting at the school, making themselves available to respond to questions and concerns the parents may have. They also participate in school activities, events, and focus groups on awareness and crime prevention, where several stakeholders are present. The objective is to

sensitize all age groups through presentations and workshops put together and attested to by various partners, including educators, police officers and youth on subjects such as gangs, drugs, Internet security and bullying.

The RCMP is also fully committed to being present in all schools in Francophone minority communities to promote school health, student wellness and safety.

Newfoundland and Labrador Francophones voice their priorities

In collaboration with Janet Warren, Canadian Heritage

The *Fédération des francophones de Terre-Neuve et du Labrador* (FFTNL) was invited to present its current Global Development Plan to the Newfoundland and Labrador Federal Council on January 17, 2008, in St. John's. The organization's Executive Director, Cyrilda Poirier, described the work currently being done by the FFTNL to address the community's priorities to 2009 in the areas of political representation, education, communication and culture, health and community, youth leadership and economic development. She provided an overview of some of the initiatives that have allowed the community to develop over the years, as well as the ongoing projects that will ensure continued growth as time goes on.

The FFTNL believes that numerous opportunities exist for federal institutions to support community initiatives, especially in the development of francophone tourist product and in the promotion of Francophone and Acadian arts and culture in the province. It has also asked federal representatives to show increased flexibility in the provision of services and programs in French.

The Francophone minority community in Newfoundland and Labrador is very small, which poses tremendous challenges for creating visibility and awareness. Being able to bring the community's issues directly to the most senior representatives of the federal government in the province helps sensitize the federal community at the decision-making level to the needs of the official-language minority community.

This type of interaction with government representatives is particularly important because all federal departments and agencies that operate in the province are represented at the Federal Council table.

Cyrilda Poirier's presentation was followed by a discussion of some of the tools that can be used to sensitize the federal employees to the needs of the community. One such tool is the new Web portal www.francotnl.ca that offers information on the various community organizations and details of events and activities organized by the community throughout the province. In addition, there was discussion about ways in which the federal government could assist in addressing the challenges currently faced by the Francophone community.

The provincial office of the Department of Canadian Heritage, in collaboration with the Federal Council's Official Languages Subcommittee, played a key role in having this important meeting take place. The Department has specific responsibilities relating to providing support to official-language minority communities under Part VII of the *Official Languages Act* and the Official Languages Subcommittee makes a valuable contribution to supporting federal departments and agencies under section 41 of the Act.

It is hoped that this meeting and presentation will help federal organizations in Newfoundland and Labrador keep the Francophone community's needs and objectives in mind as they develop their official languages action plans.

The Federal Council and the FFTNL agreed to a best practice recommending that they meet on a regular basis to ensure that both opportunities and challenges are addressed in a timely manner.

Working together for early childhood education

In collaboration with Sonja Bourgeois, Canadian Heritage

A day of activities to promote partnership in early childhood education was held in January 2008, in Halifax, Nova Scotia, attended by representatives of the *Office des affaires acadiennes*, the Nova Scotia departments of Community Services and Education, the *Université Sainte-Anne*, the Province's Acadian school board, the *Fédération des parents acadiens de la Nouvelle-Écosse*, the provincial Centre for Preschool Resources, Service Canada and Canadian Heritage. Discussion focussed on the shortage of qualified Francophone educators in Nova Scotia, attributable

partly to the lack of recognition of the profession, and the need for training in French. The priorities set during the meeting relate to the availability of a part-time early childhood education program at the *Université Sainte-Anne*; the possibility of offering courses online; and a campaign to promote the teaching profession. It is with a view to the long-term development of official-language minority communities that Canadian Heritage is providing support through its Official-Language Community Development Program.

Ontario links multiculturalism and official languages

In collaboration with Michel Costisella, Canadian Heritage

In a Canadian first, the Ontario Region of Canadian Heritage set up a pilot project shared between the Official Languages Support Programs and the Multiculturalism Program. An official has been assigned new duties to provide consultation and cooperation between the two programs.

The closer relationship is designed to generate a wind of change, offering Francophone communities in Ontario – more specifically Francophone racial and ethnocultural minority

communities – services and support that meet their needs. It also enables coordination of delivery of the Multiculturalism Program to Francophone communities in Ontario.

In addition to promoting cooperation between the two programs, the initiative provides an overall view of issues, trends and developments in the French-speaking community with respect to diversity, and fosters strategic links with the various levels of government.

Ensemble, together, toqolugwejig

In collaboration with Alexandra Philoctète, Status of Women Canada

Status of Women Canada, through the Women's Community Fund of the Women's Program, is supporting the project *Ensemble, together, toqolugwejig*.

Something quite new in joint action by women from Francophone, Anglophone and Aboriginal communities, the project is taking place in the Gaspé Peninsula, in Quebec. The objective is to continue efforts already begun to reduce women's isolation, and give practical form to activities and services geared to their varied needs. By resuming their place as full citizens, these women will also be creating ties of solidarity

with each other. Ultimately, it is hoped that they will improve their own living conditions and those of their families, through prevention of the violence to which they can be exposed.

Status of Women Canada is providing financial support to the project, since its priorities include economic security for women and the elimination of all forms of violence and discrimination against women .



New official languages champion

For the past several months, the Department of Canadian Heritage has had a new official languages champion: Nicole Bourget, Assistant Deputy Minister of the Public and Regional Affairs Sector, succeeding Jean-Pierre Blais. We recall that, back in 1998, the Treasury Board Secretariat asked each federal institution to appoint an official languages champion. Nicole Bourget's role, as for

all champions, is to raise the visibility of official languages in the Department and provide support to the Deputy Minister to ensure that the Department respects its obligations with regard to official languages as well those of the government. One of her key responsibilities in this regard is presiding over the Working Group on Official Language at Canadian Heritage.