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LANGUAGE REGIMES IN THE PROVINCES AND TERRITORIES

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Language Regimes in the Provinces and Territories
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In Canada, language is an area of shared jurisdiction between the various levels of government. Although the federal government has established its own support measures, it relies on the provinces and territories to help ensure the nationwide recognition of both official languages – English and French.

This HillStudy provides an overview of the language regimes established by the provinces and territories and briefly identifies their main features. Over the years, efforts have been made across Canada to promote the recognition of English and French and improve service delivery to the public in both languages. There have also been initiatives across the country to revitalize and better protect Indigenous languages.

Each province and territory has its own language regime that evolves over time. Language regimes are governed by a variety of official documents, including the Constitution, Acts, regulations, policies and strategic plans. In addition, they may apply to different areas, such as the delivery of government services, the adoption of legislation, justice, education and municipal services, to name a few.

In recent years, there has been a resurgence of provisions in the provinces and territories to enhance the vitality and to support the development of official-language minority communities. In addition, a number of provincial and territorial governments have updated their legislative, regulatory and policy provisions to adapt to the evolving language needs of their respective populations. And yet, depending on where they live, Canadians experience significant gaps in the types of services available to them in the official language of their choice.

There has also been an upward trend in intergovernmental collaboration, including the development of various regional, national and international partnership mechanisms that aim to improve service delivery in both official languages. Each province and territory has its own governance structure to ensure minority-language status recognition. Certain jurisdictions have ombudsmen or entities responsible for upholding Canadians' language rights and to handle language complaints.

At the time of writing, a bill to modernize Canada's *Official Languages Act* was still before Parliament. This bill stresses the importance of cooperation among the various orders of government and recognizes that having a diversity of language regimes helps achieve substantive equality between English and French in Canada. In addition, Canada's *Indigenous Languages Act*, which received Royal Assent in 2019, highlights the importance of this cooperation for revitalizing Indigenous languages, which involves the provinces and territories as well as Indigenous governments and organizations.

The various language regimes in Canada interact in concert with each other and are constantly called upon to change, as seen by the recent updates to legislation in Ontario and Quebec and the expected update to legislation in the Northwest Territories. In New Brunswick, the recent revision will not result in any updating of the legislation, but will create an official languages secretariat, planned for April 2023.

LANGUAGE REGIMES IN THE PROVINCES AND TERRITORIES

1 INTRODUCTION

Canada's Constitution contains no provision relating to jurisdiction over language. In a 1988 decision, the Supreme Court of Canada affirmed, "Language is not an independent matter of legislation but is rather 'ancillary' to the exercise of jurisdiction with respect to some class of subject matter assigned to Parliament or the provincial legislatures by the *Constitution Act, 1867*."¹ The power to legislate with regard to language therefore belongs to both the federal and provincial levels of government, under their respective legislative authorities.

The provinces and territories play an important role in the protection of linguistic minorities in sectors falling under their exclusive or shared jurisdictions. Studies have highlighted the efforts made by the provinces and territories to support the development of official languages and enhance the vitality of official-language minority communities.²

Practices are continually evolving, as evidenced in 2013 by the coming into force in Nunavut of the *Official Languages Act* and the *Inuit Language Protection Act*.³ Prince Edward Island revised its language regime that same year.⁴ New Brunswick followed suit in 2013 and then began a new process to revise its *Official Languages Act* in 2021, to which the premier had only responded briefly at the time of writing.⁵ Newfoundland and Labrador adopted its French Language Services Policy in 2015, while Manitoba saw its legislation, *The Francophone Community Enhancement and Support Act*, come into force in 2016, and Alberta adopted its French Policy in 2017.⁶ Ontario and Quebec just updated their respective language legislation, while a review process is underway in the Northwest Territories.⁷ To date, British Columbia remains the only province that does not have a legislative, policy or regulatory framework in place for such services, although it appears that this is about to change.⁸

During the 43rd and 44th Parliaments, the federal government introduced bills to modernize the federal *Official Languages Act*, in particular to recognize the diversity of provincial and territorial language regimes and their contribution to the advancement of the equality of status and use of English and French in Canadian society. One of these bills was still before Parliament at the time of writing.⁹ In 2019, the federal government also recognized the importance of working with Indigenous governments and organizations, as well as the provinces and territories, to implement its new *Indigenous Languages Act*.¹⁰

This document summarizes the provincial and territorial language regimes, as well as current practices in intergovernmental collaboration.

2 PROVINCIAL AND TERRITORIAL LANGUAGE REGIMES

2.1 OFFICIAL DOCUMENTS

Language regimes vary significantly from one province or territory to another. Only Quebec and Manitoba were subject to linguistic obligations when they entered Confederation. In 1969, New Brunswick broke new ground by adopting the first *Official Languages Act*.

Today, every province and territory except British Columbia has implemented measures to recognize the official languages or the provision of French-language services.

- Three provinces have entrenched language provisions in the Constitution: New Brunswick, Quebec and Manitoba.
- Across the country, different types of legislative measures are in place. New Brunswick, Ontario, Nova Scotia,¹¹ Prince Edward Island and Manitoba have legislation that sets out the services that must be provided in French, while the legislation in New Brunswick also proclaims English and French to be the official languages of the province. Language statutes in the three territories recognize more than two official languages—English, French and Indigenous languages. In Alberta, Saskatchewan and Quebec, language legislation recognizes one official language and restricts the use of the minority language to very specific contexts.¹²
- In addition to existing legislation, policies have been adopted in New Brunswick, Manitoba, Yukon and the Northwest Territories. Policy measures alone exist in Alberta, Saskatchewan¹³ and Newfoundland and Labrador as frameworks for offering French-language services.
- Regulatory measures, mainly related to the provision of services to the public, have been adopted in four provinces and one territory: Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, Ontario and the Northwest Territories.¹⁴ Recently, Ontario published a regulation pertaining to the active offer of services in French which will come into force in April 2023, the first of this kind in Canada.¹⁵
- Five jurisdictions have adopted strategic plans to ensure linguistic obligations are met: New Brunswick, Ontario, Alberta, Nunavut and the Northwest Territories.
- A review time frame is set out in the legislation of New Brunswick, Ontario, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut.¹⁶ In Manitoba, the law requires a review of the French-Language Services Policy every five years. In Alberta, the French Policy includes a provision ensuring that it be reviewed every five years.
- The three territories' Acts cannot be amended, repealed or made inoperable without the assent of the Parliament of Canada.

In addition to these general provisions, the provinces and territories have adopted specific linguistic measures relating to such sectors as education, justice, municipal services, complaint processes, government services, legislative assemblies and legislation, and official-language communities.

2.2 EDUCATION

With regard to education, every province and territory has implemented legislative measures to ensure compliance with section 23 of the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*.¹⁷ Section 23 guarantees the right of parents to have their children receive primary and secondary school instruction in the minority language, where numbers warrant. It also guarantees parents the right to manage minority-language schools.¹⁸

Since 1970, the federal government has offered financial support to provinces and territories to cover the additional costs incurred for minority-language education and second-language instruction. A protocol signed between the Government of Canada and the Council of Ministers of Education (Canada) governs the management of funding in education. Each province and territory establishes its own action plan identifying funding commitments and performance indicators.¹⁹

Nunavut's case in terms of language rights in education is unique, since the *Inuit Language Protection Act* includes provisions for instruction in the Inuit language.²⁰ The federal government also provides financial support to promote the learning of Inuktitut in schools and to help revitalize the language.²¹

2.3 JUSTICE

Regarding judicial matters, section 530 of the *Criminal Code*²² guarantees the right, in criminal proceedings, of every accused to be tried in his or her language of choice. The provinces and territories, which are obligated to meet this requirement, have, for the most part, implemented legislative provisions to that effect, and implemented other measures to clarify the language requirements in their courts.

- In Saskatchewan, Alberta²³ and the three territories,²⁴ provisions recognizing the right to use French before the provincial courts are part of the official-language legislation.
- In Ontario, separate legislation has been adopted recognizing the status of French before the provincial courts.
- In New Brunswick, Quebec and Manitoba, these rights are entrenched in the Constitution.

- In Nova Scotia, Newfoundland and Labrador, British Columbia²⁵ and Prince Edward Island,²⁶ no provisions exist on the status of French in the provincial courts.
- Alberta has regulations relating to court proceedings.
- In its legislation, Manitoba promotes the representation of francophones on administrative tribunals.

In 2019, the *Divorce Act* was amended to permit the parties to choose either official language for their divorce proceedings.²⁷ These amendments, although adopted by Parliament, will gradually apply to every province and territory.²⁸

2.4 MUNICIPAL SERVICES

At the municipal level, Quebec, Ontario, New Brunswick and Manitoba have adopted language regimes that recognize official language minority communities.²⁹ Nunavut has established Inuit language rights and duties at the municipal level in its *Inuit Language Protection Act*. Under its *Official Languages Act*, Nunavut also prescribes the offer of communications and services by a municipality in English, French or Inuit where there is a significant demand. Elsewhere in Canada, certain municipalities have been given bilingual status or provide services in both official languages; this is the case in Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, Saskatchewan, Alberta and the Northwest Territories.

In some provinces, municipalities have formed associations to ensure that services in French are preserved and delivered. These include the Francophone Association of Municipalities of Ontario, the Association francophone des municipalités du Nouveau-Brunswick, the Association of Manitoba's Bilingual Municipalities and the Association bilingue des municipalités de l'Alberta.

2.5 COMPLAINT PROCESSES

Ontario, New Brunswick, Quebec, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut have established a language ombudsman or created an agency charged with upholding language rights. Their role is to ensure that the relevant province or territory complies both with official languages legislation and with measures regarding the provision of French-language services in a minority setting – or, in the case of Quebec, a majority setting – and to review complaints about these matters. Informal discussions between the provincial/territorial ombudsmen and the federal Commissioner of Official Languages may occur.³⁰

- In Ontario, the Office of the French Language Services Commissioner was created in 2007 by an order in council. The Commissioner reported to the Minister Responsible for Francophone Affairs until the *French Language*

Services Amendment Act (French Language Services Commissioner), 2013 came into force. Under that Act, the Commissioner reported directly to the Legislative Assembly between 1 January 2014 and 1 May 2019. On that date, the *Restoring Trust, Transparency and Accountability Act, 2018* came into force and moved the Commissioner position under the Ontario Ombudsman.

- In New Brunswick, the Office of the Commissioner of Official Languages was established by the 2002 *Official Languages Act*. In this province, the Commissioner is an officer of the legislative assembly and is independent of government.
- In the territories mentioned below, the ombudsman positions have a longer history. Their responsibilities apply to French, English and Indigenous languages.³¹
 - The Office of the Languages Commissioner of the Northwest Territories was created in 1990. The Commissioner is appointed by the legislative assembly and is independent of government.
 - The Office of the Languages Commissioner of Nunavut was established when the territory was created in 1999. Here, as well, the Commissioner is an independent officer of the territory's legislative assembly. It should be noted that a separate office, the Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit, has authority over services offered in the Inuit language.
- The situation is different in Quebec, where the Office québécois de la langue française is responsible for promoting French as the majority language. It handles complaints about non-compliance with the *Charter of the French Language*. Quebec has no mechanism for reviewing complaints about the provision of English-language services in a minority setting. The coming into force of *An Act respecting French, the official and common language of Québec*, in June 2022, provides for the appointment of a Minister of the French Language and a French Language Commissioner, to be held by a senior official in the National Assembly, independent of government.³²

In addition, Prince Edward Island's *French Language Services Act* does not provide for the creation of an ombudsman office, but instead prescribes the appointment of a Complaints Officer accountable to the Minister Responsible for Acadian and Francophone Affairs. Under the existing process, complaints are first addressed by the French Language Services Co-ordinator of the government institution involved in the incident, and may be referred to the Complaints Officer when necessary.

2.6 GOVERNMENT SERVICES

The majority of the provinces (eight out of 10) and all the territories have taken measures regarding the offer of government services in the minority language. However, the extent to which those services must be provided varies from place to place.

- Measures have been taken in Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick, Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta, Yukon, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut to provide for an active offer of services.
- The concept of comparable quality of services offered in English and in French is also entrenched in the legislation or policies in Prince Edward Island, Ontario, Manitoba, Alberta, Yukon and Nunavut.
- In New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, Ontario, Manitoba and Nunavut, third parties providing services on behalf of the provincial government are subject to provisions on services offered in the minority language.
- In Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, Ontario,³³ Manitoba³⁴ and the Northwest Territories, government institutions are designated by regulations to offer services in the minority language.
- The concept of designated areas is used in Ontario³⁵ and Manitoba,³⁶ while legislation in the three territories refers to the concepts of significant demand and nature of the office.
- In Saskatchewan, communications with the public and service delivery are provided in the two official languages where appropriate.
- In Nunavut, a separate Act provides for the delivery of government services in the Inuit language.
- In Newfoundland and Labrador, the current policy calls upon the provincial government departments to utilize the services offered by the Office of French Services for French language training for employees, translation services, and other linguistic support and community liaison services.

2.7 LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLIES AND LEGISLATION

The use of a minority language is possible in the course of proceedings in nine legislative assemblies.

- In Quebec, Manitoba and New Brunswick, the obligations are entrenched in the Constitution.
- In the three territories,³⁷ as well as in Ontario, Saskatchewan and Alberta, the provisions are part of the jurisdictions' respective legislation. However, in the two latter instances, the use of French is allowed for debates only.³⁸

The use of the minority language is also permitted for the printing and publication of Acts in eight cases:

- In Quebec, Manitoba and New Brunswick, the obligations are entrenched in the Constitution.

- In the three territories³⁹ and in Ontario, the provisions are part of the jurisdictions' respective legislation.
- In Saskatchewan, the legislation provides that the province's Acts and regulations may be enacted, printed and published in English only or in English and French. No such provision exists in Alberta.⁴⁰

2.8 OFFICIAL-LANGUAGE COMMUNITIES

Some provincial and territorial Acts and policies contain provisions with regard to the development of official-language minority communities:

- The preamble of Nunavut's *Official Languages Act* recognizes the heritage, cultural contribution and value of all three official-language communities.
- In Ontario, the preamble to the *French Language Services Act* recognizes the contribution of the cultural heritage of the French-speaking population and its diverse character. In addition, an advisory committee was established to advise the Minister of Francophone Affairs on priorities and programs affecting the Franco-Ontarian community. As well, the preamble to the *Ontario Immigration Act, 2015*, refers to Franco-Ontarian communities and the provincial government's goal of attracting, welcoming and integrating immigrants into these communities.⁴¹
- In Saskatchewan, provisions have been made in the provincial policy for consultations with the francophone community. An advisory committee on francophone affairs helps to implement this policy. In June 2012, it recommended that the government and the community review the policy every three years.⁴²
- In New Brunswick, the equal status, rights and privileges of the English and French linguistic communities are recognized in a specific Act and guaranteed under the Constitution.
- In Prince Edward Island, the *French Language Services Act* broadly defines the "Acadian and Francophone community" as "people within the province who have a common knowledge and understanding of the French language." An advisory committee has the mandate to provide advice to the Minister on any matters concerning this community.⁴³
- In Nova Scotia, the development of the Acadian and francophone community is encouraged in the Act. The Minister of Communities, Culture and Heritage ensures that the government, departments and agencies consider the needs of this community when developing policies, programs and services. In 2017, the Minister of Acadian Affairs and Francophonie created an advisory committee to help her better understand the Acadian and francophone community's priorities and to ensure that they are reflected in the government's programs, services and policies.⁴⁴

- In Manitoba, *The Francophone Community Enhancement and Support Act* defines “Manitoba’s Francophone community” as follows: “those persons in Manitoba whose mother tongue is French and those persons in Manitoba whose mother tongue is not French but who have a special affinity for the French language and who use it on a regular basis in their daily life.”⁴⁵ The Act provides for gradually increasing the provision of French-language services to the public in order to enhance the vitality of Manitoba’s francophone community.⁴⁶ The Act establishes an advisory council to advise the Minister responsible for Francophone Affairs on measures to achieve that goal. The Act encourages representation of Manitoba’s francophone community on the boards of government agencies. Moreover, the Act lists collaboration and dialogue as two of the fundamental principles to be observed in implementing it.
- In Alberta, the French Policy recognizes the contribution of the province’s “dynamic and diverse French-speaking population” and is designed to support the “ongoing development and vitality of Alberta’s French-speaking communities.”⁴⁷ The policy recognizes these communities as the government’s partners in delivering French-language services. It also provides for the creation of an advisory council to guide the government in implementing the policy.
- In Quebec, the *Charter of the French Language* is primarily designed to protect the language of the French-speaking majority, but it recognizes, in its preamble, respect for the institutions of Quebec’s English-speaking minority and ethnic minorities.

2.9 SUMMARY

The following table provides a non-exhaustive list of the official documents in each province and territory relating to the recognition of the official languages, the provision of services in the minority language or the development of official language minority communities.

Table 1 – Laws, Regulations, Policies, Strategic Plans and Constitutional Provisions That Apply in the Provinces and Territories

Province or Territory	Official Documents
Yukon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Languages Act</i> (1988) ▪ French Language Policy (1994)
Northwest Territories	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Official Languages Act</i> (1988) ▪ Official Languages Policy (1997) ▪ <i>Official Languages Board Regulations</i> (2004) ▪ <i>Government Institutions Regulations</i> (2006) ▪ Strategic Plan on French Language Communications and Services (2013–2018; 2018–2023)
Nunavut	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Official Languages Act</i> (1988, repealed) ▪ <i>Official Languages Act</i> (2008) ▪ <i>Inuit Language Protection Act</i> (2008) ▪ Uqausivut Plan (2012–2016; 2018–2023)
British Columbia	–
Alberta	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Languages Act</i> (1988) ▪ <i>Languages in the Courts Regulation</i> (2013) ▪ French Policy (2017) ▪ French Policy: Action Plan (2018–2021, 2020–2023)
Saskatchewan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>The Language Act</i> (1988) ▪ French-language Services Policy (2003) ▪ Guidelines for the Implementation of the French-language Services Policy (2020)
Manitoba	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Manitoba Act</i>, s. 23 (1870) ▪ French-Language Services Policy (1989) ▪ <i>French Language Services Regulation – The Child and Family Services Authorities Act</i> (2005) ▪ <i>The Bilingual Service Centres Act</i> (2012) ▪ <i>Bilingual and Francophone Facilities and Programs Designation Regulation – The Regional Health Authorities Act</i> (2013) ▪ <i>The Municipal Act</i> (2015) ▪ <i>The Francophone Community Enhancement and Support Act</i> (2016)
Ontario	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>French Language Services Act</i> (1986) ▪ <i>Courts of Justice Act</i> (1990) ▪ <i>Ontario Regulation 284/11</i> made under the <i>French Language Services Act</i> (2011) ▪ <i>Ontario Immigration Act, 2015</i> (2015) ▪ French Language Services Strategy (2021) ▪ <i>Ontario Regulation 544/22: Active Offer of Services in French – Prescribed Measures</i> (2022)
Quebec	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Constitution Act, 1867</i>, s. 133 (1867) ▪ <i>Charter of the French Language</i> (1977)

Province or Territory	Official Documents
New Brunswick	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Official Languages Act</i> (1969, repealed) ▪ <i>An Act Recognizing the Equality of the Two Official Linguistic Communities in New Brunswick</i> (1981) ▪ <i>Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms</i>, ss. 16–20 (1982) ▪ Official Languages Policy (1988) ▪ <i>Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms</i>, s. 16.1 (1993) ▪ <i>Official Languages Act</i> (2002) ▪ <i>Services and Communications Regulation – Official Languages Act</i> (2002) ▪ Official Languages – Language of Service Policy and Guidelines ▪ Official Languages – Language of Work Policy and Guidelines ▪ Plan on Official Languages (2011–2013; 2015) ▪ <i>General Regulation – Official Languages Act</i> (2015)
Nova Scotia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>French-language Services Act</i> (2004) ▪ <i>French-language Services Regulations</i> (2006)
Prince Edward Island	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>French Language Services Act</i> (1999, repealed) ▪ <i>French Language Services Act</i> (2013) ▪ <i>French Language Services Act General Regulations</i> (2013)
Newfoundland and Labrador	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ French Language Services Policy (2015)

Notes: Only adoption dates are provided for laws, regulations and policies; in some cases, changes may have been made since those dates. For strategic plans, all relevant dates are shown.

With respect to Nunavut, the first *Official Languages Act* referred to in the table is that of the Northwest Territories, which was in force when Nunavut was created in 1999 and was repealed when Nunavut's *Official Languages Act* was enacted in 2008.

Source: Table prepared by the Library of Parliament using information from provincial and territorial government websites.

3 INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION

3.1 FEDERAL–PROVINCIAL/TERRITORIAL COOPERATION

Beginning in the mid-1990s, it became standard for the federal government to sign agreements with the provinces and territories to promote French-language services in those provinces and territories.⁴⁸ The goal of these agreements was to increase the capacity of the provincial and territorial governments to develop, improve and provide services, including municipal services, in the language of the minority population.

The allocated funds have enabled the implementation of provincial and territorial legislation. They are also used to promote the delivery of services in all areas (other than education) deemed essential to the development of official-language communities in a minority setting (e.g., justice, health, youth, the arts and culture). Each province and territory establishes a strategic plan describing planned actions and expected results.

All provincial and territorial governments have set up offices responsible for francophone affairs or, in the case of Quebec, anglophone affairs. In most cases, the office is under the responsibility of the designated minister; in some cases, it comes under another ministerial portfolio (e.g., a provincial secretariat or intergovernmental affairs). In Quebec, relations with English-speaking residents have been managed by a secretariat under the ministry of the executive council (*ministère du Conseil exécutif*) since November 2017.

In all of its five-year initiatives begun since 2003, the federal government has reiterated the importance of intergovernmental cooperation and support for delivering services in both official languages in the provinces and territories.⁴⁹ The bill to modernize Canada's *Official Languages Act*, introduced in the House of Commons on 1 March 2022 and still under consideration at the time of writing, also emphasizes the importance of this cooperation.⁵⁰

3.2 INTERPROVINCIAL COOPERATION

Since the late 1980s, the Government of Quebec has signed cooperative agreements with the governments of other provinces and territories in order to help them improve the provision of services in French.⁵¹ The prioritized sectors include culture, communications, education, economic development and health. Help is also provided in other sectors, such as early childhood, youth, immigration, justice, tourism and any other sector deemed relevant.

In 2006, Quebec updated its policy on the Canadian Francophonie to reinforce solidarity between francophones in Quebec and those elsewhere in Canada.⁵² In 2017, it unveiled its Policy on Québec Affirmation and Canadian Relations, which puts the Canadian Francophonie at the centre of the dialogue between Quebec and the rest of Canada.⁵³ In 2022, the province again updated its policy on the Canadian Francophonie and launched an action plan to support its implementation.⁵⁴ In addition, as of 1 June 2022, its language legislation contains references to Canada's francophone and Acadian communities.⁵⁵ Youth mobility, access to post-secondary education and research in French, partnerships in the fields of health and the economy and the establishment of the Journée de la francophonie canadienne are among the targeted areas for action.

3.3 NATIONAL COOPERATION MECHANISMS

Since 1994, the provinces and territories have participated annually in the Ministers' Council on the Canadian Francophonie (formerly the Ministerial Conference on the Canadian Francophonie).⁵⁶ This body is committed to strengthening intergovernmental cooperation on issues relating to francophone affairs in Canada. It also works to improve the coordination of provincial and territorial actions with those of the federal government. Each province and territory is represented at

the conference by a minister responsible for francophone affairs. The federal government has been represented since 2005.

At their most recent annual meetings, provincial and territorial ministers examined various issues, including francophone immigration, the provision of services in French, the modernization of the federal *Official Languages Act* and the shortage of bilingual workers. They called for increased cooperation with the federal government on the upcoming 2023–2028 action plan for official languages, on which public consultations were held.

In its official languages reform document released in February 2021, the federal government had proposed to recognize the “mandate, collaboration and action of the Ministerial Council on the Canadian Francophonie” but this proposal did not make it into the bill introduced before Parliament on 1 March 2022.⁵⁷

3.4 INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION MECHANISMS

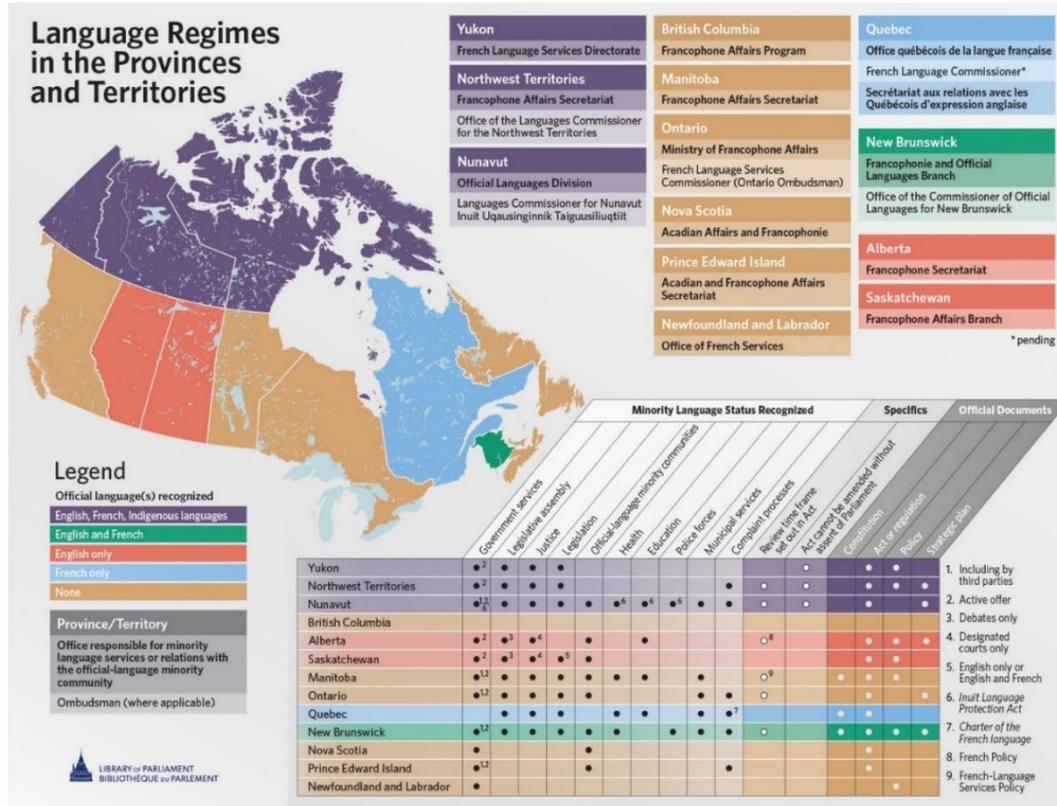
Quebec and New Brunswick are members of the Organisation internationale de la Francophonie.⁵⁸ Their participation gives the two provinces the political leverage to influence a number of international issues related to the Francophonie. Since November 2016, Ontario has had observer status, which enables it to attend meetings of the official bodies of the Francophonie, but not to take part in debates. The other provinces and territories are represented by the federal government, which has member status.

Some Quebec municipalities and the Association francophone des municipalités du Nouveau-Brunswick sit on the Association internationale des maires francophones, an international network of locally elected representatives from countries where the place of French is formally recognized.⁵⁹

3.5 SUMMARY

The following figure provides a visual representation of the characteristics of provincial and territorial language regimes and the governance structures that recognize the status of the minority language.

Figure 1 – Language Regimes in the Provinces and Territories



Source: Figure prepared by the Library of Parliament using information from provincial and territorial government websites.

4 CONCLUSION

Provincial and territorial language regimes are constantly evolving. They change in concert with each other, influenced by public pressure, alterations in Canadian society, and legal changes. Intergovernmental collaboration practises follow the same pattern, with growing recognition of the need for ongoing partnerships between different levels of government. Indeed, the federal government must count on the support of provincial and territorial counterparts to ensure cross-country recognition for the two official languages and to foster the development of official-language minority communities. In recent years, increased efforts have also been made across Canada to protect and revitalize Indigenous languages.

NOTES

1. [Devine v. Quebec \(Attorney General\)](#), [1988] 2 S.C.R. 790.

2. Daniel Bourgeois et al., Canadian Institute for Research on Linguistic Minorities, [Provincial and Territorial Government Contributions to the Development of Francophone Minority Communities: Assessment and Projections](#), Research report prepared for the Ministerial Conference on the Canadian Francophonie, July 2007; Ministerial Conference on the Canadian Francophonie, [The Canadian Francophonie: An Overview of Government Initiatives](#), September 2008; Ministerial Conference on the Canadian Francophonie, [Newsletter – Special Edition](#), 2015; Ministerial Conference on the Canadian Francophonie, [Profile of the Legal and Administrative Framework for the Delivery of French-Language Services Within Each of the Provincial and Territorial Governments](#), May 2019; Office of the Commissioner of Official Languages (OCOL), [Responsibilities for Official Languages in the Provinces and Territories](#); Jacques Leclerc, [“Les politiques linguistiques dans les provinces et les territoires,” L’aménagement linguistique dans le monde](#); and Linda Cardinal and Miranda Huron, [Canada’s Language Policies: Well-Established, but Still Room for Improvement](#), Forum of Federations, Occasional Paper Series, No. 56, 2022.
3. Nunavut is the only territory to have passed legislation to protect Indigenous languages as a complement to its official languages legislation. See Nunavut, [Official Languages Act](#), 2008, c. 10; and Nunavut, [Inuit Language Protection Act](#), 2008, c. 17.
4. On 8 May 2013, the government of Prince Edward Island passed a new *French Language Services Act*, and its enactment on 14 December 2013 repealed the previous statute, passed in 1988. See Prince Edward Island, [French Language Services Act](#), R.S.P.E.I., c. F-15.2.
5. The New Brunswick *Official Languages Act*, as amended in 2002, provided that this Act be reviewed before 31 December 2012. A revised Act, named *An Act Respecting Official Languages*, was assented to on 21 June 2013. This Act provided for a further review by 31 December 2021. See New Brunswick, [An Act Respecting Official Languages](#), S.N.B. 2013, c. 38; and New Brunswick, [Official Languages Act](#), S.N.B. 2002, c. O-0.5, s. 42(1). In December 2021, the commissioners responsible for this review tabled a report recommending additional changes to the provincial legislation. See Justice Yvette Finn and John McLaughlin, [Report of the 2021 Review of the Official Languages Act of New Brunswick: Organization, Communication and Commitment](#), December 2021. In fall 2022, a special Cabinet committee was appointed by the provincial premier to review and respond to the commissioners’ report. See New Brunswick, Office of the Commissioner of Official Languages, [Statement on the government’s inaction on the review of the Official Languages Act](#), News release, 10 June 2022. On 12 December 2022, the premier of New Brunswick provided a brief response to the commissioners’ report announcing the creation of an official languages secretariat, planned for April 2023, but not mentioning any modifications to the *Official Languages Act*. See New Brunswick, Office of the Premier, [Secretariat of Official Languages to be created](#), News release, 12 December 2022.
6. In October 2015, the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador adopted the French Language Services Policy, which ensures a more consistent and coordinated approach to service delivery in French throughout the provincial government. See Newfoundland and Labrador, [French Language Services Policy](#).

The Legislative Assembly of Manitoba adopted *The Francophone Community Enhancement and Support Act* on 30 June 2016. The delivery of services in French, previously ensured only by a policy, now enjoys statutory protection. See Manitoba, [The Francophone Community Enhancement and Support Act](#), C.C.S.M., c. F157; and Brenna Haggarty, [“Les régimes linguistiques en matière de la Francophonie des provinces des Prairies : un aperçu comparatif et critique – Le Manitoba,” *Blogue de la Chaire*](#), Holder of the Canadian Francophonie Research Chair in Language Rights (François Larocque), 11 August 2021.

In Alberta, the government unveiled the French Policy on 14 June 2017. This policy helps provincial government departments improve their French-language services and support the vitality of Alberta’s francophone community. See Alberta, [French Policy](#); and Brenna Haggarty, [“Les régimes linguistiques en matière de la Francophonie des provinces des Prairies : un aperçu comparatif et critique – L’Alberta,” *Blogue de la Chaire*](#), Holder of the Canadian Francophonie Research Chair in Language Rights (François Larocque), 28 July 2021.
7. In Ontario, the *Protecting Our Progress and Building Ontario Act (Budget Measures)*, 2021 assented to on 9 December 2021, amended the *French Language Services Act*, notably to ensure the active offer of services in French and provide for a review every ten years. See Ontario, Legislative Assembly, [Bill 43, Build Ontario Act \(Budget Measures\), 2021](#), S.O. 2021, c. 40; Ontario, [French Language Services Act](#), R.S.O. 1990, c. F.32; and François Larocque, [“L’Ontario modernise sa Loi sur les services en français : est-ce suffisant pour l’épanouissement de la minorité?,” *The Conversation*](#), 4 January 2022 monde [AVAILABLE IN FRENCH ONLY].

In Quebec, *An Act respecting French, the official and common language of Québec*, assented to on 1 June 2022, amended the *Charter of the French language* to give French more prominence as the official and common language of that province. See Quebec, National Assembly, [Bill 96: An Act respecting French, the official and common language of Québec](#), 42nd Legislature, 2nd Session (S.Q. 2022, c. 14); and Quebec, [Charter of the French language](#), c. C-11. Provisions affecting the language of legislation, justice, work and post-secondary education could, according to some stakeholders, negatively affect the rights of Quebec's English-speaking communities. Legal challenges to this effect have been initiated. Provisions relating to the language of justice have already been suspended. See The Canadian Press, ["Judge suspends two articles of Quebec's new language law regarding legal translations,"](#) *CityNews*, 12 August 2022.

In the Northwest Territories, the territorial government launched public consultations in spring 2022 and has proposed amendments to the *Official Languages Act* that are expected to come into force in spring 2023. See Northwest Territories, [Official Languages Act](#), RSNWT 1998, c. O-1; Northwest Territories, [Have Your Say on the Northwest Territories Official Languages Act](#), News release, 16 May 2022; Northwest Territories, Department of Education, Culture and Employment, [What We Heard Report – NWT Official Languages Act Engagement](#), May–June 2022; Thomas Éthier, ["Craines et attentes pour la commissaire aux langues des TNO,"](#) *L'Aquilon*, 7 July 2022; and Thomas Éthier, ["Langues officielles : le GTNO présente un bilan des consultations publiques,"](#) *L'Aquilon*, 11 August 2022.

8. In British Columbia, the provincial government has committed to adopting an initial policy on French-language services. See Pascal Vachon, ["Vers une politique sur les services en français en Colombie-Britannique,"](#) *ONFR+*, 11 March 2022.
9. [Bill C-13: An Act to amend the Official Languages Act, to enact the Use of French in Federally Regulated Private Businesses Act and to make related amendments to other Acts](#), 44th Parliament, 1st Session.
10. [Indigenous Languages Act](#), S.C. 2019, c. 23.
11. In 2015, the Fédération acadienne de la Nouvelle-Écosse made recommendations to modernize Nova Scotia's *French-language Services Act*. See Nova Scotia, [French-language Services Act](#), S.N.S. 2004, c. 9; and Fédération acadienne de la Nouvelle-Écosse, [Modifications suggérées à la Loi sur les services en français](#), Document submitted to Stephen McNeil, Premier of Nova Scotia, and Michel P. Samson, Minister of Acadian Affairs [AVAILABLE IN FRENCH ONLY].

In 2016, the Minister of Acadian Affairs asked a committee to make recommendations to strengthen the role of Acadian Affairs within the provincial government. See Nova Scotia, Committee responsible for making recommendations to enhance the role of Acadian Affairs in government, [The Acadian Reality in Nova Scotia: It's Time to Act!](#), Report, 20 March 2016.

The Government of Nova Scotia responded favourably to two of these recommendations by promising to strengthen the role of Acadian Affairs and to create an advisory committee to address the community's needs. However, it did not commit to modernizing the *French-language Services Act*. See Nova Scotia, [Response to Reports from the Acadian and Francophone Communities](#), October 2016.

12. With respect to Alberta, the Supreme Court of Canada examined the legality of language provisions in force in that province and rendered a split decision in November 2015 that stated that the province was not required to enact its laws in both English and French. See [Caron v. Alberta](#), 2015 SCC 56; OCOL, [Language Rights 2009–2011](#) (particularly section 2.1, "Legislative and judicial bilingualism in Alberta"); and Marie-Ève Hudon, "Language Rights of Francophones in Western Canada to Be Heard by the Supreme Court ... Today," *HillNotes*, Library of Parliament, 13 February 2015.

With respect to Quebec, recent amendments to the *Charter of the French language* have placed even greater importance on the status of French as the province's only official language. These amendments create the roles of Minister of the French Language and French Language Commissioner, and strengthen the powers of the Office québécois de la langue française. See Quebec, National Assembly, [Bill 96: An Act respecting French, the official and common language of Québec](#), 42nd Legislature, 2nd Session (S.Q. 2022, c. 14), Explanatory Notes.

13. In Saskatchewan, the 2003 French-language Services Policy was followed in 2020 by guidelines clarifying its commitments. These guidelines set out the mandate of the French-language Services Champions, as well as details regarding communications, the designation of bilingual positions, strategic planning, active offer and consultation. See Saskatchewan, [French-language Services Policy](#), *Francophone Affairs Branch*; Saskatchewan, Francophone Affairs Branch, [Guidelines for the Implementation of the French-language Services Policy](#), August 2020; and Brenna Haggarty, ["Les régimes linguistiques en matière de la Francophonie des provinces des Prairies : un aperçu comparatif et critique – La Saskatchewan,"](#) *Blogue de la Chaire*, Holder of the Canadian Francophonie Research Chair in Language Rights (François Larocque), 4 August 2021.

14. In Manitoba, *The Francophone Community Enhancement and Support Act* provides for making regulations. See Manitoba, [The Francophone Community Enhancement and Support Act](#), C.C.S.M., c. F157.
15. Ontario, [Ontario Regulation 544/22: Active Offer of Services in French – Prescribed Measures](#).
16. As noted above, in New Brunswick, the *Official Languages Act* prescribes a fixed review date of no later than 31 December 2021. The 2021 review exercise did not result in any concrete legislative changes. See New Brunswick, [Official Languages Act](#), S.N.B. 2002, c. O-0.5, s. 42(1); Justice Yvette Finn and John McLaughlin, [Report of the 2021 Review of the Official Languages Act of New Brunswick: Organization, Communication and Commitment](#), December 2021; and New Brunswick, Office of the Premier, [Secretariat of Official Languages to be created](#), News release, 12 December 2022.
- In Ontario, the *French Language Services Act* provides for a review every ten years and prescribes a fixed date for initiating the first review, no later than the end of 2031. See Ontario, [French Language Services Act](#), R.S.O. 1990, c. F32, s. 16(3).
- In the Northwest Territories, the *Official Languages Act* provides that the Legislative Assembly, or a committee designated or established by it, shall review the Act after five years. The Standing Committee on Government Operations conducted such reviews in 2009, 2015 and 2020. The territorial government has committed to amending the legislation by spring 2023. See Northwest Territories, [Official Languages Act](#), RSNWT 1998, c. O-1, s. 35(1); Northwest Territories, [Have Your Say on the Northwest Territories Official Languages Act](#), News release, 16 May 2022; and Northwest Territories, Department of Education, Culture and Employment, [What We Heard Report – NWT Official Languages Act Engagement](#), May–June 2022. On 1 November 2022, the government tabled a bill in the territorial Legislative Assembly, which adjourned on 3 November 2022 until 7 February 2023. See Northwest Territories Legislative Assembly, [Bill 63: An Act to Amend the Official Languages Act](#), 19th Assembly, 2nd Session; and Julie Plourde, “[Projet de loi 63 aux T.N.-O. : la commissaire aux langues officielles a plus de pouvoirs](#),” *Radio-Canada*, 10 November 2022.
- In Nunavut, the *Official Languages Act* stipulates that a review be conducted every five years either by the legislative assembly or by one of its committees. See Nunavut, [Official Languages Act](#), 2008, c. 10, s. 37(1).
17. Educational measures, commonly referred to as “Education Act” or “School Act,” were adopted by each province and territory in the 1990s.
18. See [Mahe v. Alberta](#), [1990] 1 S.C.R. 342.
- In Nova Scotia, the provincial government introduced a bill in the legislature on 12 April 2022 to recognize Acadians’ right to manage curriculums, funding and staffing in minority schools and to ensure that student attendance in those schools reflects the demographic weight of the Acadian population. At the time of writing, the bill was at second reading. See Nova Scotia, Legislature, [An Act Respecting Acadian and Francophone Education – Bill 156](#), 64th Assembly, 1st Session; and Pascal Vachon, “[Début du processus vers une première Loi sur l’éducation en français au Canada](#),” *ONFR+*, 12 April 2022.
19. Government of Canada, “Federal-Provincial-Territorial Agreements in Education,” [Agreements – Official Languages](#). The Protocol for Agreements for Minority-Language Education and Second-Language Instruction for 2019–2020 to 2022–2023 between the Government of Canada and the provinces and territories is currently in force. See Government of Canada and Council of Ministers of Education, Canada, [Protocol for Agreements for Minority-Language Education and Second-Language Instruction 2019–2020 to 2022–2023 between the Government of Canada and the Provinces and Territories](#), 2020.
20. Section 8(1) of the *Inuit Language Protection Act* states:
- Every parent whose child is enrolled in the education program in Nunavut, including a child for whom an individual education plan has been proposed or implemented, has the right to have his or her child receive Inuit Language instruction.
- This section was to come into force on 1 July 2019, but was temporarily suspended for students in grades 4 to 12 because of a lack of certified Inuit-language teachers. In 2020, amendments to this Act and Nunavut’s *Education Act* extended the timelines for a phased implementation of Inuit language education from 2026 to 2039. See Nunavut, [An Act to Amend the Education Act and the Inuit Language Protection Act](#), 2020, c. 14; and Nunavut, [Education Act](#), 2008, c. 15.
- In October 2021, Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated launched a lawsuit in the Nunavut Court of Justice challenging the territorial government’s failure to provide Inuit language education as it had committed to do in 2008. See Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, [NTI v GN 2021](#); and Karine Lavoie, “[Poursuite historique contre le gouvernement du Nunavut](#),” *Francopresse*, 12 November 2021.

In Yukon, the *Education Act* provides that the

Minister may authorize an educational program or part of an educational program to be provided in an aboriginal language after receiving a request to do so from a School Board, Council, school committee, Local Indian Education Authority or, if there is no Local Indian Education Authority, from a Yukon First Nation.

See Yukon, [Education Act](#), L.R.Y. 2002, c. 61, s. 50(1).

In the Northwest Territories, the *Education Act* states that “nothing in this Act shall be interpreted so as to affect aboriginal rights.” See Northwest Territories, [Education Act](#), SNWT. 1995, c. 28, section 4.1(1).

21. Until 2020, funding was available through the *Canada–Nunavut Agreement on French Language Services and Inuktitut Language*. Since 2021, this funding has been provided through a memorandum of understanding to support and strengthen the Inuktitut language and education.

With the passage of the *Indigenous Languages Act*, the federal government also provides financial support to Indigenous communities in the areas of elementary and secondary education, cultural education centres and support for Indigenous languages in general. See Government of Canada, [Funding – Indigenous peoples and cultures](#); Nunavut, Department of Culture and Heritage, [Working Together to Support Inuktitut Education in Nunavut](#), News release, 9 March 2021; and Canadian Heritage, [Background: The Government of Canada makes historic contribution to support Indigenous languages in the North](#).

22. [Criminal Code](#), R.S.C. 1985, c. C-46.

23. In Saskatchewan and Alberta, the right to use French or English is recognized before certain courts only. This right is restricted by the fact that individuals speaking French have no guarantee that they will be understood in their language or that the statutes of the two provinces will be available in French. In Alberta, unlike in Saskatchewan, a regulation defines the use of French in court proceedings.

24. In February 2023, the Supreme Court of Canada will be asked to determine whether the right to speak French in the courts of the Northwest Territories includes the right to be understood directly, without the assistance of an interpreter. See Supreme Court of Canada, [Case 39915](#).

25. A Supreme Court ruling in the summer of 2013 upheld an 18th-century statute requiring that English be used in British Columbia’s courts. In a split decision (four to three) the Court ruled that constitutional rights did not apply to the tendering of documents and that it was the responsibility of the British Columbia government to adopt a legislative or policy framework allowing French to be used before the provincial courts. See [Conseil scolaire francophone de la Colombie-Britannique v. British Columbia](#), 2013 SCC 42.

However, in another, this time unanimous, decision, issued in the spring of 2019, the Supreme Court clarified that, in a criminal law context, section 530 of the *Criminal Code* takes precedence. In other words, persons accused of a provincial offence in British Columbia have the right to a trial in the official language of their choice. See [Bessette v. British Columbia \(Attorney General\)](#), 2019 SCC 31.

26. Prince Edward Island’s *French Language Services Act* does not directly address the issue of French services in the province’s courts. However, the Act makes clear that the legislative intent was not to restrict the use of French in cases not covered by the Act. See Prince Edward Island, [French Language Services Act](#), R.S.P.E.I., c. F-15.2, s. 2(3).

27. [Divorce Act](#), R.S.C. 1985, c. 3 (2nd Supp.), s. 23.2.

28. The amendments are in force in Manitoba, Nunavut and Yukon as of 1 March 2021 and in Ontario and Saskatchewan as of 1 February 2022. See Government of Canada, [“Official Languages,” The Divorce Act Changes Explained](#).

29. In Quebec, recent amendments to the *Charter of the French Language* mean that a municipality whose representation of residents with English as a mother tongue falls below 50% will automatically lose its status as a bilingual municipality unless it adopts, within a prescribed period of time, a resolution requesting that it retain its bilingual status. See The Canadian Press, [“Des municipalités québécoises veulent garder leur statut bilingue,” Radio-Canada](#), 14 August 2022.

In Ontario, the *French Language Services Act* allows – but does not require – the adoption of a by-law providing that the administration of the municipality shall be conducted in both English and French. Some municipalities in the province have adopted by-laws to this effect. Since 2017, section 11.1 of the *City of Ottawa Act, 1999* recognizes Ottawa’s bilingual character. See Ontario, [City of Ottawa Act, 1999](#), S.O. 1999, c. 14, Schedule E.

In New Brunswick, the *Official Languages Act* sets out requirements for municipalities whose official language minority population represents at least 20%.

- In Manitoba, *The Municipal Act* sets out conditions that must be met to amend or repeal a French-language services by-law. See Manitoba, [The Municipal Act](#), C.C.S.M. 1996, c. M225, s. 147.1.
30. Since March 2013, there has been a formal structure for cooperation at the national level. It consists of three memoranda of understanding, between the federal commissioner and the commissioners of Ontario and New Brunswick, and between the commissioners of Ontario and New Brunswick. The Commissioner of Official Languages for Canada, the French Language Services Commissioner for Ontario, the Commissioner of Official Languages for New Brunswick, the Northwest Territories Languages Commissioner and the Languages Commissioner of Nunavut are also members of the International Association of Language Commissioners. See the International Association of Language Commissioners, [Members](#).
 31. At the federal level, the *Indigenous Languages Act* led to the creation of the Office of the Commissioner of Indigenous Languages, which was still being established at the time of writing.
 32. Quebec, [Gouvernance linguistique : le français au cœur des institutions québécoises](#) [AVAILABLE IN FRENCH ONLY].
 33. In Ontario, the agencies required to provide services in French are designated by regulation. The provincial government has recently streamlined the designation process, and organizations can apply for designation themselves. See Ontario, Ministry of Francophone Affairs, [Ontario improving French-language services designation process](#), News release, 23 February 2022; and Ontario, [Become a designated provider of French-language services](#).
 34. In Manitoba, the *Francophone Community Enhancement and Support Act* allows institutions to be designated by regulation. Regulations currently exist for institutions providing health, child and family services. See Manitoba, [The Francophone Community Enhancement and Support Act](#), C.C.S.M. 2016, c. F157, s. 17(1)b).
 35. In Ontario, services in French are provided in 26 designated areas where the concentration of francophones is at least 10% or represents at least 5,000 people. The obligation applies to government agencies and third parties providing services on the government's behalf in these areas. As of 2024, the City of Samia will become the 27th designated area under the *French Language Services Act*. See Ontario, Ministry of Francophone Affairs, [Ontario to provide French-language services in the City of Samia](#), News release, 13 December 2021; and Ontario, [Government services in French](#).
 36. In Manitoba, services in French are provided in a number of designated areas where the French-speaking population is concentrated. French-language services are actively offered by fully or partially bilingual service centres.
 37. Existing Acts in the three territories allow for the use of English, French or an Aboriginal language in the debates and other proceedings of the legislative assembly.
 38. In Alberta and Saskatchewan, all documents of the legislative assembly are made, printed and published in English only.
 39. In the three territories, Acts are made, printed and published in English and French, and both versions are equally authoritative.
 40. The Supreme Court decision in *Caron* maintains the status quo. See [Caron v. Alberta](#), 2015 SCC 56.
 41. Ontario, [Ontario Immigration Act, 2015](#), S.O. 2015, c. 8.

In other provinces and territories, most approaches to recognizing the role of minority communities in immigration are made through agreements between the federal and provincial or territorial governments, not through specific legislation or regulations.
 42. Reports were published in 2012, 2015 and 2018. See Saskatchewan, [French Language Services Policy – Advisory Committee on Francophone Affairs Report \(June 2012\)](#); Saskatchewan, [French Language Services Policy – Advisory Committee on Francophone Affairs Report \(August 2015\)](#); and Saskatchewan, [French Language Services Policy – Advisory Committee on Francophone Affairs Report \(August 2018\)](#).
 43. Prince Edward Island, [French Language Services Act](#), R.S.P.E.I., c. F-15.2, ss 1 and 8.
 44. Nova Scotia, Acadian Affairs and Francophonie, [Acadian Affairs and Francophonie Advisory Committee Announced](#), News release, 1 November 2017.
 45. Manitoba, [The Francophone Community Enhancement and Support Act](#), C.C.S.M., c. F157, s. 1(2).

46. Ibid, s. 3. *The Bilingual Service Centres Act* already provides for the delivery of services in French in areas where Manitoba's francophone community has a high degree of vitality. See Manitoba, [The Bilingual Service Centres Act](#), C.C.S.M. 2012, c. B37.
47. Alberta, [French Policy](#), p. 4.
48. The first cooperation agreement was concluded in 1984 between the Government of Canada and the Government of the Northwest Territories. Other agreements were signed at the end of the 1980s, and then the middle of the 1990s. See Government of Canada, "Federal-Provincial-Territorial Agreements on Minority-language Services," [Agreements – Official Languages](#).
49. Government of Canada, [The Next Act: New Momentum for Canada's Linguistic Duality – The Action Plan for Official Languages](#), 2003; Government of Canada, [Roadmap for Canada's Linguistic Duality 2008–2013: Acting for the Future](#), 2008; Government of Canada, [Roadmap for Canada's Official Languages 2013–2018: Education, Immigration, Communities](#), 2013; and Government of Canada, [Action Plan for Official Languages 2018–2023: Investing in Our Future](#), 2018.
50. [Bill C-13, An Act to amend the Official Languages Act, to enact the Use of French in Federally Regulated Private Businesses Act and to make related amendments to other Acts](#), 44th Parliament, 1st Session.
51. Quebec, Secrétariat du Québec aux relations canadiennes, [Coopération intergouvernementale](#) [AVAILABLE IN FRENCH ONLY]. The first interprovincial agreement for cooperation and trading was concluded in June 1969 between the Government of Ontario and the Government of Quebec. This agreement still exists and has been updated since then.
52. Quebec, Secrétariat aux affaires intergouvernementales canadiennes, [L'avenir en français : Politique du Québec en matière de francophonie canadienne](#), 2006 [AVAILABLE IN FRENCH ONLY].
53. Quebec, Secrétariat aux affaires intergouvernementales canadiennes, [Quebecers – Our Way of Being Canadian: Policy on Québec Affirmation and Canadian Relations](#), June 2017.
54. Quebec, Secrétariat du Québec aux relations canadiennes, [Pour une francophonie forte, unie et engagée – Politique du Québec en matière de francophonie canadienne](#), March 2022 [AVAILABLE IN FRENCH ONLY]; and Quebec, Secrétariat du Québec aux relations canadiennes, [Politique du Québec en matière de francophonie canadienne – Plan d'action gouvernemental 2022–2025](#), March 2022 [AVAILABLE IN FRENCH ONLY].
55. Quebec, [Charter of the French Language](#), c. C-11, preamble, ss. 29.5, 29.6 and 29.11(d).
56. Ministers' Council on the Canadian Francophonie, [About us](#).
57. Government of Canada, [English and French: Towards a substantive equality of official languages in Canada](#), 2021; and [Bill C-13, An Act to amend the Official Languages Act, to enact the Use of French in Federally Regulated Private Businesses Act and to make related amendments to other Acts](#), 44th Parliament, 1st Session.
58. Organisation internationale de la Francophonie, [88 États et gouvernements](#) [AVAILABLE IN FRENCH ONLY].
59. Association internationale des maires francophones, [Les villes membres](#). The Réseau des villes francophones et francophiles d'Amérique was created in 2015, but had to end activities in 2021 because of the COVID-19 pandemic. It brought together more than 150 municipalities from Canada, the United States and the Caribbean that wanted to contribute to the influence of the Americas' francophone communities.