



Quebec Community Groups Network

We acknowledge the support of the
Government of Canada

Nous reconnaissons l'appui du
gouvernement du Canada

Canada 

The Official Languages Act

Official Languages of Government

- **Part 1 – Proceedings of Parliament**
- **Part II – Legislative and other Instruments**
- **Part III – Administration of Justice**
- **Part IV – Communications with and Services to the Public**
- **Part V – Language of [government] Work**
- **Part VI - Participation of English-speaking and French-speaking Canadians**

Official Languages in Society

- **Part VII - Advancement of Equality of Status and Use of English and French**

Part VII

- **Federal commitments**
 - Enhancing vitality of communities and fostering English and French
 - Protection and promotion of French
 - Learning in minority language
 - Section 23 of the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*
- **Duty of Federal Institutions**
 - Positive measures
- **Distribution of Legislative Powers**
 - Many of the services that support a vital community are provincial in nature
 - Federal government helps pay for services in the minority language
 - Institutional support (education, health and social services, etc)
- Where possible, the Government of Canada maintains a direct relationship and support to OLMC civil society organizations

Part VII 60 000' View

- Traditionally seen as vague, C-13 was an attempt to make obligations more precise, and put in more oversight
 - Treasury Board is now involved
 - Promulgation of regulations
 - Key terms, like community and vitality remain undefined...
- Transparency and accountability with respect to intergovernmental agreements.
 - The bulk of community-destined 'vitality funding' from the feds is sent to the provinces (about 70% of Action Plan funding).
- There are new concurrent commitments to protect and promote French
- There is a statutory 10-year review of the Official Languages Act
 - Evaluation only captures what data is collected...

OCOL Principles

1. Preserve the principles established in *Canada (Commissioner of Official Languages) v. Canada (Employment and Social Development Canada)* (FFCB)
2. Provide clear instructions to all federal institutions to take concrete action
3. Establish guidelines applicable to all programs, policies, initiatives and decisions of federal institutions
4. Ensure that a framework that provides clear responsibilities is in place with federal institutions
5. Enable greater transparency and accountability with respect to measures taken

English-speaking Quebec Proposed Principles

- 1. General Principle 1** – Define English and French linguistic minority community in regulation. English and French linguistic minority community is not currently defined.
- 2. General Principle 2** – English-speaking Quebec expects the Government of Canada and the Commissioner of Official Languages to establish evaluation mechanisms and processes that tracks the impact of C-13 on our minority community.
- 3. General Principle 3** – English-speaking Quebec would like community vitality defined in regulations. We would accept the adoption of PCH’s vitality framework.
- 4. General Principle 4** – Provisions must be made within the regulations to provide English-speaking Quebec with the resources to effectively participate in Part VII consultations.
- 5. General Principle 5** – English-speaking Quebec should be supportive of language within the regulations that requires federal institutions to include clauses within intergovernmental agreements that ensures transparency and accountability of federal investments targeting our community.

Please send comments and questions to...

- Sylvia Martin-Laforge, Director General
 - Sylvia.martin-laforge@qcgnc.ca
- Stephen Thompson, Director of Policy and Research
 - Stephen.thompson@qcgnc.ca
- Riley Dalys-Fine, Director of Community Engagement and Strategic Alliances
 - Riley.Dalys-Fine@qcgnc.ca