

Research Inventory and Data Gaps Analysis

Presentation to the Committee of Deputy
Ministers on Official Languages

November 20th, 2003

Context

- In the Spring of 2003, the Committee of Deputy Ministers on Official Languages requested that the Coordinating Committee on Official Languages Research (CCOLR) evaluate the current state of research on official languages and report back on data and information gaps.
- As a result the CCOLR conducted an initial inventory of the research undertaken by the various member federal institutions which you will find annexed to this presentation.

Coordinating Committee on Official Languages Research

- Coordinating Committee on Official Languages Research has a mandate to:
 - enhance exchanges of research and information within the federal government;
 - enhance coordination among researchers and research projects;
 - identify key research gaps in order to seek opportunities to fill them; and,
 - improve coordination and information exchange mechanisms between government, community-based and academic research.

Conclusions

- Need to better share information and research within government and between academics, community and government researchers.
- Need for data requires larger sample sizes in studies to reflect official language minority communities. Over-sampling (\$\$\$) in key studies and a post-censal survey could address this gap.
- Need to fully analyze key existing data (census, special studies, etc.). Expertise at Statistics Canada could be made available for advice and analysis.

Next Steps: Capacity Building

- Strategic Initiative with SSHRC to expand academic research relevant to public policy and its development.
- Community groups need training to be able to use and understand the potential for existing data.
- Action plan departments need to be focussed on official languages issues/gaps related to their responsibilities in the Plan: i.e.- HRDC, Health Canada, etc.
- Identify key studies for over-sampling.

Recommendations

- Better coordination and more partnerships in research efforts
- Consolidation of resources and expertise (across departmental boundaries)
- Better utilize existing data sources
- Pooling of resources to enable over-sampling in key studies

Annex - Research Inventory

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Industry Canada

- Studies on the information technology access and needs of Francophone women organizations outside Quebec.
- Focus groups on the recognition of Industry Canada and federal regional development organizations by official language minorities.
- Study on the possibility of giving access to all federal government employees to a website developed by Industry Canada called Coin Linguistic to improve employees working of French and English.
- Evaluation of Industry Canada's implementation of Section 41 of the *Official Languages Act*.
- Surveys on the language of work of Industry Canada employees in designated bilingual regions, the linguistic needs of small and medium enterprises and the effectiveness of Coin Linguistic.
- Studies on: various methodologies to improve the volume and quality of French content on web sites partly owned or jointly managed by IC; feasibility of creating focus groups to better know the ICT needs of Francophone web users.

Public Service Commission

- A study on managers in the federal public service who are next in line for executive positions which highlights that language training is a major capacity issue, especially among English-speaking and visible minority employees.
- A study of executive succession in the policy field which examines language skills as determinant of advancement.
- A study of executive succession at CCRA, Environment, Natural Resources and Communication Canada which includes an assessment of language skills and training needs.
- Analysis of the departmental results of the 2002 Public Service Employees Survey on official languages indicating that most PSC employees feel that they do not have problems with this issue.

Statistics Canada

- Studies on Francophone literacy, the use of French at work, the use of French in the health sector outside Quebec, Francophones in rural and urban Ontario and New Brunswick and the evolution of the education of linguistic groups in Canada over the last 30 years.
- Analyses of the health of linguistic groups, immigration and official languages, the evolution of bilingualism among Canadian young people, language of work in different sectors including the public service and intergenerational linguistic transmission.
- Profile of Canada's languages according to the 2001 census.

Treasury Board Secretariat

- A major study on attitudes towards official languages in the public service of Canada including regional profiles.
- 2002 Public Service Employee Survey includes six questions on language of work, fulfillment of employer's statutory obligations and access to language training.
- Update of Official Languages Regulations on Service to the Public using recent census data to determine significant demand for services in both official languages.
- Research to determine whether official language requirements affect employment and promotion of employment equity groups.

Citizenship and Immigration

- Studies on the capacity of the Francophone communities outside Quebec to welcome new immigrants and the needs of French language immigrants in London-Sarnia.
- Development of tools to promote mental health for francophone immigrants in Ontario and development of orientation tools for young francophone immigrants in Edmonton.
- Study on the impact of war on female Francophone immigrants in Ontario.
- An evaluation of the capacity of Vancouver to integrate and establish francophone immigrants and refugees.
- Bibliography of research done between 1996 and 2003 on immigration and language focusing especially on research on francophone immigration in francophone minority areas.

SSHRC

- SSHRC has provided an extensive list of research that it has funded from 1992 to 2000 in the area of Official Languages.
- Research in official languages touches many areas including communications, education, geography, history, interdisciplinary studies, law, library and information science, linguistics, political science, French literature, sociology, psychology, fine arts, anthropology, philosophy, folkloric studies and social work.

Human Resources Development Canada (HRDC)

- Evaluation of support funding for official language minorities and official language provisions under the Labour Market Development Agreements.
- Study on the implementation of Part VII of section 41 of the *Official Languages Act* within HRDC.
- Client satisfaction surveys, adult literacy and lifeskills surveys, youth in transitions survey and the programme for international students assessments have all involved official language considerations.
- A research project on enriched intervention for children in Francophone minority communities.
- The National Literacy Program has produced a number of studies on the French literacy of Francophones outside Quebec.

Canadian Heritage

- GPC survey on attitudes towards Official Languages in federal public service, survey on access to arts and culture in official languages minority situations, CROP/Missisquoi survey on attitudes, perceptions and experiences of Anglophone communities in Quebec.
- Maintenance of a databank on official languages polling, official language vitality indicators and census data.
- Development and maintenance of Official Languages Geographic Information System (OLGIS).
- Statistical profile of official languages in education, inventory on research resources/tools on official languages and the development of a series of official languages success stories.
- Joint initiatives with SSHRC to develop parameters of cooperation and consult networks and stakeholders in official languages.

Policy Research Initiative

- Development of a project called “Social Capital as a Public Policy Tool” which aims to develop a framework for the measurement and analysis of social capital and provide recommendations regarding the usefulness of social capital for public policy purposes.
- Activities will include workshops, discussion papers, reports, an international conference, a feasibility study for future data development and coordinated analysis plans.

Justice Canada

- Index of jurisprudence and legislation dealing with linguistic rights and summaries of Supreme Court decisions and litigation dealing with language issues.
- Various articles and colloquium on law and official languages.
- A study on the access to the judiciary in both official languages in Canada.
- Analysis of implementation of Section 41 within Justice Canada and a consultation with official language minorities on official languages and justice.
- Studies on the judicial needs of official language minorities and domestic violence within official language minority communities.

Office of the Commissioner of Official Languages

1996-1999: Studies on:

- federal offices designated to respond to the public in French and English;
- the use of the internet in federal institutions;
- the presence of the Government of Canada on the internet;
- the use of French and English in front of federal tribunals;
- the implementation of Article 23 of the Charter and Part VII of the *Official Languages Act*;
- motivations for school choices of Francophone parents outside Quebec; and,
- financial impact of bilingual labelling for small and medium sized business.

Office of the Commissioner of Official Languages

2000-2003: Studies on:

- official languages in Canadian sports;
- commercial advertising in federal publications;
- the guichets uniques network;
- immigration and official languages;
- the use of official languages minority media by federal institutions;
- the linguistic composition of the upper level of the federal public service;
- the use of both official languages on the websites of the diplomatic missions and international organizations of the Canadian government;
- French on the internet;
- the governance and schools of official language minorities;
- federal services to the public in French and English;
- possibilities for collaboration between the federal government and official language minority communities in the provision of services; and,
- the obligations of the federal crown in the area of official languages in New Brunswick.

Office of the Commissioner of Official Languages

Planned Studies for 2003-2004:

- language of work in the federal public service;
- linguistic duality in Canada's international activities;
- institutions of Quebec's English speaking communities;
- economic benefits of linguistic duality;
- effectiveness of FSL programs;
- linguistic demands within the federal public service;
- Anglophone participation in the federal public service in Quebec;
- integration-retention of francophone immigrants outside Quebec; and,
- bilingual services of National Capital Commission and Public Works buildings in the National Capital Region.

Communication Canada

Research work and initiatives:

- campaigns in collaboration with the community radio association
- over-sampling based on the Listening to Canadians survey;
- addition of focus groups, during post-tests and other research initiatives;
- special considerations in connection with literacy initiatives (for example, 63% of Francophones outside Quebec are at low literacy levels);
- advice and counsel on public opinion research (POR)

With respect to the gaps with the analysis plan, attention should be given to:

- inconsistencies in the different surveys conducted for the Government of Canada in relation to the questionnaire, the sampling and the quality of the French

Health Canada

- Studies on improving access to health services for Francophones in Saskatchewan, Nova Scotia New Brunswick, East Ontario, Lethbridge, Lakeland Region in Alberta, Alberta as a whole and British Columbia.
- Reports on the health of Francophone women, linguistic barriers in providing health services, Francophone women of racial minorities in Toronto, promoting health within the Franco-Ontarian context.
- Action plan on providing health services in English in Quebec.
- Reports to the Federal Minister of Health on health services to French and English minorities in Canada.
- Analysis of the costs of providing health services in French.
- A pilot project in a Francophone community in Northern Ontario on Community research, mobilization and awareness.

Privy Council Office

- Coordinate sharing of federal government research
- Facilitate sharing of information between governments, communities, academics and other key stakeholders
- Demographic and trend analysis
- Support and initiate a post-censal survey (major study on minority language communities)