

**Strategic Education Agreement between the Government of
Canada, the Fédération nationale des conseils scolaires francophones
(FNCSF), the Fédération des communautés
francophones et acadiennes du Canada (FCFA) and the Commission
nationale des parents francophones (CNPF)**

The sharing of respective responsibilities among the various levels of government is fundamental to the proper functioning of the Canadian Confederation.

The Government of Canada attaches great importance to the maintenance of a productive and constructive collaboration with provincial and territorial governments.

The Government of Canada takes measures to enhance the vitality of Official Language Minority Communities and foster the full recognition and use of English and French in Canadian society.

In that regard, the Government of Canada encourages and assists provincial and territorial governments to support the development of English and French linguistic minority communities and, in particular, by enabling them to be educated in their own language, while recognizing their exclusive jurisdiction in the matter of education.

Section 23 of the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms* (hereinafter "the Charter") is of great importance for the vitality of official-language minority communities.

Minority-language school boards play a key role in the full implementation of section 23 of the *Charter*.

Effective collaboration between the provinces and territories and minority-language school boards is essential to the full implementation of section 23 of the *Charter*.

The Government of Canada respects and encourages the involvement of stakeholders, particularly the FNCSF, the FCFA and the CNPF, in its efforts to enhance the vitality of official language minority communities and the learning of English and French as an official language in Canada.

The Government of Canada recognizes that the involvement of stakeholders, particularly the FNCSF, the FCFA and the CNPF, in Francophone minority communities, enables it

to have a better understanding of the issues, challenges and aspirations of these communities and more effectively identify their priorities.

The Government of Canada, the FNCSF, the FCFA and the CNPF recognize that they had several opportunities to discuss the priorities of Francophone minority communities in anticipation of the renewal of the *Protocol for Agreements for Minority-Language Education and Second-Language Instruction* (hereinafter “the Protocol”) between the Government of Canada and the Council of Ministers of Education, Canada (hereinafter “the CMEC”).

Consequently, the Government of Canada commits to considering the priorities of Francophone minority communities and to make the following points in its negotiations with the CMEC for the renewal of the Protocol:

- Strengthening of the Protocol’s consultation clauses so that minority-language school boards are consulted: ○ by the provinces and territories, in particular when developing and updating their respective actions plans and when the Departments of Education wish to use federal funding for regular operations in minority-language education; and ○ by the Government of Canada prior to the renewal of the Protocol and bilateral agreements;
- Improving accountability mechanisms, in particular by providing more details about the use of federal funding and by ensuring that the reports are made public;
- Recognition of the role of minority-language school boards in all linguistic and cultural aspects of elementary and secondary school education;
- Federal funding provided under the Protocol constitutes a positive measure to help the Departments of Education and minority-language school boards enhance the vitality of minority communities and support their development. More specifically, the purpose of federal funding is to enable Departments of Education and minority-language school boards to go beyond regular operations in minority-language education;
- A clarification to the effect that the Protocol covers preschool, elementary, secondary and post-secondary (college and university) education; and
- The drafting of a protocol specific to minority-language education.

Moreover, regarding the transfer of funding allocated specifically for each of the two linguistic objectives (minority-language education and second-language instruction), the current Protocol specifies that any transfer of funds from one linguistic objective to the other by provincial and territorial governments may be made with the prior agreement of the Government of Canada. If the current single Protocol is maintained, the Government of Canada commits to consulting the minority-language school boards before giving its authorization.

The Government of Canada will continue to collaborate with community representatives, promoting an approach based on consultation and transparency. In this context, the Government of Canada commits to continuing to meet regularly with national organizations to discuss issues and priorities in education. The Government of Canada also commits to having discussions with provincial and territorial minority-language school boards in the context of the negotiations of bilateral agreements with each province and territory.

Signed this 19th day of July 2017

GOVERNMENT OF CANADA


The Honourable Mélanie Joly,
Minister of Canadian Heritage

FÉDÉRATION NATIONALE DES CONSEILS
SCOLAIRES FRANCOPHONES


Mélinna Chartrand
President

FÉDÉRATION DES COMMUNAUTÉS
FRANCOPHONES ET ACADIENNE DU
CANADA


Jean Johnson
President

COMMISSION NATIONALE DES PARENTS
FRANCOPHONES


Véronique Leblond
President

