



French-language Services Plan

2025–2026

Executive Council Office

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Ce document est également disponible en français sous le titre : « Plan de services en français 2025-26 »

Message from the Deputy Minister

Bonjour!

The Executive Council Office leads the execution of key central government functions by providing operational, policy, legal, communications and labour relations strategic advice and support to the Premier/President of the Executive Council, the Executive Council (Cabinet) and its Committees to advance the priorities of government.

In accordance with the *French-language Services Act and Regulations*, I am pleased to provide the Executive Council Office's French-language Services Plan for the year 2025-26.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeannine Lagassé

Deputy Minister, Executive Council Office

What we're doing to contribute to the growth of the Acadian and francophone community

We recognize the importance of French-language services, and we endeavour to fulfil our responsibilities under the *French-language Services Act and Regulations*. We believe Nova Scotians should have access to quality government services in French, and this plan demonstrates our commitment to ensuring our programmes, policies, and services address the priorities expressed by the Acadian and francophone community. To achieve this aim, we collaborate with other designated public institutions across government – including the Office of Acadian Affairs and Francophonie – through the French-language Services Coordinating Committee. We greatly value this partnership, which ensures a continued understanding of the unique needs of our province's Acadian and francophone community.

We encourage Nova Scotians to request services from government in French. We also encourage Acadians and francophones to have their voices heard by participating on agencies, boards, and commissions, which are regularly advertised by the Executive Council Office. As we continue to maintain and improve our French-language services, we welcome feedback on our progress, and we invite you to share with us your comments or questions by contacting our French-language services coordinator. If you wish to make a formal complaint regarding French-language services, please contact the Office of the Ombudsman.

French-language services coordinator:

Ted Aubut (Ted.Aubut@novascotia.ca, 902-240-8992)

Services we offer in French

The Executive Council Office (ECO) responds to verbal and written requests to communicate in French from the public in a timely manner. This is accomplished by obtaining external translation when necessary. Our goal continues to be to provide the same quality of response to inquiries and information requests in French as in English.

ECO provides the following services in English as well as French:

- Advertisements (print and social media) for joining provincial agencies, boards, and commissions are run in both English and French, as well as other government advertising campaigns in accordance with the Act.
- The novascotia.ca website is being updated to better improve and encourage French speaking users to visit and navigate the webpage. This will allow the public to have a better ability to interact with government in either French or English.
- Continue to encourage the translation of web content, forms, brochures, and other publications as opportunities become available.

How we communicate with the public in French

Acadians and francophones are encouraged to become active participants on provincial agencies, boards, and commissions, which impact their business, or their community or way of life. This can be done by visiting https://novascotia.ca/exec_council/abc/

Information about ways to participate is also made available through the provincial “Grow your career. Serve your Community.” initiative which is published in *Le Courrier de la Nouvelle-Écosse*.

Wherever possible, French media are connected with bilingual communications or program staff.

What we did to maintain or improve our French-language services in 2024–25

ECO continued efforts to provide services in French, improve communication materials, respond to inquiries and correspondence, and build understanding with all staff about French-language service requirements. The items below highlight some of the areas related to our goals in 2024-25 where ECO continues to maintain and improve French-language services to Nova Scotians.

Objective 1: Support the development, planning, and delivery of French-language services to the public

- In 2024-25, we continued ECO as a member of the French-language Services Coordinating Committee.
- We shared information on the French-language Services Coordinating Committee with staff and ensured that all staff were aware of French-language training opportunities.

Objective 2: Communications and consultations with the Acadian and francophone community

- We continued to develop and distribute communication materials in French, including advertisements for agency, board, and commission recruitment.
- We promoted opportunities for staff to explore French-language training and encouraged staff to request resources they needed to support skill development and growth.
- We supported staff to participate in training, such as *Acadie at a Glance*, to increase understanding of the Acadian and francophone communities and how to support French-language services.

Objective 3: Strengthen internal operational structures including policy, legislative and administration frameworks

- We responded to requests and provided services in French, specifically responding to French correspondence to the Premier's Office through use of translation services.
- We continued to increase awareness of French-language service requirements.

How we plan to maintain or improve our French-language services in 2025–26

Objective 1: Develop, plan, and deliver programs and services in French

- Goals
 - Fulfill obligations determined in the *French-language Services Act* and *Regulations*.
 - Support the publication of the 2025-26 French-language services plan.
 - Represent ECO and the Office of the Premier on the French-language Services Coordinating Committee, providing advice and recommendations on corporate initiatives as necessary.
 - Share information regarding the French-language Services Coordinating Committee with the staff through email communications.
 - Ensure all staff are aware of French-language Services related activities, such as cultural learning and training opportunities.

Objective 2: Engage the Acadian and francophone community

- Goals
 - Encourage participation of Acadians and francophones on agencies, board, and commissions.
 - Support engagement through French advertising and social media content to reach Acadians and francophones in accordance with the Act
 - Continue to develop and distribute communication materials in French, and distribute French press releases in accordance with the Act
 - Collaborate and engage our partners to ensure policies, programs and services encourage and support safe and healthy French language communities.
 - Encourage staff to request resources for French-language skills development, maintenance, and growth. Provide staff with opportunities for French-language training.
 - Liaise with the Acadian and Francophone community organizations through business and community events.

Objective 3: Strengthen internal frameworks for French-language services

- Goals
 - Increase awareness of our French-language services requirements to achieve a better understanding of the ECO obligations under the *French-language Services Act*.
 - Translate requests and provide services in French as per the *French-language Services Regulations*.
 - Provide French-language labour relations materials and meetings in French, upon request.
 - Offer advice and support to government departments conducting province-wide public consultations with Nova Scotians.