



# **French-language Services Plan**

**2025–2026**

*Department of  
Intergovernmental Affairs*

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French-language Services Plan  
Department of Intergovernmental Affairs  
April 2025

ISBN:978-1-77448-739-6

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## **French-language services plan for 2025-2026**

### **Department of Intergovernmental Affairs**

#### **Message from the Executive Deputy Minister**

I am pleased to submit the 2025-2026 French-language services plan for the Department of Intergovernmental Affairs (IGA). This plan supports the requirements in the *French Language Services Act*.

Intergovernmental Affairs is committed to enhancing and promoting access to French-language services for all Nova Scotians. Business at IGA is conducted primarily in English and when required, IGA provides French-language services.

The Department recognizes the importance of the Acadian and Francophone communities and is committed to working with them to advance their interests within Canada and at the international level. IGA works to build and promote a stronger French language public service culture within government by supporting staff with French-language training to help build the organization's capacity to serve its clients and provide meaningful personal growth opportunities.

IGA continues to engage with federal, provincial, territorial (FPT) and international partners with a view to support Nova Scotia's priorities within Canada and internationally. As a department that is responsible for FPT and international relations, we are supportive of and actively pursuing French-language connections and partnerships aimed at strengthening economic growth and actions that promote relations with French-speaking entities across Canada and internationally.

The plan for 2025-2026 reflects IGA's ongoing commitment to the objectives and spirit of the legislation.



Tracey Taweel  
Executive Deputy Minister  
Intergovernmental Affairs

## **What is IGA 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 programs, policies and services address the priorities expressed by the Acadian and Francophone community. To achieve this goal, we collaborate with other designated public institutions across government – including the Office of Acadian Affairs and Francophonie (OAAF) – through the French-language Services Coordinating Committee (FLSCC). 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 the Department in French. 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.

### **1. French-language Services Coordinator:**

The French-language Services Coordinator (FLSC) at IGA is Annie Khalil ([annie.khalil@novascotia.ca](mailto:annie.khalil@novascotia.ca)), Tel 902-476-0857

### **2. Services IGA offers in French**

- Translation from English to French (and vice-versa) for correspondence and documents is available internally.
- Training and support for staff to attend French classes.
- Interpretation services for phone calls when needed.
- Identification of staff who can offer service in French.

### **3. How IGA communicates with the public in French**

- In accordance with the French-language Services Act and Regulations, all verbal and written correspondence received in French are responded to in French with the support of provincial translation services and/or our FLSC. During the year, IGA received correspondence in French from within and outside Nova Scotia.
- The Council of the Federation (COF) is the forum for Canada’s 13 premiers representing all provinces and territories. COF maintains a bilingual website <https://www.canadaspremiers.ca> and its news conferences are held in both official languages, which underscores the commitment to Canadian bilingualism among premiers. Premier Houston assumed the Chair of COF in July 2023 until July 2024.
- The Council of Atlantic Premiers (CAP) ensures their public documents are in both official languages. Translation services are provided at their news conferences to ensure English and French media outlets can participate in their mother tongue.
- Nova Scotia supports initiatives to communicate with government representatives and officials, the media and the public in French through these premiers’ forums.

#### **4. What IGA did to maintain or improve our French-language services in 2024–25**

##### Goal: Leadership and policy direction

- Implemented measures to ensure a positive environment for the provision of the French-language services plan.
- Supported French-language services within the Department and corporately by committing a staff person to actively engage in the work of the interdepartmental French-language Services Coordinating Committee (FLSCC).
- Promoted relations with French-speaking entities at the national and international levels (government, regions or organizations).
- Engaged with the Consulate General of France in the Atlantic Provinces, and other entities at the national and international levels on matters of strategic interest, including exploring opportunities for a formal twinning partnership with Brittany, France.
- Participated in the 26<sup>th</sup> Commission for Regional Cooperation between the Atlantic provinces and Saint-Pierre-et-Miquelon on October 21 - 23, 2024, and established new connections with federal officials, representatives from the Embassy of France in Canada and stakeholders from the public and private sectors in Saint-Pierre-et-Miquelon.
- Since 2024, the ocean technology sectors in Nova Scotia and Brittany hosted four virtual events, bringing together over one-hundred representatives from both jurisdictions including industry experts working together to explore partnership opportunities, and enhance international collaboration between the two jurisdictions. These events have been made possible through the ongoing partnerships between the Brittany Regional Council, Pôle Mer Bretagne Atlantique, the Ocean Technology Council of Nova Scotia (OTCNS), Invest Nova Scotia and Nova Scotia Intergovernmental Affairs.
- IGA participated in the Agora Francophone Economy (August, 9-10, 2024), organized by the Ministers' Council on Canadian Francophonie (MCCF), an intergovernmental collaborative organization that acts as a catalyst in sectors of importance to Francophone and Acadian communities. The MCCF's Agora brought together perspectives and identified avenues to better support the Francophonie's contribution to Canada's prosperity.
- Supported the coordinators of the Congrès mondial acadien (CMA) Economic Forum with the organization of the event. CMA partnered with the Conseil de développement économique de la Nouvelle-Écosse (CDÉNÉ) to present the Economic Forum (August 13-15, 2024) - a conference that brought together specialists, policy makers, entrepreneurs and civil society actors from l'Acadie and abroad to explore synergies between sustainable development and economic growth and undertake concrete actions for a sustainable future.
- In partnership with OAAF, IGA supported the production of two episodes of Destination Francophonie, a television program aired on the French-language international television network TV5 that highlights francophone countries internationally. Both episodes showcased Acadian and francophone communities in Nova Scotia and a pre-screening was organized at the Canadian Cultural Centre in Paris in January 2025 in the presence of Stéphane Dion, the Ambassador of Canada to France, Colton

LeBlanc, the Minister of Acadian Affairs and Francophonie of Nova Scotia and Kim Younès, the CEO of TV5MONDE.

- IGA collaborated with OAAF to assist with the development of the application of the Province of Nova Scotia to join the Organisation internationale de la Francophonie (OIF). An official delegation headed by Minister Colton LeBlanc represented the Province at the 19<sup>th</sup> Francophonie summit in Villers-Cotterêts and Paris on October 4 and 5, 2024 where Nova Scotia officially became an observer member of the OIF.

#### Goal: Accessibility of French-language services

- Communicated with the public in French through the internet and press releases.
- Promoted training in French language and supported staff who chose to participate in French-language training. During 2024-2025, one employee was enrolled in French-language training courses offered by the Université Sainte-Anne, and another employee expressed interest in registering early March 2025 for the upcoming spring session which took place from April 7 until June 13, 2025.

### **5. How IGA plans to maintain or improve our French-language services in 2025–26**

#### **Objective 1: Strengthen internal operational structures including policy, legislative and administrative frameworks**

- Promote and encourage the participation of IGA employees in French-language training.
- Raise staff awareness of departmental responsibilities and obligations with respect to French-language services.
- Raise awareness of Acadian culture.

#### **Objective 2: Develop and deliver quality French-language services and programs to the public**

- Respond in French to all requests received in the French language.
- Increase awareness of and obligation to the *French-language Services Act* and Regulations.
- Provide French content on the IGA website.
- Raise awareness of services available in French and promote the Bonjour! Programme through the distribution of promotional materials received by all members of the French-Language Services Coordinating Committee (FLSCC).

#### **Objective 3: Maintain ongoing dialogue and consultation with the Acadian and francophone community**

- Engage with other provinces and territories on matters of interest to the Acadian and Francophone community.
- Promote cultural, economic and trade relations with French-speaking regions nationally and internationally linking them with the Acadian and Francophone community in Nova Scotia.
- Work closely with all departments to promote dialogue and consultation with the Acadian and Francophone community.

- Continue to engage with the Consulate General of France in the Atlantic Provinces to keep abreast of economic and cultural cooperation that can be further enhanced between France and the Province of Nova Scotia.
- Hold meetings with Francophone organizations to explore opportunities to increase activity with Francophone partners.