



Review on Official Languages 2023-24

Tombstone Data

Prepared by: Stephanie Azoulay, Acting Manager, Strategic Policy and Planning

Institution's name: Canada Council for the Arts

Institution's code: CCL

Minister responsible: Pascale St-Onge, Minister of Canadian Heritage

Deputy Head: Michelle Chawla, Director and CEO

Person responsible for official languages (Parts IV, V and VI of the *Official Languages Act* (OLA): Sadaf Payman, Human Resources/Finance System Implementation Coordinator

National coordinator or contact person responsible for the implementation of section 41 (Part VII) of the OLA: Stephanie Azoulay, Acting Manager, Strategic Policy and Planning

Regional contact person(s) for section 41 of the OLA (if applicable): N/A

Part VII of the *Official Languages Act* - Advancement of Equality of Status and Use of English and French

1. The institution ensured that positive measures were taken for the advancement of equality of status and use of English and French.

Nearly always (Between 90% and 99% of cases).

2. Promote and support the learning of both official languages

Please refer to our response to question 19.

3. Foster an acceptance and appreciation of both English and French

To foster an acceptance and appreciation of both official languages, the Council has adopted a number of good practices. These include bilingual internal communications with employees, bilingual all-staff meetings, and the active encouragement for employees to speak in the official language of their choice. In addition:

Celebrating Official Languages Day

The Council's Official Languages Champion sends out an email in both official languages to all employees to celebrate Official Languages Day. This past year, on September 14, 2023, employees were invited to participate in a virtual event that featured musical and other cultural performances by Canadian artists, as well as to test their knowledge of Canada's two official languages through the Official Languages Day website.

Council's Official Languages Policy

The Council's [Official Languages Policy](#) (updated in 2023) governs and supports its activities related to official languages. It outlines and communicates the values, legislative context, instruments, administrative roles and processes related to official languages at the Council.

The Council has developed different strategies and measures over the years to support official language minority communities. Frequently faced with geographical, linguistic and cultural barriers, these communities have been supported by the Council through strategic funding mechanisms and are important beneficiaries of the Council's funding in general, which is awarded on a competitive basis relative to published assessment criteria. These strategies are also described in the Council's *Official Languages Policy*.

The Council's Committee on Official Languages

The Council's Committee on Official Languages monitors and provides recommendations related to the Council's use of official languages and its obligations under the *Official Languages Act*. The work of the Committee supports the Council's compliance with its OLA obligations as well as continuous improvement in its activities related to official languages. The Committee is chaired by the Official Languages Champion and is composed of employees with responsibilities related to official languages from all parts of the organization, including the Section 41 Coordinator.

Engaging OLMC representatives in leadership roles

We are also fostering an acceptance and appreciation of both English and French by engaging OLMC representatives in leadership roles at the Council. For example, in July 2023, Yves-Gérard Méhou-Loko, a member of a French-speaking minority community, was appointed Secretary General of the Canadian Commission for UNESCO (CCUNESCO), which operates under the authority of the Council. He has spoken at several events for official language minority communities (OLMCs) in Canada, including the symposium of the Association des conseils scolaires des écoles publiques de l'Ontario (ACÉPO); the Sommet national sur l'apprentissage pour la francophonie canadienne organized by the Réseau pour le développement de l'alphabétisme et des compétences (RESDAC); and the Metropolis Francophonie Mondiale Conference organized by the Association for Canadian Studies. He is also vice-president of the Fédération des communautés francophones et acadiennes (FCFA). Michel Emery (a Francophone from the Yukon) is a member of the CCUNESCO Executive Committee.

4. Promote the bilingual character of Canada in Canada or elsewhere

The Council's commitment to promoting linguistic duality in Canada is demonstrated through its bilingual program structure and processes. In addition, the artistic activities funded by the Council in both official languages reach the Canadian public in communities across the country, as well as audiences and communities around the world.

Promoting bilingualism in Canada

The Council promotes bilingualism in Canada through the Public Lending Right (PLR) program. This program provides annual payments to literary creators (including, writers, illustrators, photographers, translators, narrators, and editors) as compensation for the presence of their books in Canada's public libraries. The PLR Commission—made up of representatives of both anglophone and francophone literary communities—oversees the program.

As outlined in the [actions](#) of its 2021–26 strategic plan, *Art, now more than ever*, the Council is committed to investing \$74 million in payments to creators through the PLR program within five years. In 2023–24, the PLR program distributed \$14.5 million to over 18,200 Canadian literary creators in both official languages as compensation for having their work available to the public in Canadian libraries. A total of \$6.6 million went to francophone authors and \$8.1 million to anglophone authors.

In 2023–24, direct support for literary creativity in OLM communities from the PLR program was almost \$1.3 million, representing nearly 9% of the total PLR payment budget. The program delivered \$600,000 for title claims registered in French from literary creators residing outside Quebec and \$700,000 for PLR title claims registered in English from literary creators residing in Quebec.

TiBert and Douzie tour in North Vancouver

In 2023–24, the duo of TiBert (Rob Malo) and Douzie (Alexandre Tétrault) received a Council grant for a tour to North Vancouver where they performed in four French-immersion schools and presented a show organized by Canadian Parents for French.

TiBert and Douzie are proud Franco-Métis members of the Union nationale métisse du Manitoba, and they speak French to each other even when surrounded by Anglophones. They learned Michif from their Elders and share this richness of language and culture (Franco-Métis and French-Canadian) with their student audiences.

Their shows offer a musical and visual journey through French and Métis culture in Manitoba. Since French-immersion schools in North Vancouver rarely get the opportunity to host Francophone artists, Canadian Parents for French consider this visit a very important contact for spreading the use of French throughout English Canada.

Promoting the bilingual character of Canada abroad

Through many of its granting programs, the Council funds opportunities for OLMC artists to travel, present their work and engage with audiences around the world. These activities are impactful mechanisms that help promote the bilingual character of Canada on an international scale.

For example, in 2023-24, the Council awarded a grant to Vishtèn, a Francophone musical group based in Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, to undertake a tour of the United States. Thanks to this grant, the group carried out an ambitious project to celebrate and promote Prince Edward Island's Acadian and Celtic culture. *Connexions*, their flagship project, is a show in which they invite Francophone and Anglophone musicians to jointly explore musical and cultural connections. In its first international outing during this tour, the show was performed in Louisiana as part of McNeese State University's Banners Series in Lake Charles, as well as the Festival International de Lafayette and the New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Festival.

As another example, this past year the Council awarded a grant to Scott Glassman, an Anglophone independent filmmaker based in Montreal, QC, to travel to Beirut, Lebanon to present two of his short (English-language) films—*Lior* (2021) and *A Night With Lucas and Silvia* (2023)—at The Lebanese Independent Film Festival (LIFF). Participating in this festival represented a first opportunity for the filmmaker to present his work internationally and to engage with an international audience. Moreover, as the only Quebec filmmaker accepted to the festival, he was able to represent young Quebec filmmakers on an international scale, positioning his work as made and rooted in the Canadian arts scene with the intention of going beyond borders, languages, and cultures to share artistic practice, knowledge, and inspiration with new filmmakers.

5. Support the creation and dissemination of information in French that contributes to the advancement of scientific knowledge (If yes, specify the scientific discipline in the mandatory clarifications).

The Canadian Commission for UNESCO (CCUNESCO) has contributed to many initiatives that produce and disseminate scientific information in French and thereby advance scientific knowledge in general.

For example, CCUNESCO is an institutional partner of Acfas, a non-profit organization that promotes the advancement of science in French in Quebec and the rest of French-speaking Canada, as well as on the international Francophone scene. Each year, the Acfas annual conference brings together thousands of participants from the Canadian and international Francophonie. In 2023, CCUNESCO organized two activities for the conference's 90th edition: one on open science and one on the links between Indigenous languages and sustainable development.

During the year, CCUNESCO also promoted its French-language publication, *Introduction à la Recommandation de l'UNESCO sur une science ouverte*, to various stakeholders in Canada. Open science is defined as "an inclusive construct that combines various movements and practices aiming to make multilingual scientific knowledge openly available, accessible and reusable for everyone, to increase scientific

collaborations and sharing of information for the benefits of science and society, and to open the processes of scientific knowledge creation, evaluation and communication to societal actors beyond the traditional scientific community.”

Support sectors that are essential to enhancing the vitality of official languages minority communities (check all that apply and provide details for each) :

6. Culture

As Canada’s only national public arts funder, the Council directly supports the Canadian arts and culture sector in a number of different ways. In 2023-24, the Council invested \$323.7 million in grants, prizes, initiatives and partnerships that directly benefited artists, cultural workers and arts organizations across the country—many of whom belong to official language minority communities. The Council provides grants to support the research, creation, production and presentation of artistic and literary works.

The Council also has two strategic funds that directly support OLMCs. The Market Access Strategy for Official Language Minority Community Artists (Market Access Strategy) aims to increase access of professional artists and arts organizations from OLMCs to a diversity of markets and publics. The Official Languages Fund is designed to counter the isolation experienced by OLMC artists and to assist the development of individuals and arts organizations working in OLMCs.

7. Education

CCUNESCO coordinates a network of over 100 UNESCO schools in Canada.

Teachers and students in these schools pursue projects and initiatives that explore four thematic action areas: UNESCO’s mission and mandate and the Sustainable Development Goals; global citizenship education; education for sustainable development and climate action; and Indigenous education and reconciliation. Some twenty UNESCO schools teach in an official language minority context.

Also in 2023–24, thanks in part to funding from the Council’s Market Access Strategy for OLMCs (described above), **Éditions David**, one of the only French-language publishers in Ontario (based in Ottawa) that produces collections for young Francophone readers, launched *Pigeon voyageur*, a new series for readers aged 9 to 13. Through strategic partnerships, awareness-raising and promotional activities with teachers, librarians and parents, this publisher enables young readers in Ontario and across Canada to access, read and enjoy rich Franco-Ontarian literature that has been written with them in mind.

8. Health

N/A

9. Justice

N/A

10. Employment

N/A

11. Immigration

Francophone immigration to Canada outside Quebec is on the rise, particularly from West Africa, Central Africa and the Maghreb. In 2022, 16,300 Francophone immigrants settled in Canada outside Quebec, representing 4.4% of all Francophone immigrants to Canada. Several Council-supported arts organizations play a role in welcoming and building links with these newcomers. For example, in recent years the **Théâtre Cercle Molière** in Winnipeg (which receives core funding from the Council) has undertaken co-productions with Moroccan artists, mobilized Winnipeg's Moroccan community, and also welcomed artists from Senegal, Haiti and Guinea.

12. Protect and promote the presence of strong institutions serving official languages minority communities

In 2023-24, the Council provided \$7,649,531 in core (operational) funding to 85 OLM arts organizations across the country—44 anglophone organizations located in Quebec [\$3,869,916 in funding] and 41 francophone organizations located outside of Quebec [\$3,779,615 in funding]. This stable, recurring multi-year funding helps to ensure that these organizations continue to thrive within their communities, providing vital cultural offerings, supports and services to OLMCs across the country.

The following are two examples of OLM organizations that received core funding from the Council in 2023-24. These organizations contribute greatly to the vitality of their OLM communities, as described below:

English Language Arts Network (ELAN), Montreal, Quebec

The English Language Arts Network (ELAN) is a non-profit organization that connects English-speaking artists, cultural workers and arts organizations from all disciplines, all backgrounds, and all regions of Quebec. It is the only multidisciplinary organization representing Quebec's English-speaking artists and cultural workers as a whole.

ELAN's service to Quebec's English-speaking arts community can be understood in three parts: connecting artists to each other, to resources and information; supporting artists through professional development and representation; and creating partnerships and opportunities that enrich the community.

ELAN creates a community for members to celebrate Quebec's English-language culture, find common cause with French-speaking artists and audiences, and contribute to an evolving Quebec identity that celebrates social, cultural, and artistic diversity.

Théâtre la Seizième, Vancouver, British Columbia

Théâtre la Seizième is the leading professional French-language theatre company in British Columbia, and a major cultural resource for the province's 70,000 Francophones and 300,000 Francophiles. The company's mandate is to reach a wide range of audiences, including Francophones and Francophiles of all ages, cultural backgrounds, levels of French and artistic affinities.

Each year, Théâtre la Seizième presents a diversified program of contemporary productions and other works, almost all of which are being presented for the first time in

the province. These offerings reflect and contribute to the richness of French-language theatrical creation from Canada and abroad.

The company also plays a key role for British Columbia's Francophone artists, for whom it is a major employer, a resource centre and a point of reference in managing and developing cultural events.

14. When negotiating agreements with the provincial and territorial governments, including funding agreements, in areas of activity that may contribute to enhancing the vitality of official language minority communities, fostering the full recognition and use of both English and French in Canadian society, the protection and promotion of French or learning in the minority language, the federal institution had a mechanism in place to promote the inclusion in those agreements of provisions on official languages.

Often (Between 50% and 69% of cases).

The Council has begun to include clauses pertaining to official languages in its agreements with provincial and territorial governments. For example, in the past year, the following clauses were included in such agreements:

“The Canada Council is subject to the *Official Languages Act*, and as such the parties under this agreement must adhere to the *Act*, as required.”

“Additionally, all official communications must adhere to the overall branding (visual and narrative) of the respective parties, **respect the *Official Languages Act of Canada***, and respond to accessibility requirements in communications and outreach efforts.”

The Council will look to include a standardized clause in all its agreements with provincial and territorial governments going forward.

15. The institution identified stakeholders from official language minority communities that are affected by the carrying out of its mandate or the implementation of its programs.

The Council has implemented several measures to identify and engage with stakeholders from OLMCs. These measures help the Council to understand challenges and opportunities and to make informed decisions regarding projects or initiatives that impact OLMCs and they include the following:

Voluntary self-identification

The Council encourages all applicants and peer assessors (assessing applications under the Council's programs and prizes) to complete a voluntary self-identification form. The form asks individuals to report their first language, whether they identify as an Anglophone official-language minority or a Francophone official-language minority, and to identify all languages that they have learned and still understand. The self-identification form helps the Council determine whether its programs and services are reaching a diverse range of Canadian artists, and where there are gaps or opportunities. Applicants are also encouraged to self-identify to be considered for

strategic measures, including special funding.

Attestation tool for groups and organizations

In the fall of 2023, the Council launched a new attestation tool for arts groups and organizations that apply for funding from the Council. This self-identification tool is filled out by groups and organizations to identify whether their activities serve one or more of the Council's strategic groups, including OLMCs. The data collected through this form helps the Council identify gaps and barriers in its funding to OLMCs, and to determine whether groups and organizations are eligible to access strategic measures, including special funding.

Balanced composition of peer assessment committees

Peer assessment is the basis for the majority of the Council's decisions as to which artists, artistic projects and arts organizations receive funding. The Council is committed to ensuring that the choice of peers reflects the diversity of Canada's population, including OLMCs. The number of peer assessors from OLMCs is monitored on an annual basis to ensure that there is appropriate participation from these groups. Such representation increases the understanding of OLMC issues and practices, so they are appropriately reflected in decision-making.

In 2023-24, OLMC peer assessors for the Council's granting programs and strategic funds totaled 167 out of the 673 peer assessors residing in Canada. This represented 24.8% of all Canadian-based assessors for grant programs and strategic funds. By comparison, OLMC artists represent 10.6% of the number of artists in Canada from Census 2021 data, of which 6.8% are Anglophone artists living in Quebec, and 3.8% are Francophone artists living outside Quebec (Hill Strategies, [Statistical profile of English-speaking artists in Quebec](#) and [Minority-language Francophone artists and cultural workers](#)).

The institution's programs and services enabled it to (check all that apply and provide details for each):

16. Support and assist the development of official language minority communities

Ongoing strategic measures and their results

Overall, in 2023-24, the Council provided total financial support (regular programs and strategic funding combined) to OLMCs of \$27,485,454: \$16,366,507 to individuals, groups and organizations from anglophone communities, and \$11,118,947 to individuals, groups and organizations from francophone communities. This represents a 25.6% decrease in funding to OLMCs as compared to 2022-23. The decrease is due to the fact that, in 2022-23, the Council delivered two rounds of time-limited government funding in response to the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic: \$50 million in recovery funding which benefited many underserved and marginalized communities, including OLMCs; and \$9.2 million in government support to approximately 200 core-funded organizations with a mandate dedicated to underserved and marginalized communities, specifically Indigenous, racialized, Deaf and disability, and official language minority

communities. These overall funding results reflect the cumulative impact of the initiatives described below, as well as the overall increase in the Council's support to the arts sector.

Assessment criteria for project and core funding

Several granting programs have assessment criteria that require grant applicants to demonstrate how they represent the diversity of their geographic community, especially through their artistic programming, organizational makeup and audiences. These criteria include representation and engagement from OLMCs, as well as other marginalized and underserved groups.

In addition, all core (operating) grant recipients must sign the grant terms and conditions through which they commit to reporting on strategies and initiatives undertaken to respond to and reflect their communities, including OLMCs. In the terms and conditions, grant recipients are also encouraged to identify participants or members of the public for whom the activities are designed and to take appropriate measures to include minority language audiences where possible. The Council considers the inclusion of assessment criteria that require applicants to demonstrate how they reflect the diversity of their geographic communities as contributing to the support and development of OLMC applicants in the Council's programs.

In 2023-24, through the Council's core funding components, \$7,649,531 was awarded to OLMCs: \$3,869,916 to organizations from Anglophone minority communities and \$3,779,615 to organizations from Francophone minority communities.

Market Access Strategy for OLMC Fund

The Council's [Market Access Strategy for Official Language Minority Communities Fund](#) (Market Access Strategy) is a dedicated strategic fund offering project grants to OLMC artists and arts organizations that derives from the *Action Plan for Canada's Official Languages 2023-28*. The fund's objective is to expand national and international market access for works from those communities, contribute to the development of new markets and strengthen the ability of artists and arts organizations to access these markets. On their own, the home markets for arts organizations from OLMCs are often not significant enough to support the ongoing work of these organizations. Diversified markets—across Canada and around the world—are therefore essential.

Market Access Strategy grants are allocated through a competitive process, and applications are assessed based on published program criteria. In 2023-24, the Market Access Strategy provided \$584,640 in funding to 26 distinct recipients (14 distinct recipients from anglophone minority communities were awarded \$272,900; 12 distinct recipients from francophone minority communities were awarded \$311,740).

Official Languages Fund

The Official Languages Fund (OLF) is a long-standing support mechanism which offers financial support to artists and organizations working in OLMCs. The objectives of the OLF are to counter isolation and assist in the artistic development of individual artists

and the development of arts organizations working in OLMCs. The OLF is awarded to applicants in the Council's regular granting programs as additional support to successful applicants or to provide support to applicants who were recommended for funding but not successful.

In 2023-24, the OLF provided \$794,454 in funding to artistic projects from all regions of Canada. Overall, 65 artists, groups, and arts organizations received OLF support. These grants were awarded across a range of artistic disciplines and activities. The split between each official language minority community is as follows: 35 distinct Anglophone minority recipients were awarded a total of \$404,085; and 30 distinct Francophone minority recipients were awarded a total of \$390,369.

17. Foster the full recognition and use of both English and French in Canadian society

The Council fosters the recognition and use of both official languages through its public communications—all of which are bilingual. The Council ensures that all publicly shared information – e.g., emails, social media posts, research reports – is available in both English and French of equal quality.

One of the most impactful ways the Council fosters the recognition and use of both official languages is through the artistic activities that it funds that reach the Canadian public in communities across the country. For example:

Governor General's Literary Awards

Every year, the Council administers and promotes the Governor General's Literary Awards (GGBooks). The awards promote literature from Canada, recognizing the best English-language and French-language books in seven categories: Fiction, Non-fiction, Poetry, Drama, Young People's Literature – Text, Young People's Literature – Illustrated Books, and Translation. Throughout the year, events are organized by partners that feature the finalist and winning books. Whether it be readings, discussions or other original activities, they are all opportunities to discover the best of literature from Canada—in both English and French.

18. Protect and promote the French language

In 2023-24, the Council contributed to several initiatives that protect and promote the French language, as described below:

Festival Fransaskois 2023

In 2023–24, the Council provided funding to the Festival Fransaskois, the only Francophone festival of its kind in Saskatchewan. The festival is an opportunity for its audiences to discover or rediscover artists from a variety of musical genres, all in French. It is also a great occasion for the Francophone community to come together and celebrate its contributions to the province and the country.

With its theme of “Femmes d’ici,” the 2023 festival highlighted women living in Saskatchewan and their contribution to the arts scene. It featured a wide variety of

Francophone musical performances, as well as a children's show, artistic workshops, public meetings and literary readings. For one day of the festival, the festival also joined forces with a local immigrant-support organization, providing transportation that enabled groups of newcomers to attend.

For many years, these activities have provided Francophones in Saskatchewan, often isolated from each other, an opportunity to come together. They have also helped Francophone communities counteract the pressure to assimilate into Anglophone communities.

The Games of La Francophonie

The Council worked with Canadian Heritage to oversee the cultural programming of the 2023 Games of La Francophonie, held from July 28 to August 6, 2023, in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of the Congo.

The Games are an artistic and sporting competition, where gold, silver, and bronze medals are awarded to outstanding Francophone artists ranging in age from 18 to 35, from all parts of the world. It's a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for Francophone artists from around the globe to network and make their mark on the international scene.

The Council contributed to the pre-selection of the young Francophone artists who represented French Canada in the eleven disciplines of the cultural competitions (balloon juggling, giant puppets, hip-hop dance, storytelling, literature, photography, sculpture-installation, painting, song, creative dance and digital creation). The selection of artists was determined by a committee of peer assessors, who reflect the diversity of the Canadian Francophonie.

Francophone theatre artists from Canada selected to participate in Les Zébrures d'automne festival in Limoges, France

The Council sent a delegation of theatre artists from Francophone minority language communities to Les Zébrures d'automne, a festival in Limoges, France, where French-speaking Canada was the guest of honour. The festival is an opportunity for artists from different regions of the world to explore new ways of collaboration, exchange and dissemination.

The festival took place from September 20 to 30, 2023, and succeeded in promoting encounters and developing professional connections among Francophone artists from French Canada, the French Antilles, Africa and Europe; stimulating artistic exchanges and knowledge-sharing within the international Francophone community; encouraging artistic collaboration among artists from the international Francophone community that included co-production projects based on principles of cooperation and reciprocity; and promoting Canada's Francophonie in all its rich diversity.

L'Arrière Scène – Centre dramatique pour l'enfance et la jeunesse

In 2023-24, the Council awarded a grant to L'Arrière Scène – Centre dramatique pour l'enfance et la jeunesse, a drama centre for children and youth in Quebec City whose

programs include Le Théâtrophone, a digital educational platform developed for Quebec schools. The platform consists of a catalogue of dramatic works specifically produced in audio format and complemented by an educational kit. The aim is to offer schools tools that will enhance their students' cultural experience. The Centre received a grant from the Council to adapt its artistic and educational content for dissemination across Canada. In collaboration with Franco-Ontarian presenters, it will develop a prototype suitable for the Ontario school system, and test this prototype in a variety of learning contexts, namely, French-language schools and French-immersion classes.

Translation of a series of fictional stories about Métis history into English and Michif

In 2023–24, the Council awarded a grant (under its Indigenous program, Creating, Knowing and Sharing: The Arts and Cultures of First Nations, Inuit and Métis Peoples) to the Union nationale métisse Saint-Joseph du Manitoba (UNMSJM) for a translation project.

In collaboration with Franco-Manitoban author Janine Tougas, the Union will translate a series of contemporary fictional stories based on Métis history for young people aged 5 to 20. Titled *Les Istwerres de la sharette de la Rivyerre-Rouj / Histoires de la charrette de la Rivière-Rouge / Stories of the Red River Cart* and consisting of 36 short stories, the series will be a first in Manitoba's Métis community, given that there is currently little non-academic Métis content available for children and adults wishing to reconnect with Métis culture. This series aims to entertain and serve as a rallying point and reason to celebrate for all generations.

To reach as many people as possible, the Union will have the stories translated into English so that the print versions will be in both official languages. The text will also be translated into Michif in keeping with Métis oral culture. In addition, all three translated versions will be available online in audiovisual format. Translation into Michif is particularly important in order to support the revitalization of the language. At present, only 250 people in Manitoba speak Michif, which makes it a language that is actually disappearing as a result of colonization.

This project aims to create a free multilingual online resource, in the form of a visual and oral narrative, not only for Manitoba's French Métis population but also for Métis, Francophone and Anglophone educational and cultural institutions, including libraries and museums, and for all Manitobans. This project invites all segments of the population to better understand and appreciate the Métis people and their contribution to Canadian heritage throughout history. In the words of Maria Campbell, author and Métis knowledge-keeper, "Stories are the strongest medicine we have."

19. Advance opportunities for members of English and French linguistic minority communities to pursue quality learning in their own language

The Council actively supports learning opportunities for members of OLMCs. Individual artists and arts professionals from OLMCs apply for grants from the Council to pursue a

wide variety of activities, including many self-directed learning opportunities in the official language of their choice.

To illustrate, the following are examples of funded projects submitted in 2023-24 by self-identified OLMC applicants that include quality learning opportunities in their first official language:

Mentorship in publishing Acadian literature

Based in Moncton, New Brunswick, Émilie Turmel is an editor with Éditions Perce-Neige. She received a Council grant to complete a mentorship in prose manuscript editing from Yara El-Ghadban, editor at Montreal-based publisher Mémoire d'encrier.

Since Turmel works in a linguistic minority community, she wanted to pursue an inclusive, decolonial approach in establishing a pool of often-marginalized and underrepresented authors. El-Ghadban has worked at Mémoire d'encrier for several years, a publishing house whose mission is to publish underrepresented voices in Canadian literature, namely those of culturally diverse authors. This mentorship helped Turmel adapt the solutions developed by Mémoire d'encrier to an Acadian reality.

Emerging Director Mentorship for Syrian-Canadian Filmmaker

With a grant from the Council, Ayham Abou Ammar, a Syrian-Canadian filmmaker based in Brossard, Quebec, had the opportunity to pursue six months of specialized filmmaking training with Muslims in Media, a registered Canadian charity.

This English-language training covered all of the steps involved in the creation and distribution of a short film. The program facilitated Ayham Abou Ammar's integration into the Montreal filmmaking community, and provided valuable networking opportunities with established directors, producers, and industry professionals. He acquired essential technical mentorship in filmmaking, and he received guidance in English-language script development. Through this mentorship, Ayham Abou Ammar was encouraged to explore and incorporate elements of his Syrian heritage into the film, contributing to the rich cultural tapestry of Canadian cinema.

21. In developing a disposal strategy for a surplus federal real property or a federal immovable, the institution consulted the official language minority communities and other stakeholders to take into account the needs and priorities of the English or French linguistic minority communities of the province or territory where the federal real property or federal building in question is located.

N/A (Does not apply to your institution).

The Council does not own any federal real property or federal buildings.

22. Give us one or two examples of best practices that your institution has implemented as part of fulfilling its commitment under Part VII of the OLA.

The Council's collaboration for the advancement of francophone and Acadian artists in OLMCs

The Council, together with other federal cultural institutions, is a signatory to the *Collaboration Agreement for the Development of Arts and Culture in the Francophone Minority Communities of Canada 2018-2023 (the Agreement)*. The goal of this agreement is to strengthen the coordination of and consolidate efforts for the development of francophone and Acadian linguistic minorities in Canada and to promote their contribution to Canada's arts and culture.

Throughout 2023-24, the Council participated in meetings of the committee of signatories and contributed to the evaluation of the 2018-23 Agreement. The Council is committed to continue its engagement in a renewed Agreement. (At the time of writing, the terms of the 2023-28 Agreement are still under negotiation.)

Context brief about OLMCs

The Council has produced context briefs containing information and resources about emerging, underserved and less-understood arts communities and practices. They are intended to equip the Council's peer assessment committees, and they are updated to evolve with the ongoing dialogue about a given topic. They have also been made available on the Council's [website](#) to the general public.

The Council's context brief on OLMCs provides peer assessors with a better understanding of what OLMCs are, the challenges artists in these communities face, and additional resources about the artistic and cultural context of OLMC artists and organizations.