

Cabinet Information Item F/P/T Ministerial Report

- Date:** June 17 and 18, 2015
(Toronto, Ontario)
- Title:** 20th Ministerial Conference on the Canadian Francophonie
“Raise high and bright the flame of the Canadian Francophonie”
- Department:** Culture and Heritage
- Participants:** Honourable George Kuksuk, Minister of Languages
Naullaq Arnaquq, ADM, Culture and Heritage
Michel Potvin, Manager of French Services, Culture and Heritage
Mylène Bellerose, Program Officer, Culture and Heritage
Seane d’Argencourt, Assistant to Minister Kuksuk

Nunavut Position:

- Nunavut is committed to providing effective, efficient and culturally relevant services to the French language community of Nunavut, as required by the *Official Languages Act* (OLA), and based on the recommendations contained in the March 2015 report “Priorities of the Francophone Community of Nunavut regarding French Services”.
- “Community-based solutions” were identified in *Sivumut Abluqta: Stepping Forward Together 2014-2018* as a mechanism to support social well-being and local economies. Through the implementation of *Uqausivut*, Nunavut is committed to working with the French language community in seeking “community-based solutions” that will enhance the development and delivery of French Language Services.

Meeting outcome/Current situation:

P/T Meeting

- The P/T Meeting was chaired by the Honourable Madeleine Meilleur, Minister Responsible for Francophone Affairs of Ontario.
- The focus of the P/T Meeting was on francophone immigration, and more specifically on how it contributes to the labour market and economic prosperity of the provinces and territories.
- As part of the Conference proceedings, Madeleine Meilleur, and Jean-Marc Fournier, Quebec’s Minister responsible for Canadian Intergovernmental Affairs and the Canadian Francophonie, presented a retrospective view of their efforts and the results that were attained to ensure that the Société Radio-Canada’s (French CBC) funding enables it to fulfill its mandate as national public broadcaster under the Broadcasting Act.

F/P/T Meeting

- The F/P/T Meeting was co-chaired by Minister Meilleur (Ontario) and Mr. Jacques Gourde, Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister, for Official Languages and for the Economic Development Agency of Canada for the Regions of Quebec (Canada).
- The ministers in attendance had an exchange with Graham Fraser, Commissioner of Official Languages of Canada, and François Boileau, Ontario's French Language Services Commissioner, who shared their vision on French-language government services that could contribute to the continued development of the Canadian Francophonie.
- Economic development within the Canadian Francophonie was also discussed. The ministers specifically discussed the idea of supporting the networking between Francophone economic organizations and entrepreneurs in order to expand the pan-Canadian Francophone economic space.
- Promotional initiatives were also presented to the ministers, including tourism as a driver for the economic development of Canada's Francophonie. In this regard, ministers agreed to create a working committee to explore opportunities of collaboration on tourism projects, including a concept of a francophone tourism circuit.
- The ministers further discussed the potential opportunities offered by the current immigration system for recruiting French-speaking newcomers. Francophone immigration remains a priority for the Conference and ministers agree on the importance of determining actions that can be taken in this respect to support the labour market, workers mobility and the vitality of Francophone communities across the country.
- The ministers also had the opportunity to identify and appreciate the various changes affecting the media and the opportunities offered by these changes for the advancement and development of the Canadian Francophonie.

Next Steps:

- Meeting of the Intergovernmental Network on the Canadian Francophonie (December 1 and 2, 2015, Montréal, QC).
- 21st Ministerial Conference on the Canadian Francophonie to be held in St. John's, NL, on June 22 and 23, 2016.
- Nunavut has demonstrated an interest in hosting the MCCF in 2018 to coincide with the 10th anniversary of the adoption of Nunavut's *Official Languages Act*.