



French-language Services Plan

2024–2025

*Department of Education and
Early Childhood Development*

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French-language Services Plan
Department of Education and Early Childhood Development
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Message from the Deputy Minister

Hello,

I am pleased to present the French-language Services Plan for 2024-2025 for the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (EECD).

EECD is unique among provincial government departments in that all its communications and publications are issued in both English and French at the same time. Nova Scotia's Acadian and Francophone communities are an important part of our education system to whom French-language services are provided.

As a department, all branches are committed to ensuring that the wellbeing and achievement of students are supported in both English and French. We value the importance of educating and learning in French and we recognize the opportunities that having a second language can provide. The French Programs and Services Branch (FPSB) is responsible for providing educational programs and services that promote and support the Acadian and francophone communities in Nova Scotia as well as French second-language education.

Our plan is committed to an inclusive education model. Key reports such as the *Inclusive Education Policy* and the *French Education Framework* create a more inclusive and equitable education system that supports students' well-being and academic success while strengthening collaboration among all branches within the department, the various educational partners, and Acadian and francophone partners.

— Elwin LeRoux, April 2024

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. 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—through the French-language Services Coordinating Committee and the Department of Communities, Culture, Tourism and Hospitality. We greatly value these partnerships, which ensure 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 through participation 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. Formal complaints are directed to French-language services, please contact the Office of the Ombudsman.

French-language services coordinator: Chaimae Bouardi (chaimae.bouardi@novascotia.ca, 902-456-1403)

Services we offer in French

Programs

Curriculum Development

The French Programs and Services Branch at EECD has three divisions to support French First Language Education, French Second Language Education and French Program Partnerships. Consultants and other specialists work in collaboration with other branches of the department in order to support initiatives related to French second language and first-language programs, including support for the use of effective, evidence-based pedagogical practices in French classrooms.

Official Languages Programs

Destination Clic is a summer program for francophone students who are in grades 8, 9 or 10, who attend French as a first-language school. This experience provides an opportunity to foster and enhance French-speaking skills while partaking in cultural activities and meeting other francophones from across Canada.

Explore is an intensive, government-funded immersion program held during the spring or summer that provides the opportunity to learn or improve French-speaking skills through cultural experiences and activities. The sessions are taught in one of over 40 post-secondary institutions across Canada.

Odyssey is a nine-month paid program for students who have completed at least one full year of postsecondary studies. They develop new skills while inspiring youth to practice their French speaking skills. Under the direction of the classroom teacher, they will work in the classroom setting using games and activities to encourage students to learn and improve their French-speaking skills.

Nova Scotia Part-Time Language Assistant Program is a part-time, paid work program that provides an opportunity to develop new skills in a classroom setting while inspiring students in French immersion or in a French first-language school to practice their French-speaking skills through cultural and linguistic activities.

Bursaries

The purpose of the **French Language Bursary Program for Nova Scotia Teachers** is to encourage teachers who hold a Nova Scotia teacher's certificate to pursue courses at Université Sainte-Anne to improve French language- competencies or to pursue courses at the master's level in French at a Canadian post-secondary institution.

The **French Language Bursary Program for Nova Scotia Students** is designed to encourage students to study full-time at Université Sainte-Anne or at another francophone institution in Canada where French is the language of instruction.

Support for Community Enrichment Initiatives

Arising from the *Protocol for Agreements for Minority-Language Education and Second-Language Instruction*, EECD administers funding to several community organizations such as:

- Conseil Communautaire du Grand-Havre
- Équipe d'alphabétisation de la Nouvelle-Écosse
- Centre communautaire Étoile de l'Acadie
- Centre provincial de ressources pédagogiques
- Fédération culturelle acadienne de la Nouvelle-Écosse
- Blue Nose Marathon
- Skills Canada Nova Scotia
- Office of L'nu Affairs
- Nova Scotia College of Early Childhood Education

Translation Services

The department has a team dedicated to translation requests. This team handles the translation of all EECD documents available to the public and provides support with general French-language inquiries.

We aim to have available, in both official languages, all materials related to French programs in the education system (French First-language as well as French Second-language).

This includes:

- Communication to and from the education system (including regional executive directors/superintendent, teachers, students, parents, and educational partners such as
 - Emails
 - Correspondence
 - Fact Sheets
 - Q&A documents
- Curriculum documents
- Learning resources
- Assessment and evaluation documents
- Ministerial reports

Communicating with the public in French

Based on the department's internal French-Language Services Policy, we respect the following guidelines when handling communications in French:

- All correspondence (paper or electronic) received in French must be replied to in French.
- Requests to communicate orally in French from the public are, to the extent possible, handled by bilingual staff.
- English and French versions of all EECD documents are released simultaneously.
- All EECD documents originating in English that will be provided to the Conseil Scolaire Acadien provincial (CSAP) and the French second-language population are provided in French. The same applies to public documents such as official statements by the minister, as well as regular correspondence to regional centres for education and to the CSAP from the offices of the minister and the deputy minister.

What we did to maintain or improve our French-language services in 2023-24

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

- Supported the new curriculum and recommended pedagogical strategies in French first and second language education, liaising with the CSAP and Education and Innovation Programs and Services on curriculum and resource development.
- Reviewed the French-language services policy.
- Translated International Programs' guidelines to increase the accessibility of the high school diploma in French with international stakeholders.
- Consulted with the Conseil Scolaire Acadien provincial to support the development and introduction of the CSAP Act.
- Translated many support documents related to French minority language and French second language programs across the province.

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

- Provided materials related to French programs (Conseil Solaire Acadien provincial as well as French Second-language) in English and French.
- Provided funding to make resources available that will benefit the French-language learners and teachers in the education system.
- Shared opportunities for French language training to support the professional growth of the translation team.

- Evaluated, made recommendations, and implemented enhancements to systems that support the coordination of translation-related service delivery.
- Provided guidance to branches to ensure technological systems include French-language integration when offering new programs and services to the public.
- Built partnerships in order to support bilingual positions that offer public facing services.
- Supported The office of Teacher Certification in providing direct support to CSAP regarding eligibility of candidates.
- Supported the development of a new website landing page in French and English for Education and Early Childhood Development policies.

Objective 3: Maintain ongoing dialogue and consultation with the Acadian and francophone and francophile communities.

- Created and maintained partnerships to support the common areas of the French first-language and French second-language curricula, i.e. elements that focus on language and cultural competencies for all teachers and students.
- Consulted regularly with the CSAP, Université Sainte-Anne, Regional Centres for Education, and community partners in education to ensure their priorities and proposed initiatives are included in Nova Scotia’s Action Plan for the Official Languages in Education Program.
- Worked with the Acadian and francophone communities on recruitment and retention and the delivery of Early Learning and Child Care services that are culturally responsive and contribute to the preservation and growth of French Child Care Centers.
- Supported a partnership between the office of teacher certification and Université Sainte Anne regarding support for their programs.
- Consulted regularly with the Conseil Scolaire Acadien Provincial to ensure that resources reflect the needs of the francophone educational community.

How we plan to maintain or improve our French-language services in 2024–25.

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

- Support new public education policies in English and French.
- Continue to develop documents to support data literacy, teaching and learning in French.

- Create various supporting documents related to the new literacy and mathematics strategies.
- Mobilize the new Director of French First Language position to strengthen Acadian and Francophone voice at the policy table.

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

- Provide education resources to the Pre-Primary Library to support the French language and Acadian culture.
- Continue to support the administration of student assessment and evaluation.
- Develop more Nova Scotia Independent Online Learning courses.

Objective 3: Maintain ongoing dialogue and consultation with the Acadian, francophone and francophile communities.

- Organize ongoing consultation with the office of teacher certification and Université Sainte Anne to provide support for their programs.
- Organize ongoing consultation with the office of teacher certification and the Conseil Scolaire Acadien Provincial to support recruitment and retention initiatives.
- Support the ongoing communication between International Programs and Morocco to establish a partnership as well as to increase the accessibility of the high school diploma in French.
- Consult regularly with the Conseil Scolaire Acadien Provincial on the development of public education policies.
- Ongoing consultation with CSAP and provincial literacy and mathematics teams to provide support the development of French teaching and learning resources.