



JUSTICE IN OFFICIAL LANGUAGES – NEWSLETTER

ACCESS • SERVICES • COMMUNITIES • TRAINING

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JOL team members

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WORD OF WELCOME

The Department of Justice Canada's Justice in Official Languages (JOL) team is pleased to present this first issue of its electronic newsletter. This quarterly electronic publication will keep you abreast of activities and initiatives from Justice Canada and its partners who are working to improve justice services in both official languages. The Newsletter will showcase various access to justice issues, as well as inspiring practices that further this area.

Access to justice in both official languages is a bustling sector that brings together passionate and dedicated people who take justice and the enhancement of their community to heart. It is now accepted that this is not just a matter for lawyers and judges; justice is also an essential service for official language minority communities.

Whether you work in a community organization or an educational institution or whether you are one of our partners, this newsletter is for you. It is designed to be an information tool for anyone interested in justice in official languages issues. The JOL team hopes you will use this forum to promote your activities, submit ideas for articles, or send them your comments and suggestions.

This introductory issue presents the Justice in Official Languages Unit and its main areas of activity. Future issues will cover topics such as training and an interdepartmental network examining the issue of vulnerable youth within official language minority communities. We will also provide an overview of projects that, we hope, will spark your interest. As well, we would like to introduce you to the Department of Justice Canada's Justice in Official Languages team.

Enjoy!

The JOL Team



WHAT IS JOL?

Yet another federal government acronym! So what does JOL mean? It stands for the Department of Justice Canada’s Justice in Official Languages Unit, which is comprised of a team of ten people.

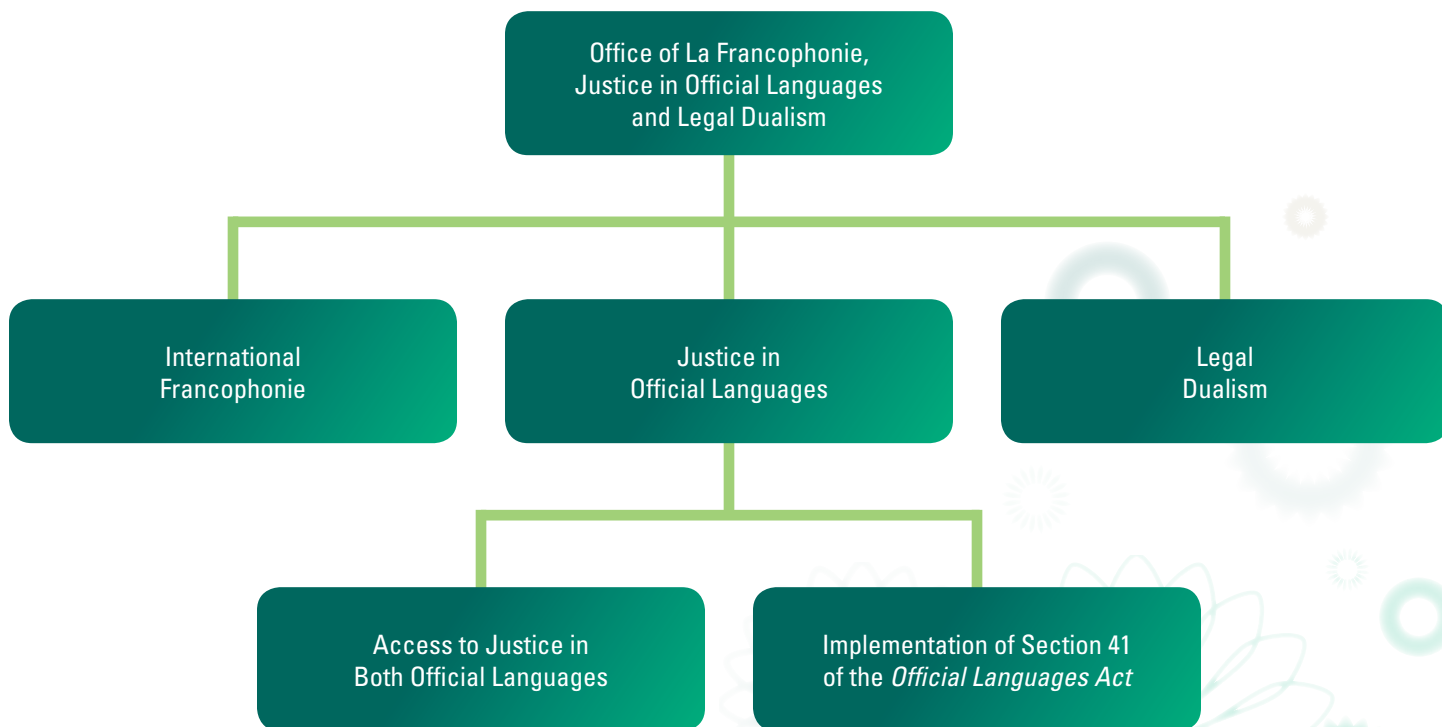
What does the JOL Unit do?

The JOL Unit is part of the Office of La Francophonie, Justice in Official Languages and Legal Dualism of the Department of Justice Canada. The unit is responsible for two major initiatives: access to justice in official languages and the implementation of Section 41 of the *Official Languages Act* (OLA). Under this section of the OLA, the federal government is committed to taking positive measures to support the development and enhance the vitality of official language minority communities and to foster linguistic duality in Canada.

The work philosophy of the JOL Unit’s members

The work philosophy of the JOL Unit’s members is simple: to promote a spirit of cooperation and to avoid working in isolation. The team’s work is based on a realistic analysis of the situation across the country, which varies greatly from one region to the next. It is therefore important for the team to take stock of such diversity and let the understanding of regional realities guide their work.

The JOL team is privileged to be able to count on several types of resources: its partners, a financial lever, and synergy between governmental and non-governmental actors.



THE JOL UNIT'S PARTNERS

The JOL Unit works with a number of partners, which are above all considered their allies because without them, their work would be more laborious and less effective. The main partners are the following:

The Federal-Provincial-Territorial Working Group on Access to Justice in Both Official Languages

This group, co-chaired by representatives from the Department of Justice Canada and one province, benefits from the participation of all the provinces and territories. It focuses mainly on issues surrounding the implementation of the *Criminal Code* linguistic provisions stated at Sections 530 and following.

Advisory Sub-committee on Access to Justice in Both Official Languages

This committee brings together the non-governmental partners of the JOL Unit, such as the *Fédération des communautés francophones et acadienne du Canada* and the Quebec Community Groups Network; the seven associations of French-speaking jurists (Ontario, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta, and British Columbia) and their national federation; faculties of law (Moncton, Ottawa, McGill, and Laurentian¹); the four jurilinguistic centres (Moncton, Ottawa, Winnipeg and McGill); and a representative from Quebec's English-

speaking legal community. This committee helps to better understand the needs of Canadians from official language minorities who appear before the courts and of the legal community that serves them.

Network of Stakeholders Working in the Field of Justice and Security

The Network of Stakeholders Working in the Field of Justice and Security (Justice and Security Network) is the most recent partner of the JOL Unit. It brings together several federal institutions that are concerned about issues of justice and security in official languages: the Department of Justice Canada, Public Safety Canada, the Public Prosecution Service of Canada, Canadian Heritage, National Defence, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, Citizenship and Immigration Canada, and Health Canada.

In October 2009, the Justice and Security Network organized a Forum on Vulnerable Young Francophones in Minority Communities in order to better understand the issues related to young francophones who are vulnerable and at risk of coming into conflict with the law. This forum made it clear that very little is known about the situation of these young people. The Justice and Security Network is therefore preparing to conduct an environmental scan to better define the issues pertaining to these young people and meet their specific needs.

A FINANCIAL LEVER: THE ACCESS TO JUSTICE IN BOTH OFFICIAL LANGUAGES SUPPORT FUND

The Access to Justice in Both Official Languages Support Fund was created in 2003 to increase the capacity of stakeholders working in the justice sector to develop solutions and heighten awareness on the exercise of official language rights among both the legal community and the public at large. The Fund can draw on a \$41-million investment until March 31, 2013. This amount includes a new \$20-million investment to increase linguistic training efforts for people already working in the justice system as well as to train and recruit young bilingual Canadians who show an interest in justice-related careers. In each issue, the Newsletter will highlight some of the innovative projects funded by the Support Fund (see page 5).

To best channel this new investment, a [Canada-Wide Analysis of Official Language Training Needs in the Area of Justice](#) was conducted in 2009 at the request of the Department of Justice Canada. Observations that gleaned from this analysis are helping the JOL team direct its efforts and actions towards meeting training needs. The team is actively seeking the support and collaboration of both new and existing partners working in the fields of court administration, francophone affairs in provinces and territories, and the judiciary. Keep an eye out for upcoming issues of this newsletter - one of them will cover official language training needs in the area of justice.

For more information about the terms of the Support Fund and the types of projects eligible for funding, please visit the [Programs Branch](#) Web site.

¹ Department of Law and Justice

WORKING IN SYNERGY

Having synergy between all justice system stakeholders is essential to providing Canadians with equal access to justice services in their preferred official language because – let's not forget – justice is also a public service.

The JOL Unit has the opportunity to collaborate closely with several partners from all reaches of the country working in various sectors. This valuable collaboration contributes to training, raising awareness and offering services to the legal community and to official language minority communities regarding the exercise of their rights.

JOL TEAM MEMBERS

The dynamic nature of the Department of Justice Canada's Justice in Official Languages Unit reflects the professional diversity of its members, who include legal advisors, policy analysts and administrative assistants.

Suzanne Poirier is General Counsel and Director of the Office of La Francophonie, Justice in Official Languages and Legal Dualism. With 28 years of experience in the federal government, including 10 years in her current position, she offers strategic support to the three sections for which she is responsible.

Andrée Duchesne is Senior Counsel and Manager of the Justice in Official Languages team. Well-known in the justice in official languages scene, she draws upon her extensive knowledge on the unique issues faced by official language minority communities to contribute first-hand to the strategic direction of all facets of the Justice in Official Languages component.

Parnel Dugas, Senior Policy Analyst, is responsible for developing the strategic plan to carry out the Department's 2010–2015 action plan for the implementation of Section 41 of the OLA. He also manages and supports the Justice and Security Network.

Lise C. Sarault, Policy Analyst, manages the ongoing process of gathering data for the annual report on results for the implementation of Section 41 of the OLA. Lise is also responsible for training and supporting members of the Departmental Network of Coordinators 41.

Thanks to the close ties formed with their partners who are, in a way, antennas on the ground enabling them to keep in touch with communities so that the needs of persons appearing before the courts can be identified and the actions to improve access to justice in both official languages can be better planned.

You can read about the JOL Unit's activities on the Department of Justice Canada's [Web site](#). Feel free to contact the members of the team at JELO-JOL@justice.gc.ca. If you are ever in Ottawa, please drop by – they will be happy to meet you!

Anik Sauvé, Policy Analyst, is responsible for the operations of the Departmental Network of Coordinators 41. She drafts various texts and analysis documents and is actively involved in the Justice and Security Network as well as in research-related work and committees.

Linda DuPont, Legal Counsel, is responsible for the training component of the Access to Justice in Both Official Languages Support Fund. In this capacity, she interacts with the judiciary, court administrators, educational institutions and various organizations offering training.

Mathieu Langlois, Legal Counsel, is responsible for federal-provincial-territorial relations and for liaising with the Advisory Sub-committee on Access to Justice in Both Official Languages. He represents the Department on various interdepartmental committees formed under the *Roadmap for Linguistic Duality 2008–2013: Acting for the Future*.

Marie-France Gauthier and **Diane Brazeau**, Administrative Assistants, actively collaborate on the team's numerous activities.

Ellyce Wright is a full-time student in Sociology at Bishop's University in Sherbrooke, Quebec. She works mainly on compiling research and legal data.

ACCESS TO JUSTICE IN BOTH OFFICIAL LANGUAGES SUPPORT FUND

It may sometimes seem difficult for partners of the Access to Justice in Both Official Languages Support Fund to find out about all the projects financed by the Support Fund. Each issue of this newsletter will therefore highlight certain projects that have an impact on the Access to Justice in Both Official Languages network. This first issue highlights three large-scale projects that illustrate how this network has evolved and matured.

Centre canadien de français juridique

Created in the spring of 2010, the new *Centre canadien de français juridique* is located in Winnipeg, Manitoba. The Centre was created following the [Canada-Wide Analysis of Official Language Training Needs in the Area of Justice](#).

The Centre canadien de français juridique offers training designed for various provincial stakeholders in the legal system, except in Quebec and Ontario, and mainly targets clerks, probation officers and then, Crown attorneys. From 2010 to 2013, the Centre plans to carry out the following activities:

- the recruitment and training of the people who will offer training and development sessions – an initial session for trainers was held in June 2010 at the University of Ottawa;
- the conception of learning tools that can be used independently of training sessions. The Centre plans to use technology to create these tools and make them available to users.

The Centre was inspired by the model developed by Ontario for the creation of the French Language Institute for Professional Development, of which the Department of Justice Canada is a partner. For more information on the Centre canadien de formation de français juridique and its programming, please write at: direction@ccfjinc.ca.

Network of Jurilinguistic Centres

Since March 2009, the country's four jurilinguistic centres have been formally brought together in a single network: the Network of Jurilinguistic Centres. The *Centre de traduction et de terminologie juridiques* in Moncton, the Centre for Translation and Legal Documentation in Ottawa, the *Institut Joseph-Dubuc* in Winnipeg, and the Quebec Research Centre of Private and Comparative Law at McGill University have combined their expertise in jurilinguistics, comparative law and bijuralism into one network. The centres alternate in coordinating Network activities. The McGill centre acted as coordinator in 2009–2010, and the Moncton centre took over for 2010–2011.

This grouping allows its members to share their expertise, while still preserving their individual specialities, in order to develop joint projects that will provide useful tools meeting the needs of the Canadian legal community working in both official languages and in the two Canadian legal systems. In this context the centres have focused particularly on standardizing French family law vocabulary and are preparing the creation of a portal to make jurilinguistic tools easily accessible. The Network of Jurilinguistic Centres has also designed a tool for ongoing analysis of user needs.

These activities are additions to the work that the centres perform as part of their individual mandates. To find out more about the Network of Jurilinguistic Centres and each centre's activities, please contact Gérard Snow gerard.snow@umoncton.ca, François Blais fblais@uottawa.ca, Lionel Smith lionel.smith@mcgill.ca or Gisèle Barnabé gbarnabe@ustboniface.mb.ca.

Carrières en justice – Ontario

In Ontario, the *Carrières en justice* project was created in 2005 in response to concerns of the Coalition of Francophone Stakeholders in Ontario's Justice Sector. Concrete measures were necessary in order to remedy to the perception that the legal system puts French-speaking citizens at a disadvantage, and in view of the high drop-out rate and anticipated shortage of a qualified francophone work force in the justice sector.

In order to raise awareness on the inner-workings of the justice system among francophone students, to encourage them to use services in French, and to spark their interest in legal careers, the *Association des juristes d'expression française de l'Ontario* (AJEFO) has created an interactive Web site (www.carrieresenjustice.ca), as well as a host of tools, video clips and educational resources ready to be used in the classroom.

From 2010 to 2013, AJEFO continues its approach in partnership with the Ontario education system. Having reached out to youths aged 10 to 16, AJEFO and its partners, including the Department of Justice Canada, would now like to get the message out to 18 to 25 year-olds. In particular, AJEFO proposes to align existing resources with the curriculum of Ontario French-language schools. The project put forward by AJEFO will therefore use learning activity kits to bring the legal community and educational community together in a more tangible and user-friendly way. Partner provinces will be able to adapt these kits as well as the other resources that have been developed by AJEFO for the *Carrières en justice* project.

For further information, please contact Danielle Manton (dmanton@ajefo.ca).

UPCOMING EVENTS

Conference: Evolution and Revolution in Family Justice (*Évolution et révolution de la justice familiale*)

The *Fédération des associations de juristes d'expression française de common law* (FAJEF) is organizing a national conference in French on family justice. Judges, jurists, psychologists, social workers, mediators, stakeholders and researchers are invited to share their experiences with others, engage in dialogue and debate issues related to the theme of evolution and revolution in family justice.

DATES: **October 21 – 23, 2010**

LOCATION: **Ottawa, Ontario**

INFORMATION: <http://www.accesjustice.ca>

Explaining the Law to Others: Message Received... and Understood! (*Dire le droit pour être compris*)

With support from the *Société québécoise d'information juridique, Éducaloi* is organizing a conference in which notaries, judges, commissioners, legislative drafters, journalists and communicators will examine different strategies and means of communication for better outreach to the target clientele. The program includes 17 workshops, on themes such as *Plain language in drafting judgments: A passionate debate!*, *Examining contract language*, *Using social media to access legal information* and *Face-off between journalist and expert*.

DATES: **October 21 and 22, 2010**

LOCATION: **Montreal, Quebec**

INFORMATION: <http://www.educaloi.qc.ca/en>

Community forum: All for justice in French (*Tous pour la justice en français*)

The *Association des juristes d'expression française de l'Alberta* (AJEFA) is organizing a community forum on justice. It will bring together stakeholders from the legal community as well as leaders from the Alberta francophone community with the aim of enhancing community potential in matters of access to justice in both official languages.

DATE: **March 2011**

LOCATION: **Edmonton, Alberta**

INFORMATION: <http://www.ajefa.ca>

Training Calendar of the Centre canadien de français juridique:

	For all groups	Probation Officers	Clerks	Crown Prosecutors
CALGARY	October 22			
EDMONTON		October 4	December 3	October 29
HALIFAX		October 6	October 7	October 4
IQALUIT	October 1			
MONCTON		October 5	October 6	September 30
REGINA		October 22	October 29	October 15
ST. JOHN'S	September 17			
SASKATOON	October 21			
VANCOUVER		To be determined	November 26	November 29
WHITEHORSE	November 26			
WINNIPEG		October 21	December 3	October 14
YELLOWKNIFE	October 15			