

The Official Languages Act of 1969 made provision for the possible establishment of bilingual districts as a means of delineating those areas of the country where, because of the concentration of both official language communities, the federal Government would be obliged to provide services in both official languages in each of its principal offices within the district. Two Bilingual Districts Advisory Boards have been established but neither has come forward with recommendations which the Government could accept in total as being in conformity with its official languages policies.

Although no bilingual districts have been created to date, the Government has, nevertheless, increased its capability to provide services to the public in both official languages in locations across Canada. After an extensive review, the Government has decided not to proceed with the establishment of bilingual districts, primarily because bilingual services are generally available in areas likely to be considered for inclusion in any bilingual districts and because of the difficulty of formally delineating boundaries which would result in a consistent and equitable treatment of minority official language populations.

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