

EFFECTS OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT'S INTERVENTION ON THE CULTURE OF HULL

In its document, Tomorrow's Capital, the NCC says that it wants to ensure the integrity of both cultures. We do not think that the federal government enhances the development of the French culture in Hull by promoting the establishment of office buildings in which the staff is mostly English-speaking and by supporting the arrival of a mainly English-speaking population in Lucerne (100,000), in Touraine (50,000) and in Hull (25,000). This measure will only permit a greater integration of the French-speaking group into the English-speaking one.

It cannot be argued that this measure aims at making the federal Public Service bilingual. An English-speaking employee, even though he uses French at work, will demand services in his mother tongue outside his work.

The housing costs are such that new buyers are mainly English-speaking people. Many commercial establishments have, because of an economic interest, by snobbism or because of an inferiority complex, changed the language of the services they offer to the population. It suffices to go around downtown restaurants to acknowledge that fact. It is not rare to be addressed to, first in Shakespeare's language, and then in Molière's one, when our interlocutor realizes that we are French-speaking. We have little hope that the arrival of a population of mostly English-speaking civil servants will facilitate the enhancement of the French culture on the Quebec side of the Ottawa River.