

Questions

Forces voluntarily may have done so for this reason.

2. (a) 1,497; (b) none; (c) 2,951.

3. The criteria used for selecting officers for promotion are merit and the potential for the higher rank. Promotions are made to meet service requirements, which in some cases require the ability to speak both English and French, as vacancies in the rank and occupational group occur.

4. No.

5. No. Language training in the Canadian Forces is consolidated at the Canadian Forces Language School, CFB St Jean, Quebec which conducts: (a) a 23 week Basic English Language course for French speaking members who require English language proficiency before undertaking trade training in that language, or before occupying a position which requires proficiency in that language; (b) two 15 week Advanced English Language courses a year to a variable number of French-speaking junior officers and non-commissioned officers who require such training. Selection of candidates is based on proficiency tests. Men are selected prior to non-commissioned officer training and officers prior to attendance at Staff School; (c) two 24 week Formal French Language courses a year for English speaking officers and non-commissioned officers. This training is voluntary and candidates are normally selected prior to being appointed to a position requiring a bilingual capability or where future employment indicates the need; and (d) occasional special French and English language terminology and/or refresher courses to meet particular needs and specialized requirements.

6. The cost of the bilingual program in the Canadian Forces cannot be accurately determined at this time as records are not maintained in a manner which would provide this data.

CANADIAN FORCES BILINGUAL PROGRAM

Question No. 1,759—**Mr. Robinson:**

1. Does the federal government have a bilingual program in the Canadian Forces and, if so, how many members have taken the program?

2. To what extent is the Canadian Forces bilingual at the present time?

3. Is it the governments intention that all members of the Canadian Forces become bilingual?

4. What percentage of (a) officers (b) N.C.O.'s (c) men, are bilingual at the present time?

5. Is bilingualism a prerequisite to promotion in (a) officer ranks (b) N.C.O. ranks?

Mr. D. W. Groos (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of National Defence): 1. and 2. Yes. In the past, on enlistment, recruits signified what languages they had knowledge of, but there was nothing to indicate their fluency in such languages. However, the Canadian Forces have recently embarked on a French and English language proficiency testing program. When this program gains more momentum and is fully under way the Canadian Forces will possess a reliable and scientific tool which will not only determine the number of bilingual personnel but also their levels of proficiency in the second language.

3. The Canadian Forces program is based upon the Government's policy on bilingualism as stated by the Prime Minister in the House of Commons on 6 April, 1966, at page 3915-18.

4. (a) 18.8 per cent; (b) 16.7 per cent; (c) 25.5 per cent.

5. See reply to part 5 of your question number 1745.

ECONOMIC EXPANSION OF PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

Question No. 1,761—**Mr. Orlikow:**

1. How much money has the federal government agreed to contribute to implementing the Agreement with the Province of Prince Edward Island covering the Agreement for the Economic Expansion and Social Adjustment of Prince Edward Island?

2. Does the Agreement between the Government of Canada and the Government of Prince Edward Island provide for a major restructuring of the provincial system of education, to improve the quality of education, to increase the number of students who complete high school?

3. If so, does the Agreement provide for the development of highly qualified teachers, through up-grading, in-training and higher salaries, the provision of comprehensive schools with a combination of academic and vocational training, the establishment of a college of applied arts and technology?

4. How much money will the federal government contribute under the Agreement towards the construction of technical schools, primary and secondary classrooms, colleges of applied arts and the cost of operating and maintaining the new school program?

Mr. Russell C. Honey (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Forestry and Rural Development): 1. \$125,000,000 for the first phase, contingently \$100,000,000 for the second phase.

2. Yes.

3. Yes.