

*Designation of Nova Scotia*

realize the equal status of both official languages and enhancing the opportunities for them to live their lives fully in all areas of endeavour in either French or English. Its services, which take the form of financial or technical assistance, in some cases through the provision of human resources, are directed to the Canadian public as a whole, the communities of both official linguistic groups, the communities of other linguistic groups, the immigrants, as well as the education sector.

The Department of the Secretary of State offers its support and co-operation to voluntary organizations and to the private sector, as well as to governmental and para-government organizations which are seeking information and are anxious to take initiatives to promote the use of both official languages.

Here are the services offered by the Department of the Secretary of State: firstly, financial or technical assistance to national and regional non-profit organizations to develop programs dealing with bilingualism, linguistic exchanges, the use of translation and interpretation services during annual conferences, or to carry out a number of special projects. Secondly, technical assistance to the world of business, industry, trade and commerce. Thirdly, financial or technical assistance to other levels of government to provide or extend services in both official languages. Fourthly, financial assistance to individuals or groups initiating legal proceedings that will contribute to elucidating the purpose and meaning of constitutional provisions on official languages, including those of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms dealing with the equal status granted to the English and French languages, with the right of English-speaking communities in Quebec and French-speaking communities elsewhere to have their children educated in their mother tongue.

Moreover, thanks to the skills of the Translation Bureau, the Secretary of State provides Canadians with a number of linguistic tools, of which in particular, terminological information drawn from the constantly updated computerized terminology bank which various specialized private or public organizations can obtain under certain conditions, and bilingual standardized glossaries.

The translation and interpretation services which are available only to federal departments and organizations take part in the implementation of various programs dealing with official languages and help the government of Canada to communicate effectively in all languages throughout the world.

Services are provided to French-speaking Canadians outside Quebec and to English-speaking Canadians in Quebec to encourage and help them to set up and maintain their institutions, to develop their organizations and take part in their own language in the activities of the Canadian community. They include financial assistance to voluntary organizations that are trying to promote community interests or to provide them with linguistic services; a financial contribution for the setting up of institutions and permanent services; and technical assistance

under the form of exchanges or the assignment of experts from the federal government or elsewhere to organizations and institutions in the community. As part of the multiculturalism policy adopted by the Government of Canada in 1971, the Department of the Secretary of State provides grants to support the preparation and publication of works of a historical, literary or educational nature illustrating the cultural diversity of Canadian society, and also for the translation of such works in both official languages. Grants provided for this purpose do not cover all expenses.

● (1750)

Another aspect of the official languages programs concerns the teaching of English or French as a second language to adult immigrants. The Department of the Secretary of State has placed special emphasis on official languages classes for immigrant women, a group in Canadian society that is particularly isolated and disadvantaged.

Since 1970, the Department of the Secretary of State has given the provinces and the territories financial assistance in providing English-speaking communities in Quebec and French-speaking communities in the other provinces and territories with the option of having their children educated in their own language at all levels in the school system.

**Mr. Gauthier:** On a point of order, Mr. Speaker.

**Mr. Speaker:** The Hon. Member for Ottawa-Vanier (Mr. Gauthier), on a point of order.

**Mr. Gauthier:** On a point of order, Mr. Speaker. I do not mean to interrupt the Hon. Member who is reading to the House a departmental document about the programs that are available. However, Mr. Speaker, relevance is important, and I for some time now have failed to see any relevance in the Hon. Member's comments to the bill presented by the Member for Annapolis Valley-Hants (Mr. Nowlan) to change the name of his province.

Mr. Speaker, I would urge the Hon. Member, and perhaps I may rely on your good judgment, to comment on the Bill before the House and not to read a document. We know all about official languages. We know all about the programs. There is a committee of the House that deals with this subject. If the Hon. Member wants to read this to us in committee tomorrow morning at 9:30, that is fine, but today, I would appreciate it if the Hon. Member spoke to the Bill before the House.

[English]

**Mr. Speaker:** I am reasonably certain that the Hon. Member accepts the comments made by the Hon. Member and will now explain to us very clearly the relevance of what he has been trying to put before the House. I am sure that will now happen.