

THIRD REPORT OF THE ROYAL COMMISSION ON
BILINGUALISM AND BICULTURALISM

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extend to public servants at certain posts in Canada educational allowances roughly similar to those provided in foreign posts or in the Canadian Forces.

To supervise the introduction of the new language regime, the Commission recommends the establishment of a Public Service language authority. This body would have jurisdiction over the entire Public Service. The diversity of federal departments and agencies, however, requires that each of them have a language bureau of their own to plan and supervise the implementation of institutional bilingualism. The language rights of individual public servants should in addition fall within the purview of the commissioner of official languages.

The Commissioners next outline some of the selection criteria and the stages in the designation of the French-language units, particularly stressing the importance of thorough planning at each stage. At the same time they pinpoint some of the central agencies, departments and regions within which French-language units, sections or clusters should be designated. Two of these are the Treasury Board and the Public Service Commission, because of their particular responsibility for managing the Public Service as a whole.

In conclusion, the Commissioners point out that, far from limiting the Public Service to the relatively few Canadians who are bilingual, their proposals will broaden the sources of qualified manpower. For the existence of the French-language units will fully open the service of unilingual Francophones, while allowing it to continue drawing on unilingual Anglophones for the many units whose dominant language of work will remain English. To play a truly efficient role in counteracting the tendency of some people to regard the Federal Government as a "foreign" Government, the Public Service must be, in the fullest sense, equally accessible to the two societies which it is called upon to serve.

ARMED FORCES

Government policy has not aimed primarily at making French a viable language of work in the Armed Forces. The prevailing assumption is that English must be used unless there is a specific provision to the contrary. The equality of the two official languages must be recognized. The rules, regulations and orders governing military life must be issued simultaneously in the two languages. In addition, more of these and other documents should be drawn up first in French, rather than invariably being translated from an English draft. To ensure the compatibility of words and expressions in the two

languages, the recent military dictionary should be continuously revised and considered the official source of military terminology.

The language rights of individual members of the Forces must not be overlooked. Disciplinary and grievance procedures should be conducted in the official language chosen by the individual concerned.

For the education of dependent children, the Forces should take careful note of the language of instruction which personnel desire for their children, and give consideration to these preferences when arranging postings. When schools or classes having French or English as the language of instruction are not available or cannot be established close to a military base, the provisions for educational allowances should also allow parents to be fully reimbursed for having their children educated in English or French away from the base. The linguistic and cultural equality of the two language groups must also be recognized in messes and similar organizations.

The Commission found that, in their relations with the public, the Department of National Defence and the Canadian Forces did not adequately reflect the Canadian duality. This must be changed....

STANDARDS FOR DRINKING WATER

Criteria to help provincial and municipal authorities ensure the quality of drinking water have been announced by the Minister of Health and Welfare, Mr. John Munro. These guide-lines are contained in a report entitled *Canadian Drinking Water Standards and Objectives*, prepared by a committee established jointly by the Department's Advisory Committee on Public Health Engineering and the Canadian Public Health Association.

"In recommending these standards," Mr. Munro said, "it is hoped that, by incorporating graded scales and providing detailed explanations, responsible provincial and other authorities will be able to apply them with understanding, judgment and discretion."

"Constantly changing technology, advances in medical science and a greater understanding of the impact of the environment on man," the Minister emphasized, "will combine to make necessary periodic reassessment of these standards and objectives. This document therefore, will be revised and up-dated as circumstances demand."

It is hoped that the criteria will be used extensively for the development of provincial and municipal standards for controlling the quality of drinking water thereby protecting the health of Canadians. This represents the first time that quality standards for drinking water have been specifically developed to meet Canadian conditions.