

languages. It seems reasonable, therefore, that the Committee on Official Languages should consider the bill, rather than a legislative committee. Such a measure would also help expedite the procedure, as the two Houses would be considering the bill simultaneously.

For this reason the Committee recommends:

#### RECOMMENDATION 1

**THAT the bill to amend the *Official Languages Act* be referred to the Standing Joint Committee on Official Languages.**

##### Official Languages in Education

7. Education in the language of the official-language minority has been and continues to be, a subject of controversy in a number of provinces. Although education falls under provincial jurisdiction, by virtue of section 93 of the *Constitution Act, 1867*, the teaching of the language for the official-language minority is subject to the provisions of the Constitution, under section 23 of the *Charter of Rights and Freedoms*.
8. A number of witnesses appeared before the Committee to describe the persistent difficulties facing education in the language of the minority. The chief difficulties raised were:
  - Most provincial legislatures still do not comply with the requirements set down in section 23 of the *Charter* with respect to access to education in the language of the official-language minority and to governance of institutions serving such minorities; the result is that many cases are now being heard by the courts and others are being prepared;
  - It has been indicated to the Committee that the financial assistance given by the federal government to the provinces in support of official languages in education is not always used towards the aims for which it was intended; this question should be studied seriously on the eve of discussions intended to lead to renewal of the bilateral agreements in this regard;
  - The Committee heard numerous complaints about the lack of post-secondary education in French outside Quebec; since the federal government contributes on a large scale to post-secondary funding, it might therefore be useful to work towards the development of post-secondary education for Canada's French-speaking minority.

For this reason the Committee recommends:

#### RECOMMENDATION 2

**THAT the government call a federal-provincial First Ministers' conference early in 1988 to discuss official languages in education at the elementary, secondary and post-secondary levels throughout Canada.**

#### RECOMMENDATION 3

**THAT the government add to the agenda of the forum on post-secondary education that is to be held in Saskatoon, in October 1987, the question of the lack of post-secondary education for Canada's French-speaking minority.**

#### APPENDIX 1

Meetings and Witnesses  
(September 1985 to June 1986)

##### First Session of the Thirty-Third Parliament

Issue	Date	Witnesses
no. 17	September 24 and October 8, 1985	- In camera meeting - D'Iberville Fortier, Commissioner of Official Languages
no. 18	November 19 and November 27, 1985	- In camera meetings
	December 10, 1985	- The Honourable Benoit Bouchard, Secretary of State
no. 19	December 17, 1985	- The Honourable Benoit Bouchard, Secretary of State
no. 20	January 28, 1986	- Michel Bastarache, Professor, Faculty of Law, University of Ottawa
no. 21	February 4, 1986	- Father Léger Comeau, President Société nationale des Acadiens
no. 22	February 6, 1986	- Michael Goldbloom, President, Alliance Quebec - Gilles Leblanc, President, Fédération des francophones hors Québec
no. 23	February 11, 1986	- D'Iberville Fortier, Commissioner of Official Languages