

## RECOMMENDATION

7. That the Government of Canada, in consultation with minority language rights groups, explore options (including that of a broadened Court Challenges Program) relating to the enhanced recognition and implementation of minority language rights across Canada.

## RESPONSE

The Government of Canada is proud of the work it has accomplished to promote the "recognition and implementation of minority language rights across Canada". Part VII of the new Official Languages Act underlines the Canadian government's commitment to enhance the vitality of the English and French linguistic minority communities in Canada and support their development.

In 1988, both the Official Languages in Education and the Promotion of Official Languages Programs of Secretary of State were renewed for five years with increased allocations. Through these programs, the Department of the Secretary of State provides financial assistance to a number of organizations representing English and French minority communities to enable them to pursue their activities.

The Department of the Secretary of State has also been collaborating, since 1970, with all the provinces and territories in the area of minority language education and second language instruction. This cooperation has been extended to the fields of justice, health, social services and culture. In the last few years, the Government of Canada has concluded important agreements with many provinces for the provision of provincial services in the minority language.

Recognizing the importance of all federal institutions in the development of minority language communities, the Act gives the Secretary of State the mandate to foster a coordinated approach. The Secretary of State has, in collaboration with his colleagues, taken important steps "to enhance the vitality of the English and French linguistic minority communities in Canada and to foster the full recognition and use of both English and French in Canadian Society."

These realizations speak eloquently on behalf of the government and its commitment to promote the advancement of official languages. The Government of Canada will continue to work with the organizations, the provinces, the territories, other federal institutions, and the private and voluntary sectors to attain these objectives.