

1.3. Official Language Services

The year was particularly busy in Official Languages as CFSL received an increasing number of requests from DFAIT as well as from OGDs. In fact, the demands were so numerous, especially from the OGDs, that CFSL had to reassess its mandate. Considering that CFSL was initially created to offer Foreign Language training and that Official Language courses are available from a variety of sources both in the public and private sectors, the decision was made to limit in the future the offering of Official Language courses to the ab initios and EXs of DFAIT. Should room be available, other requests may be accepted on a cost-recovery basis. CIC has expressed its interest in continuing to use the services for its own ab initios.

Furthermore, to meet the needs of the Locally Engaged Staff who offer bilingual services to Canadian clients in the missions, online French and English courses were given to 250 employees in the missions and CFSL intends to continue and even increase these services. This will enable the LES to comply with the requirements of Official Languages legislation.

Official Language Testing 2005-2006

		French	English	Total
Centre for Language Training	Reading	352	175	527
	Writing	250	129	379
	Oral	473	-	473
	Total	1,075	304	1,379
Public Service Commission	Reading	100	50	150
	Writing	70	70	140
	Oral	495	167	662
	Diagnostic	190	-	190
	Total	855	287	1,142
Grand Total		1,930	591	2,521

All of the above-described tests are Official Language tests. The Official Languages Unit of CFSL administers English and French Reading and Writing tests throughout the world at our embassies, some of our Regional Offices, at the Bisson Campus and at Lester B. Pearson. They also administer 80% of the French Oral Interaction tests.

The Public Service Commission administers all the English Oral Interaction tests, some French Oral Interaction tests for missions abroad and some Writing tests for areas in Canada where we cannot administer the tests. As well, the PSC administers all tests requiring special accommodation.

