

If, during the past ten years, the principles and general objectives have remained the same, the approach and method of implementation of official languages programs in the Public Service have evolved considerably.

1965-1972

The debate which was initiated by the Royal Commission on Bilingualism and Biculturalism in the decade between 1960 and 1970 led to an awareness that federal institutions operated primarily in English and that it was essential to act in order to change this situation, both to ensure that French-speaking citizens received services in their own language, and in order to ensure that the Public Service more appropriately reflected their views and aspirations. As expressed in the Commission's Book III, 'The Work World':

'It is more important than ever that the decisions and actions of the Canadian government should recognize and draw on the potential of the country's two linguistic communities ... If the language and culture of French-speaking Canadians are weakly expressed in the federal government or its Public Service, that government cannot even begin to exercise its duties towards all Canadians - Francophones as well as Anglophones.'

During this period, a number of major initiatives were taken within the Public Service to increase the use of French as a language of work. Second-language training at Government expense was introduced on a significant scale. Official documentation was