

REVISED OFFICIAL LANGUAGES POLICIES  
IN THE PUBLIC SERVICE OF CANADA

Principles

The Government published a statement on official languages in June, 1977 entitled A National Understanding. This statement set out the principles which guide federal actions in support of the two official languages in Canada, and the rights of individual citizens to freely choose their language of communications.

For more than a decade, the Government of Canada has been pursuing three fundamental principles in its official languages policies in the Public Service. As outlined in its policy statement, these principles are:

1. Canadians should be able to communicate with, and to obtain services from, the federal institutions of government in the official language of their choice and arrangements should be made to this effect wherever there is sufficient demand for it.
2. Subject to the previous principle, Canadians of the two official language groups should have equitable opportunities for employment and a career in the federal institutions of government and to carry out their work in the official language of their choice.
3. The two official language groups should participate equitably in the federal institutions of government.