

These principles were originally articulated by Prime Minister Pearson in 1966 and subsequently incorporated into either the Official Languages Act (1969), or the Parliamentary Resolution entitled 'Official Languages in the Public Service of Canada' (1973).

The Government considers that these basic principles should continue to guide its policies and programs. As indicated in its recent policy statement:

'The government wishes to stress ... that it does not in any way intend to diminish its efforts to improve the ability of the federal public service to serve the people of Canada in both official languages, to increase the use of French as a language of work and to provide for the equitable participation of both official language communities in the public service ...'

The strength of this continuing commitment is based in part on the accepted value of these principles by the vast majority of Canadians and on the fact that substantial progress has been made in giving expression to them in the operations of the Public Service.

Purpose of Policy Paper

While the principles which guide the official languages policy have been generally accepted, there have been criticisms concerning the implementation of the program in the Public Service by Members of Parliament, the Commissioner of Official Languages, by Professor Bibeau and his colleagues in their report on language training programs, by employee representatives and by public servants themselves.