

Bilingualism adviser

The Bilingualism Adviser is responsible for the application within the Department, both in Canada and abroad, of the legislation and directives relating to bilingualism. He passes on and explains directives and formulates appropriate recommendations. As liaison officer with the Commissioner of Official Languages, the Adviser inquires into complaints concerning the application of bilingualism and reports to the Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs and the Commissioner of Official Languages.

The Adviser's responsibilities include the application of bilingualism and the examination of the language quality of French-language texts at national and international conferences in which the Department is a participant. He also visits Canadian diplomatic or consular missions in order to make sure that both Canadian and local staff are aware of the official languages policy, while a member of his team examines the appearance and language quality of French texts and documents used abroad. In 1977 the Bilingualism Adviser brought the number of missions visited up to 55, visiting Lisbon, London, Paris, Rabat, Tunis, Washington and the Observer Mission to the Organization of American States.

In order to ensure the quality of the French in all documents issued by the Department, the Bilingualism Adviser's office includes a team of writer-researchers.