



Secretariat of Official Languages, Department of Intergovernmental Affairs

CANADA-NEW BRUNSWICK AGREEMENT ON THE PROVISION OF FRENCH-LANGUAGE SERVICES

PROGRAM ON THE PROVISION OF OFFICIAL-LANGUAGE SERVICES (POLS)

PROGRAM

The Program on the Provision of Official-Language Services (POLS):

- Is designed first and foremost to support initiatives that allow the provincial government to improve services in French and to contribute to the equality of the two official linguistic communities;
- Recognizes the priority role of the provincial government and its departments in the delivery of services in both official languages while calling upon community organizations and structures to support the government in its objectives.

This orientation satisfies the requirements of the Canada-New Brunswick Agreement on the Provision of French-Language Services. Among other things, it seeks to develop a more strategic approach and to provide the means with which to measure the effectiveness of the activities selected.

GOAL

The Program on the Provision of Official-Language Services (POLS) is designed to encourage the use of both official languages in New Brunswick and to promote the development and equality of both official language communities.

OBJECTIVES

The general objective of New Brunswick's 2024-2028 strategic plan is to progressively offer more government information and services in French to the public, thereby enhancing the vitality of official language minority communities and contributing to their development.

This general objective can be achieved if the following strategic objectives are attained:

1. Internal support for administrative structures (strengthening the policy, legislative and administrative framework)
2. Support for the development, planning and provision of minority-language services for the public.
3. Communications and consultations with official language minority communities

To promote the growth of New Brunswick's official linguistic communities and ensure the relevance of government action in that regard, there must be coherence, or at least complementarity, between the provincial and federal strategies on official languages.

The Government of New Brunswick remains committed to the vitality of its official linguistic communities. The province also wants to continue building on its unique relationship with Canada on official languages for the ongoing improvement of public services in French and to implement structuring initiatives that may help achieve substantive equality between the two

linguistic communities.

ELEGIBILITY

The **departments and agencies of the Government of New Brunswick** that wish to improve or offer a wider range of services in both official languages, and duly constituted **New Brunswick non-profit organizations** whose mandate and activities are compatible with the objectives described in the action plan.

EVALUATION CRITERIA

- A) Projects submitted under the POLS program will be evaluated and supported in accordance with the following criteria:
1. Demonstrate how the project will effectively contribute to the implementation of the action plan set out under the Canada/New Brunswick Agreement on the Provision of French-Language Services;
 2. Put forward activities which will have a sustainable impact and long-term benefits;
 3. Put forward structuring and promising initiatives which support the implementation of government policies or programs in French in key sectors identified in the action plan;
 4. Demonstrate the commitment of the recipients to continuing the activity after the term of funding available under the program;
 5. Identify the expected results and related performance indicators;
 6. Demonstrate the provincial impact of the project's direct spin-offs.
- B) The projects submitted by departments or one of their components or by public institutions/organizations must:
1. Put forward activities which will contribute to improving services in the official languages or that go beyond the obligations and requirements of New Brunswick's *Official Languages Act*;
 2. Receive the support of senior management of the department concerned;
 3. Demonstrate the commitment of the applicant to coordinate and manage the project;
 4. Be matched by an amount from the department in question equal to or greater than the amount awarded under the program. This departmental contribution is conditional on participation in the program.
- C) Projects submitted by an association, organization, or institution of civil society must:
1. Demonstrate how it contributes to the government's implementation of policies or programs in the priority sectors set out in the action plan;
 2. Receive the support of the organization's directors;
 3. Show a desire to cooperate and form partnerships;
 4. Show diversification of funding sources;

Departments or organizations may submit projects that are spread out over more than one year, without exceeding the length of the current agreement. For multi-year projects the organization or

