

French-language Services Plan 2008-2009
Department of Agriculture/Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture

Message from the Deputy Minister

It is with pleasure that I take this opportunity to present the 2008-2009 French-language Services Plan for the Department of Agriculture and Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture. Acadian and Francophone communities were some of the earliest participants in the agriculture and fishing industries in Nova Scotia. Our departments are committed to the prosperous and sustainable growth of these historic industries through the delivery of quality public service. As such, the provision of French-language services is an objective upon which our departments place value.

The 2007-2008 fiscal year has seen progress in the delivery of French-language services and an increased awareness of the need for these services. Staff members have continued in their second language training. As well, bilingual brochures have been produced and we have translated important food safety information on our website.

Objectives and priorities for the next year include increasing our ability to provide French-language services through the availability of bilingual documentation and continued staff language training. We are committed to providing the necessary support to meet the priorities as set out in the 2008-2009 French-Language Services Plan.



Paul LaFleche
Deputy Minister

French Communications

The Department of Agriculture currently has six French-speaking staff members, and the Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture has four. They are located at the head office in Halifax, the Nova Scotia Agricultural College, and regional offices in Pictou, Arichat and Yarmouth. All written correspondence received by the departments are responded to in French.

Current French-language Services

Departmental websites display the Bonjour sign on their homepage indicating French content. For the Department of Agriculture, this includes food safety information for the general public, the current French-language Services Plan and an organizational chart of the department. Laboratory services provide chemical, microbiological and physical analysis of agricultural materials. Fee schedules for these services are available in both French and English. Documentation on the federal/provincial Agriculture Policy Framework is also available in both official languages.

The Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture website also contains an organizational chart, as well as a number of sportfishing brochures and the aquaculture innovations brochures, designed to provide information on funding options for those in the industry.

Preservation and Growth of Acadian and Francophone Communities

The Departments of Agriculture and Fisheries and Aquaculture are mandated by legislation to provide support for the development and promotion of the agriculture and fishing/aquaculture industries. As the five predominantly Acadian regions (Clare, Argyle, Cheticamp, Ile Madame and Pomquet) are communities in which agriculture and fishing have traditionally played an important role, the departments recognize the need to provide services in French in these areas. The following identifies priorities and actions for 2008-2009 to enhance the delivery of services to Nova Scotia's Acadian and francophone communities.

Progress for 2007-2008; Goals, Objectives and Measures for 2008-2009

Corporate Objective 1. Strengthening the policy, regulatory and administrative framework in support of the French-language Services Act.

Progress in reaching specific goals and objectives set for 2007-2008

- Assured representation of the departments on the French-language Services Coordinating Committee.
- Incorporated the provision of French-language services in the departmental business plans.
- Produced translation guide for managers and operational units.

Specific goals and objectives for 2008-2009

- Support the work of the Office of Acadian Affairs.

Specific measures which will be taken to achieve these goals and objectives in 2008-2009

- Ensure representation of the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture on the French-language Services Coordinating Committee.
- Promote implementation of government-wide initiatives developed by the French-language Services Coordinating Committee within the departments.
- Participate on project sub-committees to advance the objectives of the office of Acadian Affairs.

Corporate Objective 2. Consulting with the Acadian and francophone community.

Progress in reaching specific goals and objectives set for 2007-2008

- Continued cooperation between the Yarmouth area Coastal Resource Coordinator and the Saint Mary's Bay Resource Centre, which has a mandate to promote the delivery of French services to the fishing industry.

Specific goals and objectives for 2008-2009

- Include a French-language component when consultations are planned in traditional French-speaking areas.

Specific measures which will be taken to achieve these goals and objectives in 2008-2009

- Support community, cultural and economic initiatives of Acadian and francophone communities within fiscal allowances.
- Survey departmental application of French-language component in consultations.

Corporate Objective 3. Communicating, sharing information and promoting services available in French.

Progress in reaching specific goals and objectives set for 2007-2008

- Developed web pages listing information available in French for the Department of Agriculture and Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture.
- Translated departmental information of interest to the public and posted this information on the website.
- Ensured advertising campaign for Select Nova Scotia included French news releases and logos.

- Made newsletters regarding the Agriculture Policy Framework Renewal available in both official languages.

Specific goals and objectives for 2008-2009

- Make public and web-based information available in French.

Specific measures which will be taken to achieve these goals and objectives in 2008-2009

- Continue to translate and make available information which must be provided in French.
- Continue to communicate with employees about the government's commitment to provide French-language services and how this is being accomplished.
- Inform the Acadian and Francophone community of available French-language services through the use of the Bonjour sign and bilingual signage.

Corporate Objective 4. Supporting French-language services development, planning and delivery in priority areas.

Progress in reaching specific goals and objectives set for 2007-2008

- Developed a profile of staff's French capacity and posted it at reception.
- Twelve staff members attended French language training.

Specific goals and objectives for 2008-2009

- Increase the French capacity of staff.

Specific measures which will be taken to achieve these goals and objectives in 2008-2009

- Initiate an examination of the need for services in French in relevant locations.
- Provide staff with opportunities, learning tools and resources for French-language skill development, maintenance and growth.