

Nova Scotia Department of Justice French-language Services Plan

2013-2014

March 31, 2013

Table of Contents

1. Message from the Deputy Minister.	3
2. Responses to French Requests (Written and Oral).	4
3. French-language Services Inventory	5
4. French-language Services Coordinator.	5
5. French-language Services Accountability Report 2012-13.	6
6. French-language Services Plan 2013-14.	13
7. Addressing the Priorities of the Acadian and Francophone Community.	17
8. Conclusion: Contribution to the Preservation and Growth of the Acadian and Francophone Community.	17

Message from the Deputy Minister

It is my pleasure to share the Department of Justice 2013-2014 annual French-language Services Plan. Each year our plan reflects our ongoing commitment to contribute to the preservation and growth of the Acadian and francophone community, and provide for the delivery of French-language services.

The priorities and goals outlined in our French-language Services Plan are a reflection of the people and the many services provided at the Department of Justice. The employees of this department are dedicated to the fair and effective administration of justice, and to service excellence for the people of this province.

Specific highlights from the past year include the appointment of a bilingual provincial court judge, the successful renegotiation of the *Federal Contravention Act* agreement for a further five year period, the launch of our Parent Information Program for francophone clients, and the delivery of an on-line training program, through the Nova Scotia Community College, for certification of French-language Interpreters.

In addition to these unique successes, we continue our efforts to increase the amount of translated information contained on the Department's website. For example, with assistance of the judiciary, the new Provincial Court Rules, and forms, were translated as were amendments to the Civil Procedure Rules. The number of bilingual staff employed with the Department increased this past year, and we continued to offer staff opportunities to expand their skills by taking part in French-language and French legal terminology training.

While they operate independently from the Department of Justice, both the Public Prosecution Service (PPS) and Nova Scotia Legal Aid (Legal Aid) participate in the department's French-language services annual business plan. As a result, this plan also includes French-language services offered by PPS and Legal Aid as well as their goals and objectives for improving French-language services and their specific measures to achieve these in 2013-2014. PPS and Legal Aid have also included in this plan their progress in reaching specific goals and objectives set for 2012-2013.

As we enter the new fiscal year, we will continue to rely on the outstanding contributions that staff within the department, as well as our justice partners, make in order to create a better Nova Scotia. In the upcoming year, we will continue to work with staff to ensure our justice system responds to the needs of Acadians, Francophones and Francophiles in the province of Nova Scotia.

We welcome your feedback on our plan for 2013-2014 and extend a sincere thanks to all who helped develop it and all who will contribute to its implementation in the upcoming year.

Judith F. Ferguson
Deputy Minister

1. Responses to French Requests (Written and Oral)

Section 12 of the *French-language Services Regulations* states that each designated public institution must ensure that all written correspondence in French that is received by their offices is replied to in French and that reasonable and appropriate steps are taken to make members of the public aware that services are available in French and English.

At the Department of Justice, Court Services, Correctional Services and the Emergency Management Office (EMO) are the divisions with the most public contact. Employees in Courts and Corrections have been directed to forward French written or oral requests to staff within their workplace that are able to respond in French. If there is no one within the office who can respond in French, the correspondence is to be directed to head office for translation or to other staff who are able to answer questions in French.

At EMO, information related to public safety, health or security concerns is made available in French and English on the website. This includes, but is not be limited to: declarations of states of emergency, public announcements indicating impending or actual emergencies, public announcements regarding emergency preparedness and public announcements regarding emergency recovery programs.

Legal services responds to French requests, in writing and orally, as capacity permits and they have several staff fairly fluent in French who are able to field calls and enquiries.

Other divisions use staff members participating in the "Bonjour!" campaign to respond to specific inquiries in French. If there is no one at the local level who can manage the request, it may be referred to the department's French-language Services Coordinator.

PPS

PPS has one staff member who is part of the "Bonjour!" campaign and that staff member has agreed to respond to French requests from the public in accordance with the approach recommended by that campaign. The remaining PPS staff members who provide French-language services are Crown Attorneys; therefore, their French-language communication obligations are governed by section 530 of the *Criminal Code*. When required, the services of out-of-region staff with French-language communication skills are engaged.

Legal Aid

Legal Aid operates a 24-hour telephone duty counsel service providing free and immediate legal advice to persons who have been arrested or detained. Legal Aid maintains a list of French-speaking lawyers who are willing to provide such telephone duty counsel services in French. Legal Aid has a few staff members who are able to converse in the French-language. When an accused person in a French-language trial qualifies for legal aid, Legal Aid ensures that French-speaking counsel is retained to act for the accused even if counsel is from out of province.

2. French-language Services Inventory

This section of the business plan provides a general inventory of the programs and/or services that are offered in French by the Department of Justice and PPS.

Court Services provides:

- hearings in court in accordance with the *Criminal Code*;
- interpreters in Provincial Court for criminal matters;
- staff participation in the "Bonjour!" campaign;
- simultaneous translators as required at Supreme Court and Appeal Court for criminal matters;
- translated print and website materials in priority subject areas;
- interpreters in Family Court for certain family matters;
- the Parent Information Program in Family Division and Court;
- bilingual staff in court administration offices located in designated areas.

Correctional Services provides:

- French pre-sentence reports;
- offender supervision in French at certain locations;
- staff participation in the "Bonjour!" campaign.

Legal Services provides:

- services in French by responding to enquires from members of the public and other government departments.

Emergency Management Office (EMO) provides:

- in partnership with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP), French-language service, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, to 911 callers;
- 911 educational material to French communities;
- 911 presentations in French to schools.

Information Technology provides:

- support to department clients to accommodate online French requirements where department business functions deem they are necessary.

PPS provides:

- all French-language services required by the *Criminal Code*;
- court proceedings in French not covered by s. 530 *Criminal Code* of Canada;
- French presentations to students of the Conseil scolaire acadien provincial (CSAP).

3. French-language Services Coordinator

Léda M.D. Zlotnick

chiassld@gov.ns.ca

4. French-language Services Accountability Report 2012-13

This section outlines the goals and objectives established by the Department of Justice, Legal Aid and Public Prosecution Service for 2012-2013 and the specific measures and/or activities that took place to achieve them. This is in accordance with the specific objectives identified in the 2009-2013 Nova Scotia Strategic Plan for French-language Services.

Objective 1: Strengthen the policy, regulatory, and administrative framework in support of the <i>French-language Services Act</i>.
--

To strengthen the policy and regulatory administrative framework of the *French-language Services Act*, the Department of Justice is committed to:

- supporting Acadian Affairs;
- implementing the *French-language Services Act* and *Regulations*;
- contributing to government's annual progress report on French-language services; and the
- ongoing development of policies to support the delivery of French-language services.

Specific measures for 2012-2013

The Department of Justice will:

- continue to implement the *Federal Contraventions Act* agreement, including the provision of training in specialized French legal terminology for Justice employees;
- negotiate the 2013-2018 *Federal Contraventions Act* agreement;
- create a *Federal Contraventions Act* brochure/pamphlet;
- continue to meet legal obligations and enhance services pursuant to section 530 of the *Criminal Code* and the *Federal Contraventions Act* including providing a French judge, court reporter, and interpreter for proceedings;
- ensure the French-language Services Coordinator continues to sit on numerous committees and keeps AJEFNE and the French-language Services Coordinators Committee at Acadian Affairs informed of current projects;
- support Acadian Affairs by implementing the "Bonjour!" campaign at the Department of Justice and by promoting the "Bonjour!" Awards for Excellence in French-language Services;
- provide legal advice to Acadian Affairs when requested, and solicitors from the Department will participate in French-language training opportunities;
- offer services in French by responding to enquiries from members of the public or other governments.

Legal Aid will continue to support the delivery of French-language services and continue to develop policies.

PPS will continue to meet its legal obligations and enhance services pursuant to section 530 of the Criminal Code including providing bilingual Crown Attorneys. The PPS will support the delivery of French-language services and continue to develop policies. The PPS web site will be updated to allow easy access to French-language information. Bilingual Crown Attorneys will be provided with bilingual business cards.

Department of Justice

- in accordance with section 530 of the *Criminal Code* and the requirements of the *Federal Contraventions Act* Agreement, the Department of Justice created a *Federal Contraventions Act* pamphlet, as well as made French services available in Court by providing francophone Judges, Court Reporters and interpreters for trials;
- continued to implement the *Federal Contraventions Act* agreement on an ongoing basis, including providing training in specialized French legal terminology for Justice employees;
- completed the negotiation of the 2013-2018 *Federal Contraventions Act* agreement;
- supported Acadian Affairs by implementing the "Bonjour!" campaign at the Department of Justice and by promoting the "Bonjour!" Awards for Excellence in French-language Services;
- provided quality legal advice to Acadian Affairs when requested, and ensured solicitors continued to take advantage of relevant French training opportunities;
- provided all grant applications and nominations submission forms in French; and
- translated and disseminated fact sheets on domestic violence in Nova Scotia as well as the Domestic Violence Action Plan Update, 2012.

The French-language Services Coordinator:

- supported Acadian Affairs by providing Public Prosecution Service, Nova Scotia Legal Aid and the Department of Justice with "Bonjour!" posters, cards and brochures as required to display in their offices throughout Nova Scotia;
- explored with the Federal Government the implementation of a bilingual parking infraction ticket program. This project is still on hold, pending the outcome of other initiatives underway;
- managed the budget and expenditures, prepared and submitted the Nova Scotia financial report for 2012-2013 in accordance with the requirements under the *Federal Contraventions Act* Agreement.

To share information, the French-language Services Coordinator met:

- monthly with Acadian Affairs;
- quarterly with AJEFNE and the Departmental French-language Services Advisory Committee;
- tri-annually with the Divisional French-language Services Advisory Committee;
- annually with the Federal-Provincial-Territorial working group on access to Justice in both official languages.

Legal Aid continued to post hiring ads which included proficiency in French as an asset.

PPS:

- in accordance with section 530 of the *Criminal Code*, made French services available by providing bilingual Crown Attorneys;
- updated the website to allow easy access to French-language information; and
- provided bilingual Crown Attorneys with bilingual business cards.

Objective 2: Consult, plan, develop, and deliver French-language services in priority areas.

To consult, plan, develop, and deliver French-language services in priority areas, the Department of Justice is committed to:

- delivering services that respond to the priority needs of the Acadian and francophone community as identified through consultation;
- increasing capacity to provide French services in priority areas;
- advising stakeholders and the community about French programs and services available to them.

Specific measures for 2012-2013

The Department of Justice will:

- continue to consult with French-language stakeholders such as Acadian Affairs, AJEFNE and FANE to explore areas where increased services could be offered to the Acadian and francophone community;
- continue to identify, prioritize and recommend print and electronic material for translation;
- hire bilingual staff when appropriate vacancies occur and hire designated bilingual staff based on operational needs;
- continue to support the French-language Coordinator who will:
 - provide departmental services in French where appropriate as well as support the Dialogue on Domestic Violence project, including facilitating engagement with the Acadian and francophone community and coordinating translation of materials as required,
 - support the delivery of French-language services in workplaces offering direct services to the public by providing “Bonjour!” posters and explanatory cards and supplying “Bonjour!” toolkits to new French speaking employees,
 - increase French-language services capacity¹ by identifying employees capable of providing French-language service and by providing learning tools, resources and training in support of French-language skills development,
 - coordinate French assessments of current and new employees in designated positions to evaluate their French-language capacity and assist human resources with the hiring process,
 - continue to update the list of staff who have taken part in training as well as those who are capable of providing French-language services,
 - translate documents if they relate to a specific province-wide initiative or if they pertain to Acadian-related matters, and
 - develop and implement an approved print and electronic translation plan.

Various divisions within the Department will take on specific initiatives, including:

- Legal Services will continue to increase capacity to respond to the demands of French-language services by identifying legal and support staff capable of providing French-language service to clients and by taking advantage of all relevant training opportunities;

¹ Based on operational needs and the French-language training policy.

- Court Services will continue translation of the Court Services website, explore further training at Université Sainte-Anne for court reporters, fund training (with federal support) and have return for service agreements signed;
- Correctional Services will continue to support staff participation in French-language training; monitor vacancies in HRM Community Corrections offices with the intention of establishing a bilingual probation officer position when a position becomes vacant; provide bilingual business cards to Community Corrections staff to promote the availability to bilingual services; and actively monitor the website to ensure new content is translated;
- Public Safety and Security will:
 - continue to identify candidates for French-language training, inform new employees of French-language training opportunities and encourage all employees to consider French-language training;
 - identify a bilingual translator to assist when required;
 - explore the possibility of translating new divisional pamphlets, forms and notices;
 - advertise vacant or new positions within the Public Safety and Security division as seeking French-language capacity as an asset where appropriate; and
 - continue to seek opportunities through the Crime Prevention Unit, to engage with AJEFNE and FANE in relation to initiatives such as senior abuse and the Provincial Domestic Violence Action Plan.

Legal Aid:

Legal Aid will improve its ability to deliver French legal services by continuing to provide information to Legal Aid support staff and lawyers regarding the *French-language Services Act* and maintaining the policy of enhancing opportunities for staff to develop French speaking capabilities.

PPS

PPS will continue to identify and prioritize print and electronic material requiring translation and continue to ensure that Crown Attorneys and support staff are provided French-language training opportunities, as availability, funding and operational requirements permit.

Progress in Reaching Goals and Objectives for 2012-2013

The Department of Justice:

- consulted and met with Acadian Affairs, AJEFNE and representatives from FANE to explore areas where increased services could be offered to the Acadian and francophone community;
- translated a variety of materials including three brochures for the Neighbors, Friends and Family campaign;
- consulted with stakeholders to identify priority areas for bilingual information on the website. The translation and publication plan for 2013 was completed, presented to the Senior Management Committee and approved;

- with the approval of the Judiciary, the Civil Procedure Rules of the Court of Appeal and Supreme Court, including Family Division, were translated and published in French along with the official English version on the Judiciary's Courts website;
- launched the French Parent Information Program in partnership with AJEFNE;
- offered seven types of training to Department of Justice employees:
 - Six staff attended French correspondence training;
 - Thirty-five staff attended 15 one-day sessions of Specialized French Legal Terminology training;
 - Three probation officers, 1 support staff and 2 court reporters took part in French legal terminology training specific to their employment;
 - 39 staff participated in courses at l'Université Sainte-Anne;
 - 7 staff studied Practical French Legal Terminology (a week long course held in Moncton);
 - one probation officer participated in French courses at Alliance Française in Moncton; and
 - one court reporter participated in intensive French-language training at Université Sainte-Anne.
- completed the 2013-14 French-language services plan and annual accountability report by March 31, 2013.

Over the past year, divisions within the department have successfully promoted the delivery of French-language services in priority areas across the province. Specifically,

Court Services:

- offered intensive French training at Université Sainte-Anne to court reporters in exchange for a two-year return of service agreement to provide French-language services in court;
- installed new bilingual signs in Digby and Comeauville;
- met regularly with French-language stakeholders to identify opportunities and implemented changes to provide improved French-language services to Acadians and francophone Nova Scotians. Specific service level improvements included completion of the translation of Civil Procedure Rules, Provincial Court Rules and associated forms, and production of French-language Victim Services information cards;
- staff continued to actively participate in French-language training seminars; and
- hired a bilingual employee for a management position in support of the Victim Services program.

Correctional Services:

- continued to support staff who wished to partake in French-language training;
- provided bilingual business cards to its bilingual staff;
- translated the revised "Your Career in Corrections" brochure and posted it on the Departments website.

Public Safety and Security:

- continued to support staff who wished to partake in French-language training; two staff members took part in training this year;
- decided that when professional translation is required, they will coordinate with the French-language Coordinator;
- continued to distribute French information pamphlets to French communities;
- explored the possibility of translating new divisional pamphlets, forms and notices. This action has been moved into the 2013-2014 plan as the new *Security and Investigative Services Act* was not proclaimed during this fiscal year;
- two job postings, Compliance Officer and Licensing Clerk, were advertised as “Bilingual in both French and English is considered an asset”. The Security Programs Licensing Clerk position was filled with a successful bilingual candidate. When positions become available, the Public Security Investigation Section advertises that French is considered an asset;
- The Crime Prevention Unit ensured the Domestic Violence Action Plan Update, Minister's Award for Leadership in Crime Prevention, 2013-2014 Lighthouses Community Grants and the new informational brochures for new Canadians were translated;
- Developed training with the Conseil Scolaire Acadien Provincial for the Restorative Approach in schools project.

The Department of Justice French-language Coordinator:

- provided advice, direction and French-language support to an interdepartmental team that held various engagement sessions with Acadian and francophone community organizations regarding the provincial Domestic Violence Action Plan and the Dialogue on Domestic Violence project;
- communicated regularly with AJEFNE;
- promoted the “Bonjour!” program within the Department of Justice, at Legal Aid and the PPS, provided “Bonjour!” material as required and promoted the “Bonjour!” Awards for Excellence in French-language Services within the Department of Justice, Legal Aid and the PPS;
- coordinated the translation of job postings and interview questions and assisted with the interview process;
- coordinated testing of two employees by Université Sainte-Anne to evaluate their French-language skills;
- developed and oversaw the implementation of the 2013-14 website translation plan;
- provided bilingual employees with French tools as required;
- continued to update the list of staff who have taken part in French training and those who are capable of providing French-language services;
- coordinated the translation of documents relating to various province-wide initiatives such as the Domestic Violence Action Plan Update 2012, Domestic Violence fact sheets, the Minister's Award for Leadership in Crime Prevention, the 2013-2014 Lighthouses Community Grants, and brochures for Neighbours, Friends and Families, a campaign to raise awareness about woman's abuse so that those close to an at-risk woman or an abusive man can help.

Legal Aid:

- continued to send French-language training notifications to staff;
- 1 staff studied Practical French Legal Terminology;
- invited Francophone members to Professional Development Conferences;
- maintained two designated “Bonjour” offices;
- continued to provide French-language training to enhance the proficiency of those who have taken training;
- a senior member of the Executive (or designate) continued to sit on the Department of Justice’s French-language Services Advisory Committee and continued to report to the Executive Director for action required.

PPS

- prosecuted 20 French court matters using bilingual Crown Attorneys;
- continued to ensure that Crown Attorneys and support staff were provided French-language training opportunities, specifically:
 - 4 staff studied Practical French Legal Terminology;
 - 2 staff participated in French training at Université Sainte-Anne; and
 - 4 Crown Attorneys attended the French-language Institute of Professional Development of Ontario for one week of training.

Objective 3: Support the Acadian and francophone community in its long-term development and sustainability

In collaboration with AJEFNE, the Department of Justice is committed to supporting youth by promoting knowledge of the justice system in French schools.

Specific measures in 2012-2013

To facilitate Law Day, the Department of Justice will provide funding and in-kind contributions to support AJEFNE.

Progress in Reaching Goals and Objectives for 2012-2013

As part of Law Day, the Department of Justice and AJEFNE collaborated to invite French students from throughout Nova Scotia to participate in the event. The department also provided funding and in-kind contributions to support AJEFNE with Law Day. Lectures by professionals working with the Department of Justice about potential careers and presentations about the Nova Scotia Correctional Services Youth Facility were offered to law students at two French high schools.

5. French-language Services Plan 2013-2014

This section outlines goals and objectives established by the Department of Justice, Nova Scotia Legal Aid and the Public Prosecution Service for 2013-2014 and activities that will be undertaken to achieve them. This is in accordance with the specific objectives identified in the 2013-2018 Nova Scotia Strategic Plan for French-language Services (available from Acadian Affairs).

Objective 1 – Champion and support the policy development, planning, and administrative frameworks for the implementation of the *French-language Services Act and Regulations* by:

- supporting Acadian Affairs by implementing the *French-language Services Act and Regulations*;
- contributing to government's annual plan and progress report on French-language services; and
- ongoing development of policies to support the delivery of French-language services.

Specific measures for 2013-2014

The Department of Justice will:

- continue to implement the *Federal Contraventions Act* agreement, including providing training in specialized French legal terminology for Justice employees;
- complete renewal of the *Federal Contravention Act* for the period 2013 – 2018;
- provide *Federal Contraventions Act* brochure/pamphlet to enforcement agencies;
- continue to meet legal obligations and enhance services pursuant to section 530 of the *Criminal Code* and the *Federal Contraventions Act* including providing a French judge, court reporter, Crown prosecutor and interpreter for proceedings;
- ensure the French-language Services Coordinator continues to sit on numerous committees and keeps AJEFNE and the French-language Services Coordinators Committee at Acadian Affairs informed of current projects;
- support Acadian Affairs by implementing the "Bonjour!" campaign at the Department of Justice and by promoting the "Bonjour!" Awards for Excellence in French-language Services;
- provide quality legal advice and ensure solicitors continue to take advantage of relevant training opportunities available to the Legal Services Division.

Legal Aid will maintain its position on the French-language Committee.

PPS will:

- continue to meet its legal obligations and enhance services pursuant to section 530 of the *Criminal Code* including providing bilingual Crown Attorneys;
- support the delivery of French-language services by providing specialized training;
- continue to develop policies; and
- provide bilingual Crown Attorneys with bilingual business cards as required.

Objective 2 – Increase the visibility of French-language Services through active offer, communications, printed and electronic material, and increased French-language capacity of public servants by:

- delivering services and information material that respond to the priority needs of the Acadian and francophone community;
- supporting French training; and
- increasing capacity to provide French services in priority areas.

Specific measures for 2013-2014

The Department of Justice will:

- continue to consult with French-language stakeholders such as Acadian Affairs, AJEFNE and FANE to explore areas where increased services could be offered to the Acadian and francophone community;
- continue to identify, prioritize and recommend print and electronic material for translation, including Family Law consultation/discussion papers;
- hire bilingual staff when appropriate vacancies occur and hire designated bilingual staff based on operational needs;
- continue to support the French-language Coordinator who will:
 - support the delivery of French-language services in workplaces offering direct services to the public by providing “Bonjour!” posters and explanatory cards and supplying “Bonjour!” toolkits to new French speaking employees;
 - coordinate French assessments of current and new employees in designated positions to evaluate their French-language capacity and assist human resources with the hiring process;
 - increase French-language services capacity² by identifying employees capable of providing French-language service and by providing learning tools, resources and training in support of French-language skills development;
 - translate documents if they relate to a specific province-wide initiatives or if they pertain to Acadian-related matters;
 - develop and implement an approved print and electronic translation plan;
 - provide departmental services in French where appropriate as well as support the Dialogue on Domestic Violence Project, including facilitating engagement with the Acadian and francophone community, making presentations to the Acadian and francophone community and coordinating translation of materials as required.

² Based on operational needs and the French-language training policy.

Various divisions will take on specific initiatives, including:

Legal Services will:

- continue to increase capacity to respond to the demands of French-language services throughout Justice by identifying legal and support staff capable of providing French-language service to clients;
- ensure solicitors continue to take advantage of relevant training opportunities; and
- provide quality advice to its clients, including Acadian Affairs.

Court Services will:

- consult and meet regularly with AJEFNE to explore areas where increased services could be offered to Acadian and francophone communities;
- hire bilingual staff where required, and advertise French-language capacity as an asset for employment consideration;
- explore the translation of Court Services' website in consultation with stakeholders to determine priority areas;
- support French-language training at Université Sainte-Anne, fund training (with federal support) and have return for service agreements signed;
- maintain translation of Civil Procedure Rules, Criminal Court forms and Provincial Court Rules;
- translate the Court Service's client complaint form for use by French-language clients;
- continue to support the newly established French-language Parent Information Program;
- work with Federal and Provincial stakeholders to explore the feasibility of designing, developing and implementing a bilingual parking ticket infraction program;
- design, develop and use as required, a French-language jury administration package;
- provide Probate translation services for clients with French-language wills;
- arrange for a French judge and court reporter for proceedings in accordance with section 530 of the *Criminal Code* of Canada and the *Federal Contraventions Act*.

Correctional Services will:

- enhance services to francophone clients, partners, and the public by providing translated signage within correctional facilities and designated community corrections offices; and
- continue to support staff participating in French-language training to increase capacity to provide French oral and written communication with clients, the courts and the general public.

Public Safety and Security will:

- continue to identify candidates for French-language training, inform new employees of French-language training opportunities and encourage all employees to consider French-language training;
- continue to identify opportunities for employees to consider French-language training;
- translate documents into French if they relate to a specific province-wide initiatives or if they pertain to Acadian community matters;
- explore the possibility of translating new divisional pamphlets, forms and notices;
- translate critical information on security licenses (ID cards) issued to industry upon proclamation of the *Security and Investigative Services Act*;
- advertise vacant or new positions within the Public Safety and Security Division as seeking French-language capacity as an asset where appropriate;
- continue to seek opportunities through the Crime Prevention Unit, to engage with stakeholders such as AJEFNE and FFANE in relation to initiatives such as senior abuse and the Provincial Domestic Violence Action Plan;
- continue collaboration with the Conseil Scolaire Acadian Provincial regarding the Restorative Approach in schools project.

EMO will:

- review existing pamphlets and work with external partners to add French content to printed material and website information.

Legal Aid will:

- continue to make proficiency in French a desirable asset in hiring new personnel;
- continue to expand the list of employees to whom French training is offered;
- explore the possibility of translating the *Brydges* After Hours Telephone Duty Counsel Manual and the Poverty Law cards;
- provide bilingual business cards to bilingual members of Nova Scotia Legal Aid.

PPS will:

- continue to identify and prioritize print and electronic material requiring translation;
- continue to ensure Crown Attorneys and support staff are provided French-language training opportunities, as availability, funding and operational requirements permit.

Objective 3: Engage the Acadian and francophone community and provide services which support its development and growth by:

- building relationships between government and the French community through formal and informal engagements and provide French services during consultations;
- encouraging francophones to apply for position on Agencies, Boards and commissions;
- advising stakeholders and the community about the process to submit complaints about government services including French services.

Specific measures in 2013-2014

To facilitate Law Day, the Department of Justice will:

- provide funding and in-kind contributions to support AJEFNE;
- offer career lectures by professionals working with the Department of Justice.

6. Addressing the Priorities of the Acadian and Francophone Community

In the past few years, great progress has been made to ensure that French speaking Nova Scotians have access to justice in French. Pursuant to Section 6 of the *French-language Services Regulations*, the Department of Justice has outlined in this plan how it has addressed, and will continue to address, the priorities of the Acadian and francophone community. The department is committed to advancing and resolving outstanding issues which go to the heart of "access to justice" for our French speaking citizens. We recognize this is a work in progress and some of the challenges will require significant time and resources to overcome.

Section 530 of the *Criminal Code* guarantees the accused the choice of language in which the court proceeding will be heard. This choice is made by the accused appearing before the provincial court when they enter a plea. The trial may then proceed in either the Provincial or Supreme Court. We have judges and staff available who can provide the service requested. The Department of Justice also provides interpretation and translation services, in most cases. This is applicable when a witness or lawyer does not speak French. The Public Prosecution Service also has French Crown Attorneys available.

7. Conclusion: Contribution to the Preservation and Growth of the Acadian and Francophone Community

In accordance with section 5(1)(e) of the *French-language Services Regulations*, the Department of Justice will continue to work with partners and focus efforts on those areas of service deemed most important by the Acadian and francophone community. Priority areas include Halifax, Dartmouth, Port Hawkesbury, Yarmouth and Digby.

The department will further improve its capacity to deal with front-line inquiries at the counter, at reception areas, by phone, in court and also to translate public material, especially material available on the department's website. It will also facilitate access to justice in French by continuing to offer a variety of services, tools, and French-language training to staff. The department's work will continue to be guided by direct consultation with Acadian and francophone groups and through reference to consultation reports generated by Acadian Affairs.