

Why should the Official Languages act Concern Us?

**Description**

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# Why should the Official Languages

## What do you know about the Official Languages Act?

The Official Languages Act (OLA), passed in 1969, is a Federal law which is enforced at the federal level. The province of Quebec has passed several anti-English laws (Bills 22, 178 & 101) that effectively restrict the use of English in the province. The provinces of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick passed the French Language Services Act (2004) as did the province of Prince Edward Island (2013). Limited service in French is offered in each municipality in each of these provinces.

## What's wrong with that?

Elevating a minority language to equal status with the majority language is creating an over-emphasis on that minority language is concentrated only in the Eastern provinces of Canada, namely, QC & NB. Bilingual criteria for employment at the federal level and increasingly at the provincial level is creating a shortage of bilingual speakers. French-speakers are the ones most likely to be bilingual as they grow up speaking both languages. Speaking French and learning it at school does not make them fluent, especially as the educational system is in French.

The 2011 Census showed that "self-assessed" bilingual Canadians make up 17.5% of Canada's population. A language test is only about 12%. The Treasury Board (2014) showed that 31.9 % of the total Federal workforce that is made up of only 21.3% mother-tongue French-speakers (2011 census). This over-representation of French-speakers concerns us greatly.

The limited supply of bilingual Canadians & the over-emphasis on a minority language as a criterion for employment, academic & professional standards in our governments. Many high-level positions are filled by non-bilingual speakers. This is not equivalent.

As French is spoken widely only in Eastern Canada, this has led to Western Canadians being left out. The over-emphasis on French brought about will eventually destroy Canada.

**This is why you should be concerned.**

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