

Toronto Francophone Affairs Advisory Committee

Presentation by the Toronto Newcomer Office
Social Development, Finance and
Administration Division

October 17, 2024



Motion adopted by City Council

City Council adopted the following motion on July 19, 2022:

“City Council direct the Manager, Toronto Newcomer Office to ensure that Toronto's Francophone population plays an active role in the implementation of the Toronto Newcomer Strategy 2022-26 and to report back in 2023 to the Francophone Affairs Advisory Committee or the Economic and Community Development Committee, as appropriate, on the involvement of Francophone communities.”

Toronto Newcomer Strategy 2022-2026

Vision:

- Newcomers living in Toronto have a sense of belonging, well-being, and connectedness. They feel safe, supported, welcome and engaged.
- The City is a leader in providing newcomers equitable access to municipal programs and services.



Priorities for 2022-2026

1. Improve newcomer access to the City through employee training, outreach, and communication.
2. Rigorously implement the Access TO (Access without Fear) Policy.
3. Prepare and implement newcomer access plans for programs and services with a high impact on newcomer well-being.
4. Convene, collaborate and advocate on system-wide issues affecting newcomers.
5. Report on results.

Newly arrived Francophone populations in Toronto

- Ontario is home to the largest Francophone community outside of Quebec. In 2021, Toronto had 77,145 Francophones, 44% of whom were born abroad. This growth will continue with increased federal targets for 2024-2026.
- After reaching 4.4% of Francophone permanent residents outside Quebec in 2022, the new targets are set at 6% in 2024, 7% in 2025, and 8% in 2026.



2023 – A Year Marked by Relationship Building with the Francophone Settlement Sector

The Toronto Newcomer Office:

- Established a working relationship with the Local Francophone Immigration Committee of Toronto (CLIF).
- Organized events for Francophone partners showcasing a range of services and programs offered across the municipality.
- Acted as a bridge between the sector and the City.



2024 – Year Marked by the Commitment to Sustaining This Work

The Toronto Newcomer Office:

- Provided eleven letters of support to Francophone settlement organizations in response to Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada's calls for proposals.
- Established a Francophone Consultation Circle.
- Collaborated with the City of Toronto's Confronting Anti-Black Racism Unit to ensure that 9 Black-led, Black-mandated and Black-serving Francophone organizations were invited to participate in the Community Coordination Plan's Black Resilience Cluster.



Barriers faced by Toronto's Francophone Settlement Sector

Pressures on service delivery: The Francophone settlement sector in Toronto faces greater challenges in service delivery compared to the Anglophone sector.

Cultural and linguistic competence: Many providers offer services in French but lack specific cultural competence for Francophone communities. There is a need for services created by and for Francophones.

Referrals to Anglophone services: Francophone immigrants are often referred to Anglophone services that may not be available in French, requiring Francophone providers to offer additional support and demonstrate adaptability.

Time investment: Francophone service providers spend more time meeting individual client needs compared to the more standardized referral-based approach of Anglophone services.

Efficiency and funding: Personalized service may lead to lower efficiency as measured by client data, impacting funding applications compared to Anglophone service providers.

Capacity building: There is an urgent need to strengthen Francophone services, particularly in areas such as emergency shelters and transitional housing programs.

Obstacles faced by Toronto's Francophone Residents in accessing services

Disillusionment of a bilingual country: Francophone newcomers grapple with the disillusionment of a "false promise" of a bilingual country. This promise suggests the ability to live and work in French anywhere in Canada, a notion that often falls short of reality.

Common challenges with additional obstacles: Francophone newcomers face challenges similar to those of other newcomers, such as affordable housing, employment, and income security, with the added difficulty of limited supports in French.

Access to municipal services: Difficulties accessing municipal services due to the lack of French-language options, which affects participation in programming, particularly for children.

Additional vulnerabilities: Many Francophone newcomers are racialized, and those who are women or LGBTQ+ experience additional psychosocial impacts due to the loss of sociocultural reference points.

What's Next

- Continuation of the Francophone Consultation Circle.
- Awaiting a response from IRCC regarding funding to support this initiative.
- Ongoing collaboration with the CLIF.
- Integration of Francophone perspectives into Newcomer Access Plans.
- Obtaining interpretation services to ensure accessibility for Francophone participants.





Thank you!

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