



Agriculture
Fisheries and Aquaculture/Pêches et Aquaculture



French-language Services Plan
2007-2008

1. Departments of Agriculture/Fisheries and Aquaculture - French-Language Services Plan

The French-Language Services Plan for the Departments of Agriculture/Fisheries and Aquaculture is to be prepared annually pursuant to the Regulations to the *French-Language Services Act*, which took effect December 31st, 2006. These Regulations require each designated public institution to develop and publish a French-language services plan prior to March 31st of every fiscal year, while also providing instruction on the content to be included.

2. Message from the Deputy Minister

It is with pleasure that I take this opportunity to present the 2007-2008 French-Language Services Plan for the Departments of Agriculture/Fisheries and Aquaculture. Agriculture and fishing are two industries which are of great importance, not only to the province of Nova Scotia as a whole, but also bear historical significance to Acadian and Francophone culture. As such, the provision of French-language services is an objective upon which our departments place significance.

Fiscal 2006-2007 has seen progress in the delivery of French-language services in the areas of agriculture and fisheries and aquaculture, with which we are very pleased. These have included a variety of projects, ranging from bilingual signage and brochures, to staff taking second language training and involvement in sub-committees promoting French language.

The objectives and priorities for the departments continue to focus on the availability of French-language services through bilingual documentation, and increasing our internal capacity for providing bilingual services through staff training.

We are committed to providing the necessary support to meet the priorities as set out in the 2007-2008 French-Language Services Plan.

Paul T LaFleche
Deputy Minister

3. Communications in French

Between December 2004 and March 2007, in addition to producing French-language advertisements for public consultations in the Yarmouth area, department communications staff prepared ministerial speeches in French for delivery in francophone linguistic areas. The departments also participated in the preparation of a number of bilingual ads, brochures and news releases in conjunction with the Federal government for various joint funding programs and announcements.

Currently, there are ten staff members within the Department of Agriculture/Nova Scotia Fisheries and Aquaculture who provide French-language services. These staff include the department's Receptionist, Director of Policy & Planning, Secretary for the Minister of Agriculture, two Fishery Representatives in regional offices, a Fish Biologist with Inland Fisheries, the President of the Nova Scotia Agricultural College (NSAC), the Manager of Lab Services, the Director of Quality Evaluation, and the Deputy Minister/CEO of Agriculture/Fisheries and Aquaculture.

The Departments of Agriculture/Fisheries and Aquaculture have several methods for providing communications in French. In the case of verbal requests, the receptionist operating our main switchboard is able to supply services to clients in either official language. The receptionist also remains aware of staff within the departments capable of providing services in French, and directs calls to the appropriate individual in situations where she is not able to furnish the information requested.

Written requests are normally distributed to individuals within the departments who possess French-language capabilities. However, in situations where the departments do not possess the capacity to process the written requests, translation is sought either through the Office of Acadian Affairs or through translation companies.

4. Services Offered

Currently, there is a selection of departmental services and programs available to the public in French, ranging from signage and brochures, to verbal communication/coordination, policies and presentations. A brief synopsis of our recent principal initiatives is included below.

Signage - Bilingual signage for Nova Scotia Fisheries and Aquaculture is in place in both our Arachat and Yarmouth offices (see photos). Employees in these regional offices are bilingual and provide French-language services to clients.



Yarmouth



Arachat

Regional Coordination - Our Coastal Resource Coordinator works with the Saint Mary's Bay Resource Centre in Meteghan to promote delivery of French services to the fishing industry. Initiatives include the Marine Waste Steering Committee, the Oil Spill Contingency Plan and Marine Data Base Committee for the Bay of Fundy/Saint Mary's Bay, and the Integrated Coastal Planning and Zoning for Saint Mary's Bay.

Nova Scotia Agricultural College Policy - Some divisions of the Nova Scotia Agricultural College (NSAC) identified several auxiliary services as areas that could benefit if made available in French to students who request them. Work was done with the NSAC administration to determine an appropriate application of the French-language services policy for the college, resulting in the development of a French-language services policy for the NSAC, which has been implemented.

Production Insurance Meeting - In July of 2006, the Nova Scotia Crop and Livestock Insurance Commission was host to the national Production Insurance General Managers Meeting in Pictou, NS. Being a national meeting, there was a requirement that all presentations be in both official

languages. There were presentations by Agriculture Canada staff, guest speakers, and presentations on provincial updates for each province.

As the host of this event, the Crop and Livestock Insurance Commission was responsible for ensuring that the agendas and all presentations be translated into French, and for providing simultaneous translation for those in attendance.

Innovations in Fisheries and Aquaculture Brochure (Innovations en Matière de Pêches et d'Aquaculture) - This brochure is produced by the Innovations in Fisheries and Aquaculture Section, and is available at Fisheries and Aquaculture Regional Offices and fish and seafood trade shows. It contains information on the importance of the coastal resources industries, and the four core and two supplemental funding programs which provide financial assistance and field support to fisheries and aquaculture clients.

Barrier Free Fishing Brochure (Possibilités d'accès facile à la pêche sportive en Nouvelle-Écosse) - This brochure details fishing locations that elderly persons, or persons with disabilities can easily access, and what facilities are offered in each of these locations (wheelchair accessible washrooms, picnic areas, etc.). It is available on our website at http://www.gov.ns.ca/nsaf/sportfishing/extension/BarrierFreeBrochure_Fr.pdf

Lab Services Fee Schedules Brochures - The text for three Lab Services Brochures (*Analytical Fee Schedules, Fee Schedule Changes - Non Registered Farmers, and Fee Schedule Changes - Registered Farmers*) has been translated into French, with a fourth brochure on Dairy under development. All four brochures will be released in both official languages this summer, with electronic versions available this spring on our new website.

Angling Handbook and Summary of Regulations (Le Guide du pêcheur à la ligne de la Nouvelle-Écosse et résumé des règlements) - This document was produced by Nova Scotia Fisheries and Aquaculture and provides information on various items of interest and importance to anglers. These topics include licenses, fees, limits, seasons, areas, etc. This document is available on our website in both official languages, the French version being located at http://www.gov.ns.ca/nsaf/sportfishing/angling/french_trans.doc.

5. Preservation of the Acadian/francophone Community

Through legislation, the Departments of Agriculture/Fisheries and Aquaculture are required to provide support for the development and promotion of the two sectors that comprise the economic engines of Nova Scotia's rural and coastal communities: the agricultural and fishing 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 for providing services in French in order to enhance and develop relationships with clients from these areas.

Our plan identifies the requirement for promotion of departmental programs and review of proposals/applications with clients in French, as well as providing program literature and forms in both official languages. It is our belief that through the provision of these services, we will be assisting in the growth and stability of two economic industries which bear historical importance in the Acadian regions, as well as promoting communication in the mother tongue of many clients in these areas.

6. Goals, Objectives and Measures for 2007-2008

The 2007-2008 Business Plans for both the Departments of Agriculture/Fisheries and Aquaculture states that “*the Government of Nova Scotia’s French-language Services Act came into effect in 2004. This Act and its accompanying regulations outline the government’s plans for increasing the French-language services capacity in designated government departments, offices and agencies.*” Taking this into consideration, our priority for French-language Services continues to be the implementation of “*the French-language Services Plan, in accordance with the French Language Services Act*”.

Our strategies and actions, as stated in our Business Plans, include continued participation on the French-language Services Coordinating Committee, increasing the French-language service capacity in the departments through language training, and increasing availability of French-language services to clients through bilingual documentation and access to French speaking staff.

The specific goals and objectives for the Departments, and how they align with the Government of Nova Scotia’s corporate objectives, are detailed below.

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

Specific goals and objectives for 2007-08:

- Internal planning as it relates to the provision of French-language services.

Specific measures which will be taken to achieve these goals and objectives in 2007-08:

- Inclusion French-language Services in the departments Business Plans.
- Support of the Office of Acadian Affairs and the implementation of the French-language Services Act and subsequent Regulations to this Act through continual representation of the Departments of Agriculture/Fisheries and Aquaculture on the French-language Services Coordinating Committee.

Corporate Objective – Consulting with the Acadian and francophone community.

Specific goals and objectives for 2007-08:

- Establishment/continuation of French-language services offered, and approaches for delivery of these services.

Specific measures which will be taken to achieve these goals and objectives in 2007-08:

- Continued coordination between our Coastal Resource Coordinator for the Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture, and the Saint Mary's Bay Resource Centre in Meteghan, in promoting the delivery of French services to the fishing industry through such initiatives as: the Marine Waste Steering Committee, the Oil Spill Contingency Plan and Marine Data Base Committee for the Bay of Fundy/Saint Mary's Bay, and the Integrated Coastal Planning and Zoning for Saint Mary's Bay.
- Participate in the development of a Consultation Toolkit and distribute to the departments management group.

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

Specific goals and objectives for 2007-08:

- Public information is made available in English and French.
- Enhanced employee and client awareness of the approach being taken by government to provide French-language services.

Specific measures which will be taken to achieve these goals and objectives in 2007-08:

- Translate various brochures/information, and make available to the public in printed format, and on the departments websites.
- Inform the Acadian and francophone community of events and activities through bilingual advertising in print and on the departments websites.
- Develop a web page listing web-based information available in French. This will include organizational charts, brochures and publications, and our French-language Services Plans and Progress Reports.

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

Specific goals and objectives for 2007-08:

- Service delivery as it relates to the applicable objectives outlined in the Global Development Plan for the Acadian and Francophone community. These include economic development and employability, education and training, sports and recreation, and health and wellness.
- Schools and community groups contributing to the growth of the Acadian and Francophone community.

Specific measures which will be taken to achieve these goals and objectives in 2007-08:

- Update the assessment of client needs for services in French in conjunction with division and field operations.
- Update the French-language capacity study of staff (last completed in June 2004), and create a prioritized list of department staff interested in partaking in second language training.
- Provide staff with learning tools and resources for French-language skill development, maintenance and growth as they become available through the Office of Acadian Affairs and the Public Service Commission.
- Support the programming of schools and community groups in Acadian and francophone communities through the translation of the “Field Guide to Poisonous Plants”; the French version of which could be distributed to schools, camps, youth groups (Girl Guides/Boy Scouts), etc.