



2023-25 Strategic Framework for French-Language Services Tuesday, November 14, 2023

- I am excited to announce the new Strategic framework for French-Language Services.
- Thanks to work accomplished over the last few years, we are in a strong position to build on our success and expand the delivery of bilingual services and information to all Yukoners.
- The upcoming 2023-2025 Framework will help direct our efforts to best meet the evolving needs of the growing Yukon Francophone community.
- According to the 2021 Census of Population, more than 14 per cent of Yukoners speak French, up from 13 per cent in 2011.
- Our government relies on input from Yukoners to guide our way forward together.
- We received a lot of constructive feedback on areas of success, potential improvements, and future actions needed to enhance access to French-language services and communication.
- Thanks to everyone who took time to share their input, and to l'Association franco-yukonnaise for their input and essential role in bridging the Francophone community's priorities with ours.
- Our new roadmap focuses on the following four priorities:
 - Leveraging technology;
 - Keeping people safe;
 - Recruiting and supporting bilingual employees; and
 - Supporting a thriving Francophone community.
- This means that over the next two years, we will continue strengthening capacity within these key areas to deliver timely services and information in French.
- There is already a lot of promising work underway.
- Just last week, we celebrated the 1st year anniversary of Centre de santé Constellation Health Centre.

- Constellation has not only enhanced the provision of primary health care services but also made these services more accessible to the territory's Francophone population, and to all Yukoners.
- We will also focus on expanding interpretation to support government employees in providing French-language services while striving to hire and empower bilingual employees who are experts in their field.
- We now have 71 designated bilingual positions across the government compared to 58 last spring. This total doesn't include French Language Services Directorate staff.
- Most of the increase is within Health and Social Services, which now has 30 designated bilingual positions.
- I would like to take a moment to acknowledge that government employees are at the heart of our French-language delivery model, and I want to thank them for their ongoing service.
- The new Strategic Framework also outlines our plans to continue improving the availability of emergency communications, such as updates on floods and wildfires, in French, in real-time.
- There is so much within this Framework that will help support a strong, diverse and connected Yukon.
- We all benefit from living in a territory that values diverse and vibrant cultures and languages.
- French has always been central to our national identity.
- I look forward to continuing to work with federal partners, the Yukon's Francophone community as well as all Yukoners to support the enduring strength of the French language across the territory for generations to come.