



ACUFC

The role that the federal government should play in strengthening the network of post-secondary institutions in a Francophone minority context

Notes for Political Parties – 2021 Federal Election

What is the ACUFC?

The Association des collèges et universités de la francophonie canadienne (ACUFC) brings together 22 French-language or bilingual post-secondary institutions from eight provinces across Canada.

Context

- Francophone minority communities (FMCs), governments and employers rely on strong and agile post-secondary institutions.
- However, many are concerned about the future of the post-secondary sector, and institutions fear they will no longer have sufficient means to maintain and increase their contribution to Canadian society.
- Structural challenges mean that French-language post-secondary education in the FMCs does not benefit from conditions equivalent to those granted to the English-speaking majority.

Post-secondary institutions are allies of the federal government.

Post-secondary institutions support the federal government in achieving its objectives, including:

- Increasing the individual English-French bilingualism rate;
- Providing government services in both official languages;
- Achieving the Francophone immigration target (according to a survey, 92% of international graduates from our post-secondary institutions stay in Canada);
- Supporting a training and recruitment strategy for French teachers.

The federal government has a role to play in supporting the additional functions performed by post-secondary institutions in a Francophone minority context.

Post-secondary institutions in a Francophone minority context carry out a civic mission that set them apart from those of the English-speaking majority:

- They train a French-speaking and bilingual workforce;
- They are Francophone economic vectors in their local areas;
- They contribute to the vitality and development of Francophone minority communities.

Recommendations

The federal government must intervene in a sustainable and systemic way to strengthen post-secondary institutions in a Francophone minority context and make progress toward achieving real equality of both official languages in Canada. We recommend three courses of action:

- A statutory regulation for the implementation of Part VII of the Official Languages Act that encourages federal institutions to develop innovative ways to support post-secondary institutions in a Francophone minority context;
- A public policy statement that recognizes the civic mission of post-secondary institutions in a Francophone minority context;
- A new permanent support program for post-secondary institutions in a Francophone minority context that enables the federal government to intervene in categories of needs related to areas of federal jurisdiction.

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[For more information](#)

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