

A young girl with brown hair, wearing a bright pink tank top with a colorful patterned panel and matching shorts, is captured mid-jump in a grassy field. She has a joyful expression, looking upwards. In the background, other children and adults are sitting on the grass, some watching the girl. The scene is bright and outdoors. A decorative magenta patterned border is at the top of the page.

Taking action

for a vibrant
and dynamic Yukon
Francophone
Community

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Association franco-yukonnaise

302 Strickland Street, Whitehorse (Yukon) Y1A 2K1

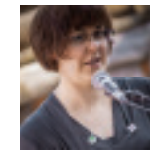
867 668-2663
afy@afy.yk.ca



afy.yk.ca

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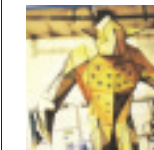
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*Shaping our
community together*

Word from the President

For almost 35 years, the Association franco-yukonnaise (AFY) has been creating, developing and ensuring the services, activities and institutions necessary for the advancement of French-language life in the Yukon, by working with its government, community and private partners.

Since one of our goals is to foster an environment conducive to the development of the Francophonie in the territory, we developed this tool outlining the specific needs

of the Yukon French-speaking community.

We drew upon the focal areas set out in the *Plan de développement global de la communauté francophone du Yukon 2015-2020* (Global Development Plan of the Yukon Francophone Community 2015-2020), which was created in collaboration with our Yukon Francophone partners.

We hope it will help you gain a better understanding of

the reality and needs of the Franco-Yukon community and inspire those who make important decisions concerning the lives of Francophones in the Yukon.



Angélique Bernard,
AFY President



Context

Francophones are everywhere. They participate fully in the community, cultural and economic life of the territory. They seek to improve the quality of life of all Yukoners on a daily basis, while preserving their Francophone culture.

Over the years, Yukon's Francophones have built a culture and identity of their own by developing and celebrating their cultural richness. To safeguard the future of their community, they established their own institutions, among them École Émilie-Tremblay, the Association franco-yukonnaise and the Garderie du petit cheval blanc.

The Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, the *Official Languages Act* of Canada and Yukon's *Languages Act* have allowed the Franco-Yukon

community to obtain certain services over the last few decades, but much remains to be done to ensure equality of use of French and English in the Yukon.

Direct access to institutionalized services in French, which do not depend on the goodwill or availability of the staff who can provide them, is essential. This is particularly important in the health sector, for example, where language barriers can lead to diagnostic or treatment errors. The integration of such services needs to be part and

parcel of the routine operations of both government and community institutions.

In this document, AFY sets out five priority areas for action it deems essential to ensure the advancement of life in French in the Yukon.

Francophones graced the background of the Franco-Yukon flag during the festivities of the 10th Yukon Francophonie Day ▶



Portrait of the Franco-Yukon Community

The Franco-Yukon community is vibrant, diverse and growing, thanks to the commitment of so many people who choose to live in French and be part of Yukon's Francophonie.



More than 4,500 Yukoners speak French, accounting for nearly 13% of the total population of the Yukon. †



Of that number, 1,630 have French as their mother tongue, representing 4.8% of the total population of the Yukon. †

The Yukon is the third most bilingual region in Canada, after Quebec and New Brunswick. †

† Statistics Canada, 2011 Census

[Volunteer Recognition Night](#) ▶



Consultation and integration

Francophones naturally participate in Yukon institutions. However, their desire to live in French requires that these institutions agree to modify their structures and actions to support the sustainability of the French presence in the Yukon.



L'Aurore boréale is the Yukon's French-language newspaper. The recent surge in online advertising has impacted its revenue streams and depleted its human resources, thereby hindering its ability to develop its business activities or embark on its digital transition.

To access quality French-language services, Francophones request that the:

Yukon Legislative Assembly

Amend the Yukon *Languages Act* to establish an Office of the Commissioner of Languages to receive and investigate complaints where an individual was unable to receive quality French-language services in circumstances made explicit in Sections 3, 4, 5 and 6 of the Act, and other sections that may be added when the *Languages Act* is reviewed.

Yukon Executive Council Office

Create a permanent position at the Yukon Hospital Corporation:

- ◆ by adding a point *i*) to Section 5(1) of the *Hospital Act*: "a [member] is selected from among persons nominated by the Association franco-yukonnaise or its successor as a representative organization of Yukon Francophones";
- ◆ by ensuring that the Commissioner in Executive Council appoints a member selected from among those nominated by the Association franco-yukonnaise on September 22, 2017, pending the legislative change requested.

Create a permanent Yukon College Board of Governors position:

- ◆ by adding a point *i*) to Section 6(1) of the *Yukon College Act*: "a [member] is selected from among persons nominated by the Association franco-yukonnaise or its successor as a representative organization of Yukon Francophones";
- ◆ by ensuring that the Commissioner in Executive Council appoint a member selected from among those nominated by the Association franco-yukonnaise on June 30, 2017, pending the legislative change requested.

To access a quality French-language newspaper, Francophones request that the:

Government of Canada

Reinstate a policy regarding advertising spending in Francophone minority newspapers.

Government of Yukon

Adopt an advertising spending policy in the pages of *L'Aurore boréale*.

Department of Canadian Heritage

Double funding to the Aid to Publishers component of the Canadian Periodical Fund.

City of Whitehorse

Develop an advertising spending policy in the pages of *L'Aurore boréale*.

Culture and identity

Culture is at the heart of the vitality and identity of the Franco-Yukon community. It is therefore necessary to facilitate its participation in various collective creation projects as well as cultural and artistic activities in French.

To ensure the development, vitality and identity of the Franco-Yukon community, Francophones request that the:

Department of Employment and Social Development Canada

Fund structuring and multi-year projects enabling Francophone seniors to participate fully in community life and end their isolation.

Department of Canadian Heritage

Index the Canada-community agreement for the Yukon, which has not been increased since 2006.

Ensure, during any celebration of Canada, a Francophone representation equal to the English representation, as well as impeccable bilingual communications.

Yukon Department of Tourism and Culture

Formulate an arts and culture policy in the Yukon that recognizes the French arts and culture sector as a key pillar to developing the Yukon community.

Double the funding provided to the AFY to support the flourishing of Francophone cultural expression in the Yukon.

Solstice Saint-Jean ▶



Health and wellness

Health is a key component of the Franco-Yukon community's vitality. When an individual is unable to communicate clearly with a health care professional, their safety is at risk.



◀ Hiking with the Franco50 group

To access quality health care services in French, Francophones request that the:

Government of Yukon

Establish a Status of Seniors Directorate, headed by a minister, to meet the challenges and needs of this growing population in the Yukon.

Yukon Department of Health and Social Services

Fund the creation of a bilingual primary health care centre and develop a specific program that meets identified health and social service needs as outlined in the 2004-2006 report *Préparer le terrain pour la santé en français* (Setting the stage for health care in French). Updated in 2016, this report includes the delivery of services by the following health care professionals:

- ◆ General practitioner
- ◆ Nurse
- ◆ Social worker
- ◆ Mental health therapist
- ◆ Reception and support staff

Provide mental health services in French, from testing to treatment, recovery and follow-up. These services will include access to an empathetic French telephone helpline and guidance services (navigation).

City of Whitehorse

Create and offer a wellness and leisure program (*Active Living*) for Francophone adults, children and seniors.

Economy and employability

Francophones contribute to the economic prosperity of the territory in all its spheres of activity. Integration into the labour market and the local economy is the best tool for ensuring the demographic growth of the Franco-Yukon community and the full participation of residents and newcomers in the economic life of the Yukon.



◀ Stéphane Thibeault,
Owner, Arctic Star
Printing Inc.

To promote the employability and recruitment of a bilingual Francophone workforce in the Yukon, Francophones request that the:

Department of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada

Implement a strategy to achieve the 4.4% Francophone immigration target set for the Yukon, and include all immigration continuum components (recruitment, reception, integration and retention).

Fund AFY so that it can offer full-time French language services for Francophone immigrants to the Yukon.

Make the French test required to obtain permanent residency available in the Yukon, at the same cost as the English test.

Yukon Department of Education

Renew the agreement whereby AFY can offer French employment services tailored to the needs of Yukon Francophones.

Renew, and in 2017, index AFY's multi-year funding for French professional development and French second language training for adults.

Yukon Department of Tourism and Culture

Continue to promote the Yukon as an emerging market in European Francophone markets.

Develop and fund the implementation of a Yukon promotion plan, including production of the French version of the Yukon Vacation Guide, for Francophone markets in Canada.

Education

Quality French language education is essential to the sustainability of the Franco-Yukon community. An integrated quality French language education system, from early childhood to adulthood, enabling the transmission of the French language and culture, is a priority objective for the Yukon Francophone community.



Craft activity with the *Caravane boréale des dix mots* ▶

To access quality educational services in French throughout life, Francophones request that the:

Department of Canadian Heritage

Fund a feasibility study on the expansion of the Garderie du petit cheval blanc daycare to meet enrollment demand.

Index bilateral education agreements upon their renewal in 2018, based on the real needs of the Francophone community.

Department of Employment and Social Development Canada

Revise the criteria for funding literacy and skills development programs that take into account the needs of Francophone minority communities, and ensure that these programs are accessible to Francophone adult learning organizations.

Yukon Department of Education

Build a Francophone community high school for access by eligible students by the spring of 2019.

Grant the Commission scolaire francophone du Yukon (CSFY) school board full educational administration.

Yukon Department of Health and Social Services

Establish a \$15 per day child care program by September 2017, and, in the meantime, increase day care centre operating grants as well as subsidies to parents for child care expenses by 20%.

Facilitate the integration of health and social services into École Émilie-Tremblay and Académie Parhémie to better meet the needs of families.



◀ Sugar shack during the Yukon Sourdough Rendezvous Festival