

NEWS RELEASE

Panels of experts on linguistic rights to discuss 25 years of the *French Language Services Act*

OTTAWA, October 31, 2011 – Franco-Ontarians from various backgrounds and walks of life will meet in Ottawa next month to discuss linguistic rights. The discussions will be held as part of the *Conference on 25 Years of the French Language Services Act*, which takes place on November 17 and 18, 2011, at the University of Ottawa's Desmarais Building.

To mark the 25th anniversary of the adoption of this quasi-constitutional statute, 25 panelists have been selected to address five different topics: (i) the role of the *Act* and the Office of the French Language Services Commissioner, (ii) reasons for requesting service in French, (iii) reasons to love Ontario's new *Francophonie*, (iv) reasons for requesting designation, and (v) future prospects.

A number of organizations will be represented at the Conference and will take part in the discussions. Among the participants: Jacinthe Desaulniers, from the French Language Health Services Network of Eastern Ontario, Denis Hubert-Dutrisac, from *Collège Boréal*; Raymond Lemay, from Valoris for Children and Adults of Prescott-Russell, Jeannine Proulx, from *ACFO Mille-Îles*, and Max Cooke, from Canadian Parents for French and French for the Future.

The Conference will include an assessment of the impact of the *French Language Services Act* and a look ahead at what the future holds for French-speaking newcomers and their prospects for integration into Franco-Ontarian society.

QUICK FACTS

- The *Conference on 25 Years of the French Language Services Act* is a collaboration between the Faculty of Law of the University of Ottawa, the Office of the French Language Services Commissioner, the *Association des juristes d'expression française de l'Ontario* (AJEFO) and GroupeMédia TFO, with the support of the Office of Francophone Affairs.
- The Conference is intended for university researchers, legal experts as well as the general public.
- The Conference and the Gala are open to the media.

INFORMATION

Gyula Kovacs, Public Relations and Communications Officer
Office of the French Language Services Commissioner, 416 314-8247 or 1 866 246-5262
communications.flscCSF@ontario.ca

Karine Proulx, Media Relations Officer
University of Ottawa, 613 562-5800 ext. 3149, 613 219-3058 (cell)
karine.proulx@uOttawa.ca