



700, rue Bay, bureau 2401
Toronto (Ontario) M7A 2H8

☎ 1 866 246-5262 / 416 314-8013
☎ 416 314-8331
ATS 416 314-0706
@ flsc-csf@ontario.ca
www.csf.gouv.on.ca

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January 17, 2014

The Honourable Madeleine Meilleur
Minister of Community Safety and Correctional Services
Minister Responsible for Francophone Affairs
700 Bay Street, 2nd Floor, Room 200
Toronto ON M7A 0A2

Dear Minister,

This letter constitutes my first official communication in my capacity as an independent officer of the Legislative Assembly of Ontario. The first letter from Ontario's French Language Services Commissioner to bear the coat of arms of the Legislative Assembly is addressed to you. This is entirely fitting as it honours your exceptional contribution to Ontario's Francophone community over the past decade.

You ably led the initiative to make both your colleagues in Cabinet and the members of the Opposition aware of the importance of making the Office of the French Language Services Commissioner fully independent. Only a Minister with your clarity of vision and spirit of innovation could have succeeded so well in this task. Only a Minister who, over the years, has earned great credibility by leading various ministries through important challenges could have seen this Bill through to adoption so efficiently and coherently. And only a role model of Franco-Ontarian leadership such as yourself, who holds the needs of Ontario's French-speaking citizens so close to her heart, could have given the community such a powerful symbol.

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Your skill, in-depth knowledge of the Franco-Ontarian community, and deep attachment to this community were key factors in the final decision of Cabinet and the Premier.

Thank you for creating this new institution for Franco-Ontarians. Please be assured that I will do everything in my power to do honour to the important mission of the French Language Services Commissioner of Ontario, as it has been bestowed upon me by the provincial parliament.

I hope that we can continue to meet on a regular basis so that I may continue to benefit from your judicious advice, which will remain very relevant to the fulfillment of my mandate.

A French-language version of this letter is attached for your reference and that of your staff.

Yours very truly,



François Boileau
French Language Services Commissioner