

RESOLUTION TO MODERNIZE THE OFFICIAL LANGUAGES ACT

RESOLUTION FIG-2019-02

WHEREAS The Government of Canada is committed to supporting and promoting both official languages and the vitality of our official-language minority communities.

WHEREAS The Government of Canada is committed to undertaking a review to modernize the *Official Languages Act* and ensure its relevance for Canadian society.

WHEREAS In 1967, the Royal Commission on Bilingualism and Biculturalism stated the critical role of Canadian municipalities with regard to official languages.

WHEREAS In 1988, the *Official Languages Act* made Canadian municipalities full partners in the promotion of bilingualism and the development of official-language minority communities.

WHEREAS At its 1984 annual conference, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) formally expressed its commitment to protect and promote the linguistic rights of English and French speakers by implementing a task force on official languages to determine the measures that are required to achieve this goal. In 1987, this task force submitted ten recommendations, which included the recommendation that FCM carry out high-priority research on successful municipal programs dealing with official languages to help interested municipalities to set up similar programs.

WHEREAS In 1990, FCM wrote “At Your Service... in Both Official languages: A Guide to the Delivery of Municipal Services in English and French” to provide hands-on information to municipalities that are interested in finding out about what they can do to deliver their services in English and French.

WHEREAS In 2018, as part of consultations conducted by the Standing Senate Committee on Official Languages, the Association of Manitoba Bilingual Municipalities (AMBMB) recommended that the *Official Languages Act* give more consideration to the role of municipalities for the vitality of official-language minority communities, and requested the implementation of a joint government-community committee to oversee the implementation of Part VII and ensure the engagement of municipalities in this process.

RESOLVED That the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) urge the Government of Canada to thoroughly modernize the *Official Languages Act* in order to reaffirm and strengthen a direct federal-municipal partnership in the area of official languages in manner that respects provincial jurisdiction.

RESOLVED That the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) urge the Government of Canada to explore the implementation of an official languages funding, resource and training program for interested municipalities in order to support and promote the vitality of official-language minority communities.

Association of Manitoba Bilingual Municipalities

FCM Board of Directors Decision:

Category A – Concurrence (Adopted as FCM Policy)

Friday, March 6, 2020

Saint-Hyacinthe, Québec