



More

FRENCH SERVICES IN WINNIPEG



NICOLE YOUNG

Manager of French Language Services at the City of Winnipeg.

photo: Marta Guerrero

BY CAMILLE HARPER

With the expansion of the Francophone space, whether through immigration or Francophiles who have gone through French immersion, more and more Winnipeg residents are asking to be served in French throughout the city.

In fact, on January 30, 2020, the City of Winnipeg took an important step in recognizing the need to provide adequate services to its French-speaking citizens.

Following the recommendations of the first report on the City's French-language services, City Council unanimously adopted that French-language services be expanded throughout the city. It was previously restricted to the historically French-speaking neighbourhoods of St. Boniface, St. Vital and St. Norbert.

Nicole Young: "This vote is a big step forward. The City recognizes, and understands better than before, its obligations to Francophones.

"With the expansion of the Francophone space, there are Francophone newcomers who speak little or no English and Francophiles who have learned French everywhere in the city. They want to be served in that language, for example, to be able to find French books in the library without always having to travel all the way to St. Boniface."

Over the next few months, Nicole Young will work with each of the City of Winnipeg's services and departments to develop plans for the delivery of French language services and to ensure that bilingual staff are in place to deliver them. ▶

