



www.fjcf.ca

450, RUE RIDEAU, BUREAU 403
OTTAWA (ONTARIO) K1N 5Z4

☎ 613 562-4624 · 1 800 267-5173
📧 613 562-3995 ✉ fjcf@fjcf.ca

OPEN LETTER

On the need to act collectively in favor of language security across the country

Sue Duguay, president of Fédération de la jeunesse canadienne-française (FJCF)

The joint statement published by the Linguistic Security taskforce on February 18 reaffirms the need to act collectively to foster language security across the country.

As president of the Fédération de la jeunesse canadienne-française (FJCF), I'm thrilled to know we can rely on such a committed network of partners.

Since 2016, organizations that are part of the taskforce, made up of visionary people, have doubled down on efforts to take concrete actions in their respective fields of intervention.

It is both reassuring and promising to know that these agents of change cast an optimistic and pragmatic eye towards this problem which has caused so much fear and apprehension for many generations of French speakers, regardless of their age.

Many people wish to learn and live in French. However, depending on where they live, that's not always an option, as learning establishments are limited or non-existent.

When it comes to post-secondary studies, many are forced to leave their province or territory because they can't study in their field in French. Some will only come home a few times a year; others will simply never return.

Just when we think we're making a remarkable step in the right direction, namely with the arrival of a French-language university in Université de l'Ontario français, other battles we believed to be won, such as Campus Saint-Jean, reminded us that nothing should nor can be taken for granted.

What can we do to encourage future generations to live in French? How can we make sure that everyone who wishes to live in French can do so, and that the option is facilitated and promoted throughout the country?

The answer is disarmingly simple: offer more opportunities.



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There's a gap to be filled in education, in business, in the workplace, in culture as well as in the media.

Youth want to read, hear and watch content they can identify with. Not only must that content be made available, but it must be easy to find given the reality of today's media.

In order to make this possible, the legislative framework and the institutions must allow and guarantee the propagation of French.

The world we evolve in changes rapidly and laws must be able to keep up. Let us recall the need to update the *Official Languages Act* as soon as possible and let us always keep in mind the linguistic duality of our country when writing and implementing all other applicable laws in effect on the territory.

Of course, some things may seem out of reach. It can be tempting to just give up when confronted with the immensity of the task. We're talking about changing the course of Canadian history when it comes to official languages, nothing less.

That being said, it's time to shine! We all, in our own way, have the power and the responsibility to lead concrete actions to foster language security in our daily environments and those of future generations of French speakers.

We've been dreaming of our language rights for a while now, but the time has come to transform our dreams into reality by working together to see our language and our culture grow and our language rights respected!

What actions will you take today?

Not sure where to start? Read our National Strategy for Linguistic Security (<https://www.snsi.ca/en>).

Let's make sure this generation and the ones to come no longer have to deal with linguistic insecurity as so many have before.