



French Language Services Work Group Terms of Reference

Introduction

Ontario has over 600,000 Franco-Ontarians and 1.5 million French-speakers making them the largest Canadian French-speaking population outside of Québec. While Leeds and Grenville is not a French Designated Area in Ontario, EKIOC is committed to ensuring easy access to French-language services to children and families in Leeds and Grenville and to ensuring that individuals feel comfortable requesting service in French and that our partners facilitate access to someone who will be able to provide the information or service they need in French.

Common Agenda

To build a community in which every child and youth is safe, healthy, valued and lives in a family and neighborhood where: all babies have the best start possible; all children and youth are cared for and safe; all children are ready for school; all children and youth are successful at school; all children and youth are practicing safe and healthy behaviors; and all youth are making successful transitions to adulthood.

Accountability

The French Language Services Work Group reports to the Lead Table of EKIOC. The French Language Services Work Group will provide advice to the EKIOC Lead Table as it relates to French Language Services and will ensure preparation of an annual work plan & will provide periodic (at least annual) reports on its activities to the EKIOC Lead Table. It may also bring specific issues to the Lead Table as needed.

Mandate

- To collect data to better understand both the demand for and availability of French Language Services for families, children and youth in Leeds and Grenville.
- To promote the principles associated with the concept of “Active Offer” across our partner organizations.
- To engage the Francophone community in Leeds and Grenville to inform planning and integration.
- To develop strategies to improve access to, accessibility of and integration of French Language Services for families, children and youth in Leeds and Grenville.

Membership

- The membership consists of, but is not limited to, partner agency staff members, community stakeholders, and leaders.
- Participation is encouraged from Franco-Ontarians and French-speakers.
- EKIOC seeks representation from diversity of peoples and perspectives and those with lived experience from across our partner organizations, particularly representatives from equity seeking communities, including:
 - Members from Indigenous communities
 - Members from the Black community and people of colour
 - Individuals who identify as 2SLGBTQ+
 - Individuals with visible and invisible disabilities
 - Other members of equity seeking or marginalized communities

Working Arrangements

- There will be two co-chairs of the Work Group, which will rotate through the members of the Work Group. The chairs will serve a term of 2 years (staggered) commencing in September of each year.
- The work group will meet at such times and places as determined by its members and will work mainly through video conferences and e-mail. Meetings will generally be held once per month for one hour.
- A consensus building approach will be used whenever possible. In the rare case when a vote is required, all members present are voting members.
- Administrative support to the Work Group will be provided by the EKIOC Coordinator.

Review of Terms of Reference

These terms of reference will be reviewed annually in September.

Date of Approval and Review