

WIPING OUT FRENCH ONTARIO...

10 WAYS

TO NOT INTEREST

PEOPLE IN THE POLITICS OF *LA FRANCOPHONIE* IN ONTARIO



CRRIDEC

Centre régional de recherche et
d'intervention en développement
économique et communautaire



Conseil de la coopération
de l'Ontario

BACKGROUND

In anticipation of the 2018 Conference of the Assemblée de la francophonie de l'Ontario (AFO), the Centre régional de recherche et d'intervention en développement économique et communautaire (CRRIDEC) and the Conseil de la coopération de l'Ontario (CCO) formed a partnership in order to co-facilitate a workshop called 10 ways to not interest people in the politics of *la Francophonie* in Ontario. Yes, you read that right; we were looking for ways to NOT interest people in the politics of *la Francophonie* in Ontario. The idea was to shake up the participants in order to determine avenues of improvement for French Ontario in a creative way.

The activity took place on October 26, 2018, during the first workshops of the AFO Conference. About 40 participants contributed, from 30 different organizations and many spheres of the Francophonie, representing multiple regions throughout the province.

The workshop developers and facilitators are also the authors of this report:

- Anthony Miron, Research Coordinator for the CRRIDEC;
- Isabelle Chouinard-Roy, Research Coordinator for the CRRIDEC;
- Dènik Dorval, Development Officer for the CCO's eastern region.



METHODOLOGY

The collection of information took place in three steps:

1. In small groups, writing a list of ways to not interest people in the politics of *la Francophonie* in Ontario;
2. Prioritizing the results by a democratic vote;
3. Identifying avenues of improvement for each one of the 10 challenges previously identified.



THE 10 WAYS TO NOT INTEREST PEOPLE IN THE POLITICS OF *LA FRANCOPHONIE* IN ONTARIO

1

Do not include youth, immigrants, or Francophiles

2

Ensure that the media doesn't talk about Francophones

3

Take French-language services for granted

4

Ignore linguistic insecurity

5

Defer to the English language out of kindness and politeness

6

State that Francophones don't make a difference

7

Ignore the mosaic of the Franco-Ontarian culture

8

Use statistics that devalue Francophones

9

Claim that Francophones are tired of fighting

10

Be closed off to new ideas and refrain from innovating

1

DO NOT INCLUDE YOUTH, IMMIGRANTS, AND FRANCOPHILES

In order to not interest people in the politics of *la Francophonie* in Ontario, it is important to:

- not include youth, immigrants, and Francophiles in committees, decision making, community initiatives and politics;
- not collaborate with the organizations that represent youth, immigrants, or Francophiles;
- ignore the interest of youth, immigrants, and Francophiles, and do not give them the chance to be interested in or participate in initiatives of the Franco-Ontarian community.

AVENUES OF IMPROVEMENT

- Encourage the development of organizations “for and by” Francophones, for example, cooperatives and social enterprises.
- Increase parents’ awareness so that they can better support their children in their engagement towards the Francophonie.
- Keep seats on executive committees for youth and immigrants.
- Collaborate with youth organizations and cultural organizations, for example, by organizing consultations.
- Trust the youth and let yourself be surprised.
- Create and organize activities for youth and immigrants.
- Approach Francophiles in immersion schools to engage them in Ontario’s Francophonie.

2

ENSURE THAT THE MEDIA DOESN'T TALK ABOUT FRANCOPHONES

In order to not interest people in the politics of *la Francophonie* in Ontario, it is important to:

- stay focused on Francophones in Quebec;
- ensure limited representation in the media of Francophones outside of Quebec;
- not encourage local media;
- leave out the local media from Franco-Ontarian community initiatives.

AVENUES OF IMPROVEMENT

- Represent the diversity of Francophones in the media.
- Encourage people to consume French-language media.
- Use the media to promote the demands, as well as the achievements, of the Franco-Ontarian community.
- Ensure regular communication with Francophone and Anglophone media in order to share news related to French Ontario.
- Build positive relationships with the media in the two official languages.

3

TAKE FRENCH-LANGUAGE SERVICES FOR GRANTED

In order to not interest people in the politics of *la Francophonie* in Ontario, it is important to:

- believe that French-language services don't need to be developed;
- not support or fund French-language services;
- not use French-language services when they're available;
- believe that it's easier to use services in English, thereby not giving French-language services a chance.

AVENUES OF IMPROVEMENT

- Encourage Francophones, especially youth, to use services offered in French.
- Set an example, as parents, by requesting French-language services.
- Make a request if an offer hasn't been made.
- Make a complaint to the commissioner when French-language services are inadequate or non-existent.

4

IGNORE LINGUISTIC INSECURITY

In order to not interest people in the politics of *la Francophonie* in Ontario, it is important to:

- choose to speak English out of fear of judgment from others;
- view different accents as a weakness of the language;
- ignore the existence of linguistic insecurity.

AVENUES OF IMPROVEMENT

- Encourage Ontario to recognize French as an official language.
- Sensitize people to linguistic insecurity.
- Focus on the substance of the French rather than the errors.
- Give Anglophones the chance to speak French without judgment.
- Sensitize Francophones, especially youth, to appreciate the mosaic of accents of the French language.

5

DEFER TO THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE OUT OF KINDNESS AND POLITENESS

In order to not interest people in the politics of *la Francophonie* in Ontario, it is important to:

- choose to speak English out of niceness and politeness when an Anglophone is present;
- not ask for French-language services when they're available to facilitate communication.

AVENUES OF IMPROVEMENT

- Find ways to reward employees who make an active offer.
- Request French-language services even when they're not offered, and even when they're not available.
- Promote Francophone businesses and organizations.

6

STATE THAT FRANCOPHONES DON'T MAKE A DIFFERENCE

In order to not interest people in the politics of *la Francophonie* in Ontario, it is important to:

- not involve the Francophonie's key players;
- ignore the role of Francophones in social, political, cultural and community development;
- ignore the local and regional initiatives of Francophones.

AVENUES OF IMPROVEMENT

- Encourage the innovative ideas and projects of Franco-Ontarian communities, for example, by using the support of existing organizations.
- Share the tangible and accessible success stories of individuals and collectives.
- Promote new and unconventional ideas.
- Band together: Unity makes strength.
- Offer tangible results to people surveyed and/or consulted for Franco-Ontarian initiatives.
- Involve Francophones and Francophiles in democratic processes where they can make a real difference.

7

IGNORE THE MOSAIC OF FRANCO-ONTARIAN CULTURE

In order to not interest people in the politics of *la Francophonie* in Ontario, it is important to:

- devalue cultural diversity;
- not be inclusive of cultural diversity;
- not recognize the struggles of Francophones and their historical journey.

AVENUES OF IMPROVEMENT

- Emphasize the assets of the cultural diversity among Francophones.
- Promote inclusion in the activities of the Ontario Francophonie.
- Note that, despite the cultural differences of Francophones in Ontario, one same language is shared.
- Encourage inclusion and diversity in the teams and boards of organizations and community groups.

8

USE STATISTICS THAT DEVALUE FRANCOPHONES

In order to not interest people in the politics of *la Francophonie* in Ontario, it is important to:

- focus on the negative aspects of the Franco-Ontarian community;
- present the Francophone population as being in constant decline.

AVENUES OF IMPROVEMENT

- Use positive statistics rather than negative ones to portray the Franco-Ontarian community.
- Refer to absolute data rather than percentages to represent the Franco-Ontarian community.
- Understand that the number of Francophones in the province continues to increase even if the proportion in relation to the rest of the province is decreasing.

9

CLAIM THAT FRANCOPHONES ARE TIRED OF FIGHTING

In order to not interest people in the politics of *la Francophonie* in Ontario, it is important to:

- state that the Francophone community is tired of fighting and that the next generation won't take up the torch;
- stifle the efforts of Francophones until they decide to give up.

AVENUES OF IMPROVEMENT

- Band together: Unity makes strength.
- Organize actions continuously.
- Focus on the successes of the Franco-Ontarian community and use them as a source of motivation.
- Establish a “veterans” club to learn about their successes and failures.
- Ensure that meetings between Francophone organizations are more active.
- Organize an event to celebrate the successes of the Franco-Ontarian community.

10

BE CLOSED OFF TO NEW IDEAS AND REFRAIN FROM INNOVATING

In order to not interest people in the politics of *la Francophonie* in Ontario, it is important to:

- live in the past without evolving along with technology and society;
- avoid opportunities for change;
- feed competition between organizations by monopolizing funding instead of collaborating;
- curb open-mindedness and creativity so as to avoid new ideas;
- be afraid of being different or doing things differently.

AVENUES OF IMPROVEMENT

- Organize sessions for open innovation through social innovation.
- Work in a supportive and collaborative way among Francophone organizations.
- Open up to the world of *la Francophonie* through immigration and the discovery of other Francophone countries.

ORGANIZATIONS REPRESENTED AT THE WORKSHOP

- Assemblée de la francophonie de l'Ontario
- Association canadienne-française de l'Ontario de Prescott et Russell
- Association canadienne-française de l'Ontario, région du Témiskaming
- Association des auteures et auteurs de l'Ontario français
- Association des francophones du Nord-Ouest de l'Ontario
- Association franco-ontarienne des conseils scolaires catholiques
- Caisses Desjardins
- Centre multiservices francophone de l'Ouest d'Ottawa
- Centre régional de recherche et d'intervention en développement économique et communautaire
- Club des Aînés l'Étoile d'Or
- Coalition des Noirs francophones de l'Ontario
- Collège Boréal
- Commissariat aux services en français
- Conseil de la coopération de l'Ontario
- Conseil des écoles publiques de l'Est de l'Ontario
- Conseil scolaire catholique de district des Grandes Rivières
- Conseil scolaire catholique Providence
- Entité 4 - Planification des services de santé en français
- Fédération de la jeunesse franco-ontarienne
- Fédération des aînées et des retraités francophones de l'Ontario
- Fondation canadienne pour le dialogue des cultures
- Inspirato
- La Cité collégiale
- La Société Économique de l'Ontario
- Ministère de la Justice du Canada
- Parents partenaires en éducation
- Regroupement étudiant franco-ontarien
- Rendez-vous des aînés francophones d'Ottawa
- Réseau du mieux-être francophone du Nord de l'Ontario
- Université de Hearst
- Université York - Campus Glendon

THANK YOU

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- ANTHONY, DÈNIK ET ISABELLE

WHO WE ARE...



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The Centre régional de recherche et d'intervention en développement économique et communautaire (CRRIDEC) is one of the Learning Integration Centres at l'Université de Hearst, with the following mandates:

- Help in the development of companies, organizations and communities in Northern Ontario and elsewhere;
- Educate students in research and intervention and provide them with learning opportunities through experience;
- Aim for business and community partnerships that can facilitate the transition from knowledge to concrete action plans.

The organization secured around twenty projects in 2017-18, in addition to welcoming multiple interns from l'Université de Hearst since the introduction of workplace internships.

WHO WE ARE...



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de l'Ontario

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The mission of the Conseil de la coopération de l'Ontario (CCO) is to contribute to the development of the social economy in the Francophone community through cooperation. It achieves this mission by allowing cooperatives and social enterprises to work together to promote their interests and support their development.

The five pillars of development:



Development of social enterprises
and cooperatives



Community economic
development



Organizational
management



Social innovation
and research



International
affairs

The organization supports more than a hundred collective enterprises around the province, training 3,000 people each year for social and cooperative entrepreneurship. The CCO is your gateway to Ontario's social and cooperative economy!