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Sent: Monday, May 31, 2021 11:09 AM
To: OLLO <OLLO@SEN.PARL.GC.CA>
Cc: Hugo Choquette <hc39@queensu.ca>; Marc Sauve (MSauve@plaidieurs.ca) <MSauve@plaidieurs.ca>;
Alexandra Waite <awaite@ajefo.ca>
Subject: AJEFO response: Invitation to submit a brief for the official languages reform project

Good morning:

I am writing on behalf of the board of directors of the Association des juristes d'expression française de l'Ontario (AJEFO) in response to your invitation to submit a brief for the official languages reform project.

The AJEFO will not be submitting a brief because its position is set out in the brief submitted by the Fédération des associations de juristes d'expression française de common law inc. (FAJEF), which brings together seven associations of French-speaking jurists, including the AJEFO. The AJEFO fully supports the FAJEF's brief.

However, the AJEFO wishes to voice its support for two more specific recommendations on the topic of access to justice in French as regards the [English and French: Towards a Substantive Equality of Official Languages in Canada](#) document. These issues were not addressed by the FAJEF's brief:

1. **Strengthening the powers of the Commissioner of Official Languages:** The AJEFO has been advocating for several years to strengthen the powers of the Commissioner of Official Languages in order to accelerate the court process for cases of non-compliance with the OLA. With this change, the OLA would explicitly provide for the gradual implementation of strengthened powers for the Commissioner, including order-making powers and the power to enter into enforceable agreements with federal institutions and entities that are subject to the OLA. In addition, the OLA would introduce alternative dispute resolution mechanisms as a result of this change.
2. **Ottawa, a bilingual city:** The AJEFO congratulates the government on its desire to continue working with the City of Ottawa and the francophone community to recognize the French fact and strengthen the presence of both official languages in Canada's national capital. We would like to reiterate our support for the legislative process that was proposed by a group of French-language organizations that are committed to making Ottawa an officially bilingual city, on the basis that a bilingual country should have a bilingual capital.

Thank you for the opportunity to participate in this study.

Yours sincerely,

Marc Sauvé
President
Association des juristes d'expression française de l'Ontario

