

Gouvernement du Québec

## O.C. 621-2025, 7 May 2025

Regulation to amend the Regulation respecting the language of the civil administration

WHEREAS, under the first paragraph of section 16 of the Charter of the French Language (chapter C-11), the civil administration must use only the official language in its written communications with other governments and with legal persons established in Québec;

WHEREAS, under the second paragraph of section 16 of the Act, the Government may however determine by regulation the cases, conditions or circumstances in which another language may be used in addition to the official language;

WHEREAS, under subparagraph 2 of the first paragraph of section 21.4 of the Act, a version in a language other than French may be attached to the contracts and other related written documents referred to respectively in sections 21 and 21.3 of the Act in any other situation determined by government regulation;

WHEREAS, under the first and second paragraphs of section 21.9 of the Act, written documents sent to an agency of the civil administration by a legal person or by an enterprise to obtain a permit or another authorization of the same nature, or a subsidy or other form of financial assistance that is not a contract referred to in section 21 of the Act, must be drawn up exclusively in French, and the same applies to the written documents that a legal person or an enterprise receiving such a form of assistance or holding such an authorization is required to send to such an agency because of that assistance or authorization;

WHEREAS, under the fourth paragraph of section 21.9 of the Act, the Government may determine, by regulation, the situations in which a written document sent to the civil administration may be drawn up in a language other than French;

WHEREAS, under third paragraph of section 22 of the Act, the Government may determine, by regulation, the cases, conditions or circumstances in which the civil administration may use French and another language in signs and posters;

WHEREAS, under section 93 of the Act, in addition to its other regulation-making powers under the Act, the Government may make regulations to facilitate the administration of the Act, including regulations defining the terms and expressions used in the Act or defining their scope;

WHEREAS, in accordance with sections 10 and 11 of the Regulations Act (chapter R-18.1), a draft Regulation to amend the Regulation respecting the language of the civil administration was published in Part 2 of the *Gazette officielle du Québec* of 26 February 2025 with a notice that it could be made by the Government on the expiry of 45 days following that publication;

WHEREAS it is expedient to make the Regulation with amendments;

IT IS ORDERED, therefore, on the recommendation of the Minister of the French Language:

THAT the Regulation to amend the Regulation respecting the language of the civil administration, attached to this Order in Council, be made.

DAVID BAHAN

*Clerk of the Conseil exécutif*

## Regulation to amend the Regulation respecting the language of the civil administration

Charter of the French language  
(chapter C-11, s. 16, 2nd par., s. 21.4, 1st par., subpar. 2, s. 21.9, 4th par., s. 22, 3rd par., and s. 93).

**1.** The Regulation respecting the language of the civil administration (chapter C-11, r. 8.1) is amended in the first paragraph of section 2

(1) by replacing subparagraph 6 by the following:

“(6) sent by an agency of the civil administration exercising inspection functions or functions of an equivalent nature, or investigation functions;”;

(2) by adding the following at the end of the first paragraph:

“(9) carried out where the principles of natural justice require the use of another language.”.

**2.** Section 4 is amended by striking out paragraph 16.

**3.** Section 6 is amended by striking out subparagraph 8 of the first paragraph.

**4.** Section 7 is amended by striking out “within the meaning of the regulation defining the scope of that expression for the purposes of the Charter of the French language (chapter C-11)”.

**5.** The following is inserted after section 7:

“7.1. For the purposes of this Regulation, in signs and posters that are both in French and in another language, French is markedly predominant where the text in French has a much greater visual impact than the text in the other language.

In assessing the visual impact, a family name, a place name, a trade mark or other terms in a language other than French are not considered where their presence is specifically allowed under an exception provided for in the Charter of the French language (chapter C-11) or its regulations.

7.2. Where texts both in French and in another language appear on the same sign or poster, the text in French is deemed to have a much greater visual impact if the following conditions are met:

(1) the space allotted to the text in French is at least twice as large as the space allotted to the text in the other language;

(2) the characters used in the text in French are at least twice as large as those used in the text in the other language; and

(3) the other characteristics of the sign or poster do not have the effect of reducing the visual impact of the text in French.

7.3. Where texts both in French and in another language appear on separate signs or posters of the same size, the text in French is deemed to have a much greater visual impact if the following conditions are met:

(1) the signs and posters bearing the text in French are at least twice as numerous as those bearing the text in the other language;

(2) the characters used in the text in French are at least as large as those used in the text in the other language; and

(3) the other characteristics of the signs or posters do not have the effect of reducing the visual impact of the text in French.

7.4. Where texts both in French and in another language appear on separate signs or posters of a different size, the text in French is deemed to have a much greater visual impact if the following conditions are met:

(1) the signs and posters bearing the text in French are at least as numerous as those bearing the text in the other language;

(2) the signs or posters bearing the text in French are at least twice as large as those bearing the text in the other language;

(3) the characters used in the text in French are at least twice as large as those used in the text in the other language; and

(4) the other characteristics of the signs or posters do not have the effect of reducing the visual impact of the text in French.”

**6.** Section 8 is amended by striking out “within the meaning of the regulation defining the scope of that expression for the purposes of the Charter of the French language (chapter C-11)” in the portion before paragraph 1.

**7.** Section 9 is amended by striking out “within the meaning of the Regulation defining the scope of the expression “markedly predominant” for the purposes of the Charter of the French language (chapter C-11, r. 11)”.

**8.** Section 11 is replaced by the following:

“11. An agency of the civil administration publishes the information provided for in section 20.1 of the Charter of the French language (chapter C-11) on its website or by any other appropriate means and, in the latter case, so informs the Minister of the French Language.”

**9.** Section 19 is amended by replacing “June” in the first paragraph by “December”.

**10.** This Regulation comes into force on 1 June 2025.

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