Senate Official Languages Committee - February 18, 2019 – Questions Asked of NCC Requiring Following-Up

At its appearance in front of the Senate Committee on Official Languages, on February 18, 2019, the National Capital Commission (NCC) received two questions from committee chair, Senator René Cormier, for which the NCC committed to providing a response.

The NCC understands that Senator Cormier’s questions made reference to the *Guide for Federal Institutions – Official Languages Act – Part VII – Promotion of English and French*, which was published by the Department of Canadian Heritage in 2007.

In this context, the NCC’s responses are as follows:

**Question : Utilisez-vous le guide produit par Patrimoine canadien destiné aux institutions fédérales qui a été produit en 2007? Est-ce que ce guide est utile dans votre travail comme organisme?**

**Est-ce que les principes de ce guide pourraient être intégrés dans un nouveau règlement pour encadrer la mise en œuvre de la partie VII? Il y a de nombreux témoins qui nous ont dit que notamment dans la partie VII, de la Loi sur les langues officielles, il devrait y avoir un règlement et que le guide pourrait peut-être être intégré. Qu’en pensez-vous?**

**NCC Response:**

The NCC has at heart the participation of communities of linguistic minorities. Consultation strategies and communication plans always take into account the official language minority public. While our reach extends well beyond the National Capital Region (NCR), a lot of our interactions with the public are local. To this end, positive measures are taken to ensure that communication tools targeting minority communities are widely used to reach linguistic minorities in order to obtain their input, and that associations of linguistic minorities who are interested in our work receive timely information on our activities and provide comments in the language of their choice.

Furthermore, the NCC is recognized for its long-standing tradition of working closely with the Office of the Commissioner of Official Languages (OCOL), the Department of Canadian Heritage (PCH) as well as with external stakeholders that include Official Language Minority Communities (OLMC), in its ongoing promotion and enhancement of linguistic duality within the NCR.

Through the use of various guides, best practices and fact sheets developed and disseminated by PCH, the NCC has developed and implemented OL tools and mechanisms that are aligned with our commitment to the promotion of language duality within the NCR. The NCC would leave it to Parliamentarians to determine if there are aspects of the guide that should be integrated into a regulation. The NCC would be prepared to comply should the decision be to prescribe related content as requirements in a regulation.