



# RESEARCH OF THE FRENCH LANGUAGE SERVICES ACT

Chiefs of Ontario- Education Forum  
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Three centuries ago, Indigenous languages were spoken by **100%** of the population of this land. That percentage currently stands at **.001%** in Ontario.

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# About the Research – 30 page report - based on Literature Review and Key Interviews (list as follows)

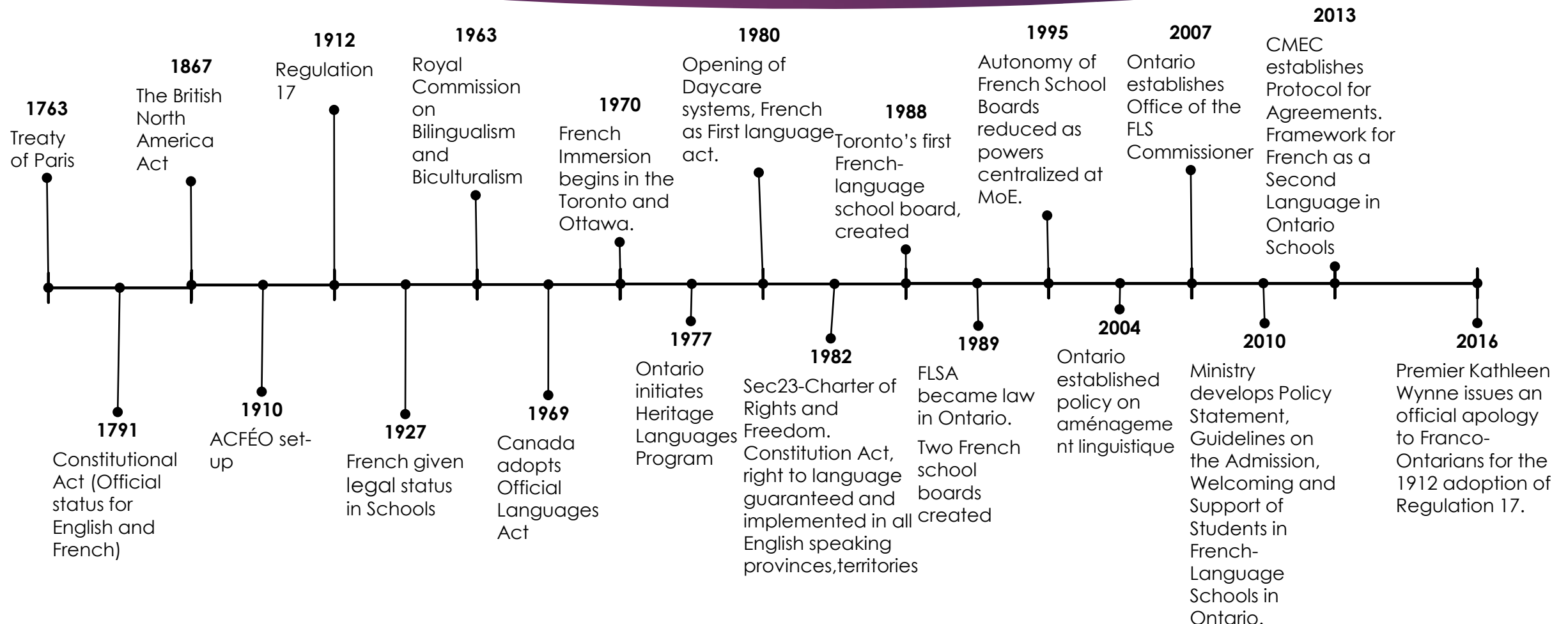
- Denys Giguère – Assistant Deputy Minister (Acting), **Ministry of Education, French Language Teaching, Learning**
- Carl Bouchard – Director, **Office of Francophone Affairs**
- Amos Key – Director of Languages, **Woodland Cultural Centre**
- Peter Hominuk – Executive Director, **Assemblée de la francophonie de l'Ontario** (AFO)
- Denis Vaillancourt- Former President, AFO, And Former Director, Ministry Of Education
- Sonia Ouellet – former Executive Director, **Association des juristes d'expression française de l'Ontario** (AJEFO)
- Paul Rouleau – former French Language Services Commissioner and former AJEFO President
- Betty Gormley – Executive Director, **Canadian Parents for French**
- Dr. Normand Labrie – Language and Literacies Education, **Ontario Institute for Studies in Education** (OISE)
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- Ian Martin – Professor, Glendon College, **Centre for Research on Language and Culture Contact**, York University
- Linda Cardinal – Professor & holder of Research Chair in **Canadian Francophonie and Public Policies**, Univ of Ottawa
- David Leitch – Lawyer, Linguistics and Constitutional Law
- Joseph Morin – Legal Counsel, **Office of French Language Services Commissioner**

# Comparative Analysis

	<b>FRENCH</b>	<b>FIRST NATIONS</b>
<b>% OF ONTARIO'S POPULATION SPEAKING THE LANGUAGE</b>	<b>5%</b> (611,500)	<b>0.001%</b> (18,425)
<b>% OF CANADA'S POPULATION WHO IDENTIFY WITH THE LANGUAGE</b>	<b>21%</b> (7 Million)	<b>2.6%</b> (851,560) [Ontario population-1.6% of the province (209,510)]
<b># OF LANGUAGE SCHOOLS ACROSS THE PROVINCE</b>	<b>455</b> (350 elementary, 105 secondary)	<b>10</b> First Nation language schools in Ontario. (AFN estimates about 100 schools in Canada)
<b># OF LANGUAGE SCHOOL-BOARDS, UNIVERSITIES</b>	<b>12</b> Boards, <b>1</b> University	<b>0</b> Boards, <b>0</b> University
<b># OF STUDENTS</b>	<b>82,000</b> in French-language schools <b>1.8 million</b> in English language schools in Ontario with core and immersion French	<b>14,000</b> First Nation children and youth go to school on reserve <b>Half</b> of the children from reserve go to provincial schools

Main difference is that the language rights for the Francophones are protected through various constitutional acts including 1969 Official Languages Act and Section 23 of the Charter of Rights and Freedom. These provide the legal framework for French education and services. The provincial government has no legal provisions entrenching First Nation language education or services in Ontario.

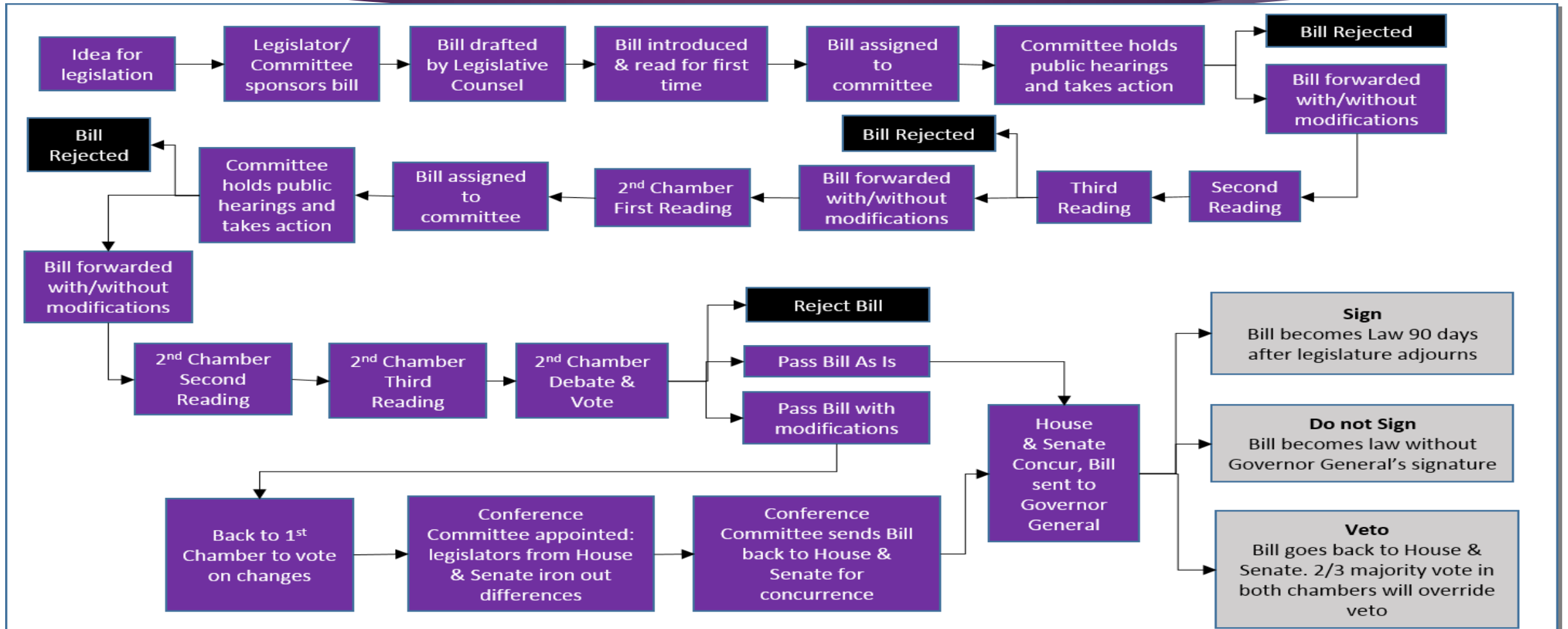
# Historical Timeline for the French Language



## Some Highlights of the Act

- ▶ Came into effect in 1989 and is intended to protect the rights of Franco-Ontarians. Several previous laws embedded in the Canadian Constitution for protecting French language rights provided the framework for Ontario.
- ▶ Ensures that provincial government services are offered in French in 25 designated areas with significant numbers of Franco-Ontarian residents.
- ▶ Details and provides for the role of the Ministry for Francophone Affairs, the Office of Francophone Affairs, the French Language Services Commissioner and the Coordinators.
- ▶ For years the drawbacks in FLSA have been brought forward to the Ontario Government. The Act is more about servicing rather than revitalization; more about specific language deliverables rather than community and culture.
- ▶ French language education and services in Ontario are supported by an extensive network of government bodies, associations, school systems, universities, legal entities, communities and grassroots activity along with major fiscal contributions.

# Legislative Process in Ontario – lobbying, timing and more

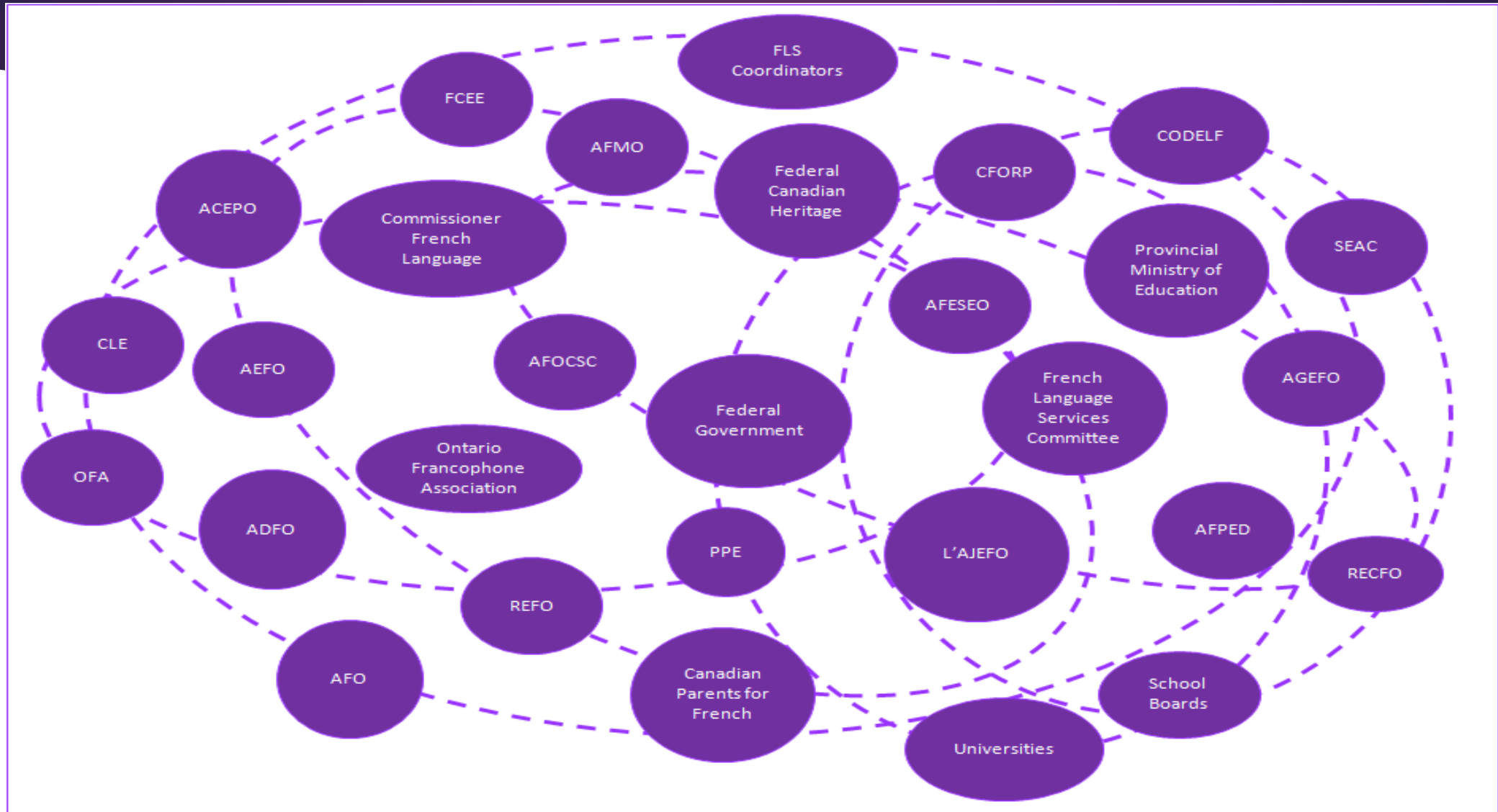




# Many Legislations provide for French language services in Ontario

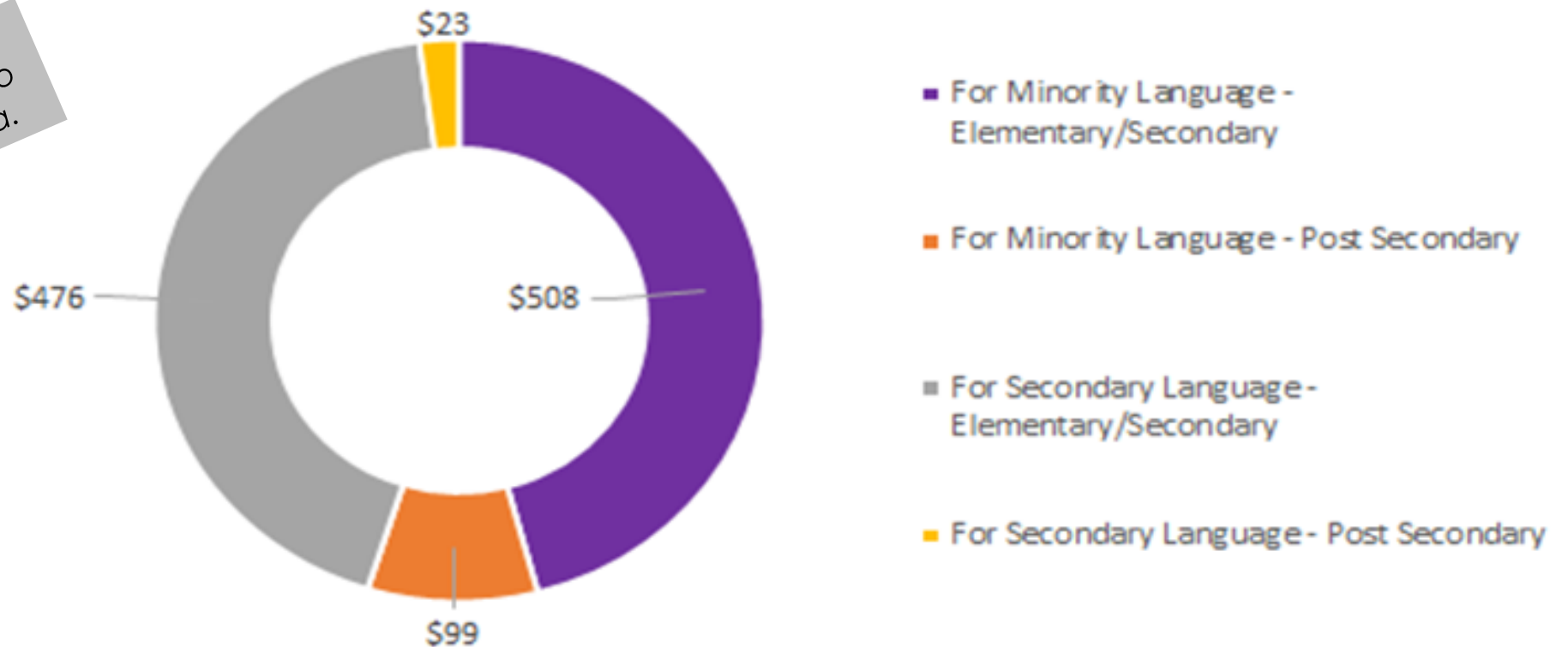
- Human Rights Code
- Ontario College of Teachers Act
- Election Act
- Children's Law Reform Act
- Consolidation and Revision of the Statutes
- Registry Act
- Land Titles Act
- Statutory Powers Procedure Act
- Ontario Municipal Board Act
- Public Service Act
- Regional Municipality of Ottawa-Carleton
- Occupational Health and Safety Act
- Audit Act
- Law Society Act
- Marriage Act
- Public Libraries Act
- Municipal Elections Act
- Justices of the Peace Act
- Juries Act
- Municipal Act
- Regulated Health Professions Act
- Local Services Boards Act
- Child and Family Services Act
- Business Corporations Act
- Courts of Justice Act

# Support Ecosystem for French Language



# Funding for French Language Education in Ontario - for 5 years

Planned Total Funding for French over 5 years- \$1,106 Million



It costs around \$2.4B (provincially and federally) to fund bilingualism in Canada.

*Table 3: French Language Education Funding Plans for Ontario to 2018*

# Key Recommendations

<b>First Nation vision</b>	<b>Begin Drafting</b>	<b>Build Networks &amp; Associations</b>	<b>Conduct further research for policies</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•Build a clear, collective vision- both for short term and long term.</li><li>•Support the vision with a compilation of past recommendations</li><li>•Compile evidence based information linking language to mental well being</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•Expedite the bringing together of top Indigenous and French linguistic and constitutional law experts to start drafting a bill, to counter process delays and accelerate the time to impact.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•Bring together Indigenous organizations and associations to map out a roadmap for building an ecosystem of support for First Nations.</li><li>•Build above as an annual forum.</li><li>•Involve Indigenous parents in the decisions made on the language programming their children receive.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•Language policies from other jurisdictions (Nunavut, Finland, New Zealand, etc.)</li><li>•Language and human rights standards out of UN.</li><li>•BC- Nisga'a , NS- Mi'kmaq , Que- Education Act for Cree, Inuit and Naskapi agreements recognize language education rights.</li></ul>

# Key Recommendations

<b>Build Allies</b>	<b>Ensure right focus</b>	<b>Build robust consultation mechanisms</b>	<b>Consider Case Laws</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•FLSA was presented as a Bill in 1986 by Bernard Grandmaître, Minister Responsible for Francophone Affairs. Need for a similar supporter for First Nations language in the government.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Take into account local specificities to ensure any upcoming language policy will remain appropriate, applicable and acceptable for a Nation-to-Nation relationship.</li> <li>•Develop a language revitalization focus versus “servicing” focus.</li> <li>•Meet diversity of languages &amp; speakers</li> </ul>	<p>Look into the example of AFO structure for maintaining an effective ongoing process of consultation.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Judicial work on Treaty relationships in Ontario may be needed to establish appropriate legal framework for First Nations language legislation.</li> <li>•Study and compilation of relevant and successful case laws in Indigenous language and culture.</li> <li>•Build legal case for First Nations language as human rights</li> </ul>

Questions?