



ICRML
Institut canadien
de recherche
sur les minorités
linguistiques

CIRLM
Canadian Institute
for Research
on Linguistic
Minorities

Research at the Heart of the Development of Official Language Minority Communities

2018-2023 Strategic Plan

Moncton, New Brunswick

September 2017

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linguistiques

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Canadian Institute
for Research
on Linguistic
Minorities

The **Canadian Institute for Research on Linguistic Minorities** is an independent, not-for-profit research organization established with funding from Canadian Heritage. Its role is to lead, unify and partner with researchers, community organizations and government bodies, to promote a greater awareness of the situation of Canada's official language minorities and a better understanding of the priority issues they face.

The Canadian Institute for Research on Linguistic Minorities acknowledges the support of the Government of Canada.

Canada

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2018-2023 CIRLM STRATEGIC PLAN

INTRODUCTION

Since its creation in 2002, the Canadian Institute for Research on Linguistic Minorities (CIRLM) has been founded on a strategy that is updated yearly to direct its activities. This new plan is aimed at guiding the activities of the Institute over the next five years, taking into account new management practices for research organizations.

GENERAL ORIENTATIONS

VISION

Through the pertinence and quality of its research, the strength of its partnerships and expertise of its staff and associate members, the Canadian Institute for Research on Linguistic Minorities offers guidance to community agencies and government bodies committed to enhancing the vitality of official language minorities in Canada.

MISSION

The role of the Canadian Institute for Research on Linguistic Minorities is to lead, unify and partner with research centres, educational institutions, researchers, community organizations and government bodies, to promote a greater awareness of Canada's official language minorities and a better understanding of the priority issues they face.

To this end, it is committed to conducting, in cooperation with its partners, pertinent research to support the various official language minority stakeholders and public policymakers in language matters.

VALUES

Excellence, pertinence and collaborative research

While focusing on research excellence, the CIRLM conducts research activities that are relevant to official language minority communities (OLMCs), by fostering cooperation between researchers and stakeholders.

KNOWLEDGE MOBILIZATION

Knowledge mobilization is at the heart of the activities of the CIRLM and is based on:

1. monitoring research on OLMCs (research knowledge that is produced or has been produced on OLMCs);
2. generating new knowledge on the issues facing OLMCs;
3. disseminating findings within academia, community and government environments;
4. collaborative research and knowledge coproduction with researchers and community and government partners;
5. comparing with other minority linguistic groups in Canada (First Nations, Métis, Inuit and non-official languages) and elsewhere.

1. MONITORING RESEARCH ON OLMCS

The CIRLM team identifies research studies on OLMCs. It involves reviewing accumulated knowledge, debates that have taken place and research methods used. Research monitoring is a tool for identifying the issues, OLMC research needs and the most innovative practices in terms of applied research. It is used to update knowledge on OLMCs and conduct research related to the most recent studies on linguistic minorities. Monitoring ensures the pertinence of research approaches based on the context of OLMCs. This approach allows us to expand our knowledge.

2. GENERATING NEW KNOWLEDGE ON THE ISSUES FACING OLMCS AND OTHER LINGUISTIC MINORITIES

By focusing on excellence, pertinence and engagement in research, the CIRLM carries out sponsored initiatives and conducts independent research in the following areas¹:

- a) minority-language communities
- b) community development
- c) politics, influence and governance
- d) language rights, recognition and legitimacy
- e) memory, identity and diversity

Through its research and knowledge dissemination activities, the CIRLM provides a critical dimension that reflects its independence and reinforces its credibility.

¹ For further information on the research activities of the CIRLM, please visit the following website: <https://www.icrml.ca/en/institute/research-agenda>

3. DISSEMINATING FINDINGS IN ACADEMIA, COMMUNITY AND GOVERNMENT ENVIRONMENTS

The advancement and dissemination of knowledge in the research areas of the CIRLM contributes to developing a better understanding of the development issues facing minority communities in the academic, community and government environments. The CIRLM disseminates its research within these three environments to:

- improve the understanding of researchers and stakeholders working with linguistic minorities;
- foster the use of knowledge produced among stakeholders;
- encourage public policy design that supports the development of linguistic minorities;
- raise public awareness around linguistic minority issues;
- stimulate research by integrating up-and-coming researchers into its projects.

4. COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH WITH RESEARCHERS, COMMUNITY AND GOVERNMENT PARTNERS

The CIRLM conducts research and knowledge dissemination projects through collaborative relationships with researchers from other institutions and government and community partners. These relationships are fundamental to the success of the CIRLM. They provide the best conditions for producing research that is pertinent for communities and that informs and inspires practices and stakeholders. These researchers are able to obtain CIRLM associate researcher status.

5. COMPARING WITH OTHER MINORITY LINGUISTIC GROUPS IN CANADA AND ELSEWHERE

Over the years, the CIRLM has developed expertise that can be used to understand the challenges faced by other minority linguistic groups in Canada and elsewhere in the world. In return, the CIRLM can offer OLMCs an understanding of the sociolinguistic dynamics of these others groups. The comparative perspective contributes to social innovation in terms of linguistic vitality and OLMC development.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

1. Introduce, conduct and support research contributing to the scientific understanding of official language communities in Canada.
2. Introduce, conduct and support research contributing to interventions and policies aimed at fostering the vitality of official language communities in Canada.
3. Work with community organizations and government bodies concerned with official language matters in Canada to foster promotion and research.
4. Create opportunities for exchange and cooperation between researchers interested in the issue of official language minorities.
5. Catalogue existing research relevant to the mandate of the Institute.
6. Organize events bringing together researchers, to share knowledge on the realities and challenges of Canada's official language minorities with community and government representatives.

RESEARCH ACTIVITIES OF THE CIRLM

As stated in its mission, the CIRLM works to improve knowledge about Canada's OLMCs and develop a better understanding of the priority issues they face. It does so by highlighting the minority situation of these communities. The imperative underlying all CIRLM research activities is that of maintaining, developing and fostering the vitality of OLMCs. The Institute's research activities and themes reflect and guide its research.

The CIRLM conducts research on all OLMCs in Canada, namely Francophone communities outside Quebec and the Anglophone community in Quebec. It addresses OLMC issues in a variety of sectors (health, education, the economy, arts and culture, the media, etc.) and groups (health, seniors, women and immigrants). It achieves this by working in collaboration with a network of associate researchers who contribute to the realization of its projects.

THE CIRLM conducts research on:

- minority communities
- community development
- politics, influence and governance
- language rights, the recognition of OLMCs and legitimacy of their claims
- memory, identity and diversity

1) Minority communities

These research activities focus on the demolinguistic, sociolinguistic and geographical situation of the population and include the study of the following:

- spatial dynamics of populations, migration and immigration
- birth rates and population aging
- language transmission and vitality
- linguistic composition and sociolinguistic characteristics of the population
- linguistic practices and representations

2) Community development

This research examines the lives of official language minority individuals and communities, to develop a better understanding of how community stakeholders provide for the development of their community in different sectors and for different groups. Some of the research themes include:

- state and government support
- self-development and the organization and planning of community activities
- economic and community development projects
- institutional completeness and the vitality of institutions and organizations
- language of services and access to services

3) Politics, influence and governance

These research activities address the political organization of the community; the relationship between internal and external powers; the political influence of stakeholders; the influence of the federal, provincial/territorial and municipal context; and the participation of minority groups in political life. Some of the research themes include:

- political context and linguistic regimes
- institutional and community governance
- political participation
- political action and mobilization
- language policies and planning
- political representation

4) Language rights, recognition and legitimacy

This research examines the status of OLMCs from the perspective of language rights and their applications, as well as from the legitimacy of the demands and claims of OLMC groups and stakeholders. The research themes include:

- legal contexts at the federal, provincial/territorial and municipal levels
- legal decisions and their impact on communities
- application of the law
- legal action
- legal status of OLMCs

5) Memory, identity and diversity

These research activities examine the situation of OLMCs with regard to identity, taking into consideration memory and increasing diversity. Themes that are examined include:

- identity building
- identity and linguistic expression
- language and identity
- ethnocultural diversity
- relating to others, multiculturalism, interculturalism
- memory, tangible and intangible heritage

BENEFITS FROM THE ACTIVITIES OF THE CIRLM

New knowledge about OLMCs that:

- enriches debate in research environments and communities;
- informs and educates the public, decisionmakers and stakeholders about OLMC issues;
- clarifies community-based interventions and public policies concerning OLMCs.

ANNEX

Process

- Approval by the Board of Directors to develop a five-year strategic plan for the CIRLM.
- CIRLM team reflection exercise (winter and spring 2016).
- Review of research activities in collaboration with the CIRLM Program Committee (winter 2016).
- Preparation of a discussion paper and distribution to Board members (May 2016).
- Validation of research activities by the members of the CIRLM Program Committee (June 2016).
- Drafting and presentation of the preliminary version of the strategic plan to the Board of Directors (October 2016).
- Drafting and presentation of the final version of the strategic plan to the Board of Directors on _____, October _____ 2017.
- Adoption of the strategic plan by the Board of Directors on _____, October 30, 2017.