



September 11, 2015

Kevin Lacey
Atlantic Director
Canadian Taxpayers Federation

Sent by email only at: klacey@taxpayer.com

Mr. Lacey:

This is in response to your recent request pertaining to the attendance by the Commissioner of Official Languages for New Brunswick at an event in March 2014.

The Commissioner of Official Languages for New Brunswick is an independent officer of the Legislative Assembly. The Commissioner's role is to investigate, report on and make recommendations with regard to compliance with the *Official Languages Act* and to promote the advancement of both official languages in the Province.

The Commissioner of Official Languages for New Brunswick is a member of the International Association of Language Commissioners (IALC). Other members of the association are:

Language Commissioner of Kosovo
Languages Commissioner of Nunavut (Canada)
Office of Irish Language Commissioner (Ireland)
Office of the Commissioner of Official Languages (Canada)
Office of the French Language Services Commissioner of Ontario (Canada)
Ombudsman of Catalonia (Spain)
PAN South Africa Language Board
Welsh Language Commissioner (Wales)

The **mission** of the International Association of Language Commissioners (IALC) is to support and advance language rights, equality and diversity throughout the world and to support language commissioners so they may work to the highest professional standards by:

- Sharing experience and exchanging knowledge of best practice;
- Advising or assisting in the establishment of Language Commissioners offices;
- Facilitating an exchange of training and professional development resources, research and information;

September 11, 2015

Kevin Lacey

Page | 2

- Cooperating with like-minded organizations who value the promotion and protection of language rights and diversity.

The **objectives** of the International Association of Language Commissioners (IALC) are:

- To promote, support and advance language rights, equality and diversity;
- To share experience, insights and connections between language commissioners' offices
- To encourage the exchange of information and mutual learning between language commissioners' offices and to provide an avenue to members to advance best practices and a stronger knowledge base on language rights protection efforts;
- To increase awareness and understanding of the role and value of Language Commissioners among Governments, state agencies, academia, media and the general public;
- To define, publish and keep under review criteria for the recognition of language commissioners' offices by the Association and to accord recognition to those who satisfy the defined criteria for recognition as language commissioners throughout the world;
- To support regions that wish to create a position of language commissioner or advance their language rights;
- To share training and development or work exchange opportunities;
- To share evidence based research in the interest of advancing language rights.

The IALC also has a Research Corner which seeks to build links with international researchers in order to advance understanding of multilingual language policies and the role of ombudsmen in promoting and protecting language rights.

The IALC was created in May 2013 and held its inaugural conference on March 21, 2014 in Barcelona, Spain. In conjunction with the inaugural conference of the IALC, a 2-day International Symposium on Language Rights and Social Cohesion in Plurilinguistic Societies was organized by the Catalan Ombudsman in cooperation with the IALC.

The Commissioner of Official Languages for New Brunswick made a presentation to the March 21st inaugural conference of the IALC on the topic *The Impact of Minority Language Education on the Preservation and Advancement of Minority Languages*. The Commissioner also attended the 2-day symposium on March 19-20, 2014 as a delegate. (The programs for these two events are attached.)

The Commissioner was the only person from the Office of the Commissioner of Official Languages for New Brunswick who attended these events.

September 11, 2015

Kevin Lacey

Page | 3

The costs for the Commissioner's attendance at the March 19-21, 2014 events were as follows:

Airfare	1074.11
Hotel - 4 nights (March 18, 19, 20 and 21)	600.08
Meals, taxis, incidentals	<u>378.52</u>
Total	\$2052.71

A summary of the Inaugural Conference of the IALC can be found on pages 87-88 of the 2013-2014 Annual Report of the Office of the Commissioner of Official Languages for New Brunswick.

In addition, the budget situation of the office was presented in both the 2013-2014 and 2014-2015 Annual Reports of the Office of the Commissioner of Official Languages for New Brunswick. Please refer to pages 93-94 of the 2013-2014 report and page 80 of the 2014-2015 report, both available in the Publications section of the Office's website at: <http://www.officiallanguages.nb.ca/>

Trusting you will find this information helpful, we thank you for contacting our office.

Yours truly,

The Director of Public Affairs and Research,



Hugues Beaulieu

HB:pp

Encl.



INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LANGUAGE COMMISSIONERS

CONFERENCE PROGRAM, MARCH 21, 2014

INAUGURAL CONFERENCE OF THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LANGUAGE COMMISSIONERS OFFICE OF THE CATALAN OMBUDSMAN, PASSEIG DE LLUÍS COMPANYYS, 7, 08003, BARCELONA

8:30 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. REGISTRATION, COFFEE, NETWORKING

9:00 a.m. - 9:30 a.m. OPENING REMARKS

Opening remarks from Rafael Ribó, Catalan Ombudsman

9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. SESSION 1

Language Rights and Challenges in an Era of Globalization

Opening remarks from IALC Chairperson, Graham Fraser,
Commissioner of Official Languages of Canada

Seán Ó Cuirreáin – IALC Secretary – Lessons learned over
10 years as Ireland's first language commissioner

Dr. Michel Doucet – Director, International Observatory on
Language Rights – Recent research on international
language rights

10:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. BREAK

11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. SESSION 2

The Impact of Minority Language Education on the Preservation and Advancement of Minority Languages

Moderated by:

Slavisa Mladenovic – Language Commissioner, Kosovo

Presenters:

Meri Huws – Welsh Language Commissioner, Wales – Building
On Success: Creating a Bilingual Workforce for Wales?

Mxolisi Zwane – CEO, Pan South African Language Board,
South Africa – Case Study on Mother Tongue Language
Education in South Africa

Katherine d'Entremont – Commissioner of Official Languages
for New Brunswick, Canada – Duality in Education in
New Brunswick

12:30 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. LUNCH

1:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. SESSION 3

Case Studies on the Impact of Investigations Conducted by Commissioners' Offices on Language Rights

Moderated by: Rafael Ribó – Catalan Ombudsman, Catalonia

Presenters:

Annie Plouffe – Director of Investigations, Office of the
Commissioner of Official Languages, Canada – Case Study on
the Investigation of a Marine Rescue Centre: From Closure to
Changing a Government Decision to Saving Lives

Órla de Búrca – Investigations Manager, Office of the Irish
Language Commissioner, Ireland – Case Study on How
Complaints Against the Police Service Led to a Language
Quota in Recruitment of New Gardaí (police officers) in Ireland
with Additional Commentary from Garda representative
Eimear Ní Cheallaigh

François Boileau – French Language Services Commissioner,
Ontario, Canada – Case Study on an English-Only H1N1 Flyer:
From Communication Crash to Communication Coup

Sandra Inuitiq – Languages Commissioner of Nunavut, Canada
– Case Study on Language Services and Communications at
the Qikiqtani General Hospital

3:30 p.m. - 3:40 p.m. CONCLUDING REMARKS

Concluding remarks from Honourary Minister Pär Stenbäck,
former minister of education and minister of foreign affairs
for Finland

3:40 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. BREAK

4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSIONS

1. Roundtable discussion on the role the IALC can play
in sharing investigation best practices
2. Roundtable discussion on the role the IALC can play
in promoting language-related research

5:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Plenary presentations of roundtable discussions

1. Annie Plouffe – Director of Investigations, Office of
the Commissioner of Official Languages, Canada
2. Dr. Colin H. Williams – Professor, Cardiff University

4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Annual General Meeting of the International Association of
Language Commissioners

The Catalan Ombudsman, Rafael Ribó, and the president of the International Association of Language Commissioners, Graham Fraser, will be holding the International Symposium on Language Rights and Social Cohesion in Plurlinguistic Societies, that will take place in March 2014.

The Symposium will be held within the framework of the Tricentenary Commemoration Events.

The Symposium will be focused on language rights in Catalonia, in Spain and in other plurlinguistic countries taking into account the work carried out by the institutions defending people's rights, whether they are ombudsmen or language commissioners, and also by means of a historical, social and legal approach.

To that end, ombudsman/commissioner office holders as well as national and international experts on the matter will be attending to the symposium.

Symposium organized by the Catalan Ombudsman in cooperation with the International Association of Language Commissioners (IALC)

LOCATION

Born Centre Cultural
Plaça Comercial, 12 Barcelona
elborncentreultural@bcn.cat/ca

INFORMATION AND REGISTRATION

Registration is free but seats are limited.

To register for the Symposium, please contact by phone at +34 933 018 075 or by email at gabiner@sindic.cat

INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON LANGUAGE RIGHTS AND SOCIAL COHESION IN PLURLINGUISTIC SOCIETIES

Barcelona
March 19-20, 2014



INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LANGUAGE COMMISSIONERS



Generalitat
de Catalunya



Ajuntament
de Barcelona

1714 / 2014



SINDIC
DEFENSOR
DE LES
PERSONES

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF
LANGUAGE COMMISSIONERS
ASSOCIATION INTERNATIONALE DES COMMISSAIRES
DU LANGAGE INTERNATIONAL DE COMMISSAIRES

Sindic de Greuges de Catalunya
Passatge de Lluís Companys, 7
08003 Barcelona
Tel. 933 018 075
sindic@sindic.cat
www.sindic.cat

SINDIC
DEFENSOR
DE LES
PERSONES

**International Symposium on
Language, Rights and Social Cohesion
in Plurilingual Societies**

March, 19th

8.30 h Welcoming
9.00 h Opening Session
Ferran Mascarell, Minister of Culture of the Catalan Government
Xavier Trias, Mayor of Barcelona
Rafael Ribó, Ombudsman of Catalonia

9.45 h From the lack of officiality to a partial constitutional recognition
Antoni Milian Massana, Professor on Administrative Law at the Autonomous University of Barcelona (UAB)

Chairperson:
Maria Jesús Larios, Catalan Ombudsman's Deputy for the Defence of Children's and Adolescents' Rights

10.30 h Discussion
11.00 h Coffee break

11.30 h Effective protection of language rights: language, rights and coexistence in Catalonia. Report of the Catalan Ombudsman
Rafael Ribó, Ombudsman of Catalonia

Chairperson:
Eva Pons, Professor of Constitutional Law at the University of Barcelona. Expert on language rights.
12.15 h Discussion
12.45 h Lunch break

14.30 h Plurilingualism in Spain: public authorities and promotion of official languages
Inigo Urrutia, Professor on Administrative Law at the University of the Basque Country

Chairperson:
Jaume Vernet, Adviser of The Catalan Council for Statutory Guarantees (to be confirmed)

15.15 h Discussion
15.45 h Coffee break
16.15 h Ombudsmen and language rights in the system of autonomous regions (guided discussion)

Soledad Becerril, Ombudsman of Spain
Inigo Lamarika, Ombudsman of the Basque Country
Javier Enériz, Ombudsman of Navarra
José Cholbi, Ombudsman of Valencia
José Julio Fernández, Ombudsman of Galicia
Catalan Government (to be confirmed)

Chairperson:
Jordi Sánchez Picanyol, Catalan Ombudsman's Deputy General

17.00 h Discussion
17.30 h Session closure

March, 20th
9.00 h Defence of minority languages by supranational institutions: Council of Europe
Alexey Kozhemyakov, Head of Secretariat of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages
Chairperson

Director of linguistic policies of the Catalan Government (to be confirmed)

9.45 h Discussion
10.15 h Coffee break
10.45 h Plurilingualism with equality of rights and duties at state level. The Canadian model
Graham Fraser, Federal Language Commissioner of Canada

Chairperson:
Albert Branchadell, Vice-dean at the Faculty of Translation and Interpreting of Autonomous University of Barcelona (UAB) (to be confirmed)

11.30 h Discussion
12.45 h Lunch break
14.00 h Acknowledgement of a minority language at state level

Pär Stenbäck, Finland's former minister of Education and Foreign Relations

15.15h Discussion
15.45 h Language rights as human rights: Universal Declaration of Language Rights

Isidor Mari, Head of the Philological Section of the Institute of Catalan Studies

Chairperson:
Jordi Porta, president of UNESCO Catalunya
16.30 h Discussion
17.00 h Closure

Rafael Ribó, Ombudsman of Catalonia