



ASSOCIATION DES CONSEILS  
EN GESTION LINGUISTIQUE

## Committee for the Promotion of Canadian Language Services

### PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

### Translation and Interpretation in the Government's Blind Spot

#### **The Association of Linguistic Services Managers is urging the government to act**

**Montreal, Quebec, January 25, 2017** – More than seven months after the Standing Committee on Official Languages submitted its review of the Translation Bureau, the Association of Linguistic Services Managers and its Committee for the Promotion of Canadian Language Services has returned to the helm and is urging Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and the Minister of Public Services and Procurement, Judy M. Foote, to adopt the eight recommendations it made.

Last fall, the ALSM, with the support of numerous pan-Canadian associations and influential members from the language industry, expressed its deep disappointment with Minister Foote's response to the Standing Committee's report. With its position, the government is maintaining an indefensible status quo and failing to make the Translation Bureau – and its experts – play its role as a major stakeholder and is jeopardizing the very foundations of the Canadian translation and interpretation industry.

The vast majority of actors in the industry gave a clear and coherent message criticizing the response from Minister Foote, who has since been completely silent on the issue. The ALSM is urging the government to wake up and adopt the recommendations, renewing the hope of the thousands of professionals working in the language sector.

*“The Canadian translation industry is an industry of national importance,”* said Dominique Bohbot, Chair of the Committee for the Promotion of Canadian Language Services and Distinguished Member of the ALSM. *“There is an urgency to act, and the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Canadian Confederation is an opportunity to reinforce our values. Beyond the identity aspect and language requirements, professional translation in Canada is a vector of economic growth that supports national companies and exporters and encompasses just as many strategic and cultural issues.”*

By relegating the Translation Bureau to the role of a mere administrative service whose harmful practices are causing a downward spiral in prices and a blatant lack of support for the next generation, the government is harming the economy and social and cultural cohesion.

#### **About the ALSM**

The Association of Linguistic Services Managers Inc. (ALSM) unites decision-makers in linguistic management driven by a desire for excellence and committed to promoting the added value of professional language services. Its members consist of managers from translation agencies, directors of linguistic services and representatives of institutional authorities from all economic sectors who share a commitment to excellence.

The Committee for the Promotion of Canadian Language Services, a working group of the ALSM, has taken on the mission of promoting the distinctive value of professional translation in Canada to business people and key economic actors in the country.

**For more information**

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