

The Act respecting French, the official and common language of Québec
THE CITY OF SAINTE-ANNE-DE-BELLEVUE ADOPTS ITS DIRECTIVE
ON THE USE OF FRENCH

Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue, March 13, 2025 – The Government of Québec has recently enacted the *Act respecting French, the official and common language of Québec*. This law applies to all public organizations and municipalities, requiring them to use French exclusively in all communications.

To mitigate the impact on its English-speaking residents and facilitate the transition to its implementation, while considering the exceptions provided by the law, the Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue City Council adopted, during its public meeting on March 10, 2025, a directive specifying the contexts in which a language other than French may be used in its communications.

The directive, titled *Directive relative à l'utilisation d'une autre langue que la langue officielle, le français, par la Ville de Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue*, provides clear guidelines for municipal staff and defines the rules governing the use of other languages, including English. It reflects the obligation of municipalities to set an example in the promotion of French, as required by Bill 96.

Sensitive to the concerns of its residents, the City of Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue is also committed to informing its citizens about the various provisions of the law and the implications of this directive in its application. To this end, the City of Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue will rely on the Language Policy of the State, which came into effect on June 1, 2023, to guide its actions in fulfilling its duty to set an example.

According to Paola Hawa, Mayor of the City of Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue: “We recognize that French is Québec’s common language and a cultural asset that sets us apart in America. Considering Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue’s unique context and acknowledging the significant historical contribution of the English-speaking community to our city’s development, we are committed to integrating the law’s

provisions with respect and harmony for all our residents.” Mayor Hawa further states: “We understand the concerns of our English-speaking residents, for whom this transition may seem difficult. We want to assure them that we are taking every possible measures to minimize the impact on our English-speaking population and to support them throughout this transition.”

By adopting this directive, the City of Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue reaffirms its commitment to implementing the *Act respecting French, the official and common language of Québec*, while remaining mindful of the community’s linguistic realities. The City emphasizes that it has never held bilingual status and does not meet the criteria required to obtain this special designation, as approximately 40% of its population has English as their mother tongue.

About the City of Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue

Located at the western tip of the Island of Montréal, at the confluence of Lake Saint-Louis and Lake of Two Mountains, Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue stands out for its rich history and exceptional natural surroundings. Founded in April 1878 and merged with the City of Montréal in January 2022, it has a population of 5,012 residents. The City Council, consisting of the mayor and six council members, represents the citizens, legislators, and administrators.

Key Points:

- The *Act respecting French, the official and common language of Québec*, adopted on June 1, 2022, amended the *Charter of the French Language*. Following these modifications, French has been established as the sole official and common language of Québec, strengthening its status in all areas of society”. Click [here](#) for more details.
- To fulfill its duty to set an example, the City of Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue is required to use French exclusively in oral and written communications, subject to the exceptions provided in the *Charter of the French Language* and its regulations.
- The *Directive relative à l’utilisation d’une autre langue que la langue officielle, le français, par la Ville de Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue*, adopted by the City, applies to all municipal teams that may use another language in specific exceptional circumstances.
- Within this framework, the City may use a language other than French in the following cases:

- For emergencies measures and health-related requirements;
 - In situations posing a risk to public safety, such as civil security fire prevention, crime prevention, and extreme weather events;
 - When communications are necessary to ensure fair treatment for all, for example, in clarifying a regulation;
 - To provide services in English to individuals eligible for English-language education.
- Acknowledging the reality of its English-speaking residents, the City will provide guidelines on how to use various translation support tools on its website.
 - For more information on exceptions or to access the full directive, click [here](#).

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Source: City of Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue

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