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## Official bilingualism: AFO reaffirms support

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**POSITION.** Two days after the support of the Federation of Francophone and Acadian Communities (FCFA), the Assembly of the Francophonie in Ontario (AFO) in turn reaffirms its support for the officially bilingual status of the City of Ottawa.



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*President of AFO Denis Vaillancourt.*

The organization representing Francophones in Ontario benefits from the debate completely restarted from late July to highlight its arguments. "In a country whose identity is measured by its linguistic duality, it is clear to us that our nation's capital should reflect this unique feature in Canada, says its president Denis Vaillancourt. Several groups are already working on this issue, but we believe that this is a national issue that deserves a collaboration between the three levels of government, federal, provincial and municipal. "

He added: "The nation's capital belongs to us all and all and, in the words of the Commissioner of Official Languages (Ed

Graham Fraser), our two official languages are part of our identity, whether they are

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spoken or not . Our capital should be in our image. "

As the CFA, the umbrella organization of francophones outside Quebec, AFO believes that the 150th anniversary of Confederation in 2017 represents an "ideal opportunity to enhance and strengthen Canadian identity."