



Brief

Submitted to the Standing Committee on Science and Research for its
Study on Research and Publication in French

Pointe-de-l'Église, Nova Scotia
By video conference
November 14, 2022

The Fédération acadienne de la Nouvelle-Écosse

1. The Fédération acadienne de la Nouvelle-Écosse would like to thank the Standing Committee on Science and Research for inviting us to share our thoughts on its study on research and publication in French.
2. The Fédération acadienne de la Nouvelle-Écosse (hereafter the Fédération acadienne) was established on October 14, 1968, to promote the vitality and overall development of Nova Scotia's Acadian community.
3. The Fédération acadienne de la Nouvelle-Écosse is made up of 29 regional, provincial and institutional organizations committed to the vitality and overall development of Nova Scotia's Acadian and francophone community.¹
4. The Fédération acadienne fulfils its mission by acting as the main voice for Nova Scotia's Acadian community; by facilitating cooperation and partnership among all organizations working in Nova Scotia's Acadian community, while respecting each organization's mandate; by offering services and programs that meet the needs of its members; and by supporting its members in promoting the vitality and development of Nova Scotia's Acadian community.
5. Université Sainte-Anne is a member of the Fédération acadienne de la Nouvelle-Écosse.

Université Sainte-Anne and Nova Scotia's Acadian community

6. Université Sainte-Anne is the only francophone university in Nova Scotia. It offers university and college programs as well as immersion and customized FSL programs. The university is known for its excellent programs and its unique and exceptional environment. It provides experiential learning opportunities that foster student engagement and success and conditions conducive to building a culture of excellence in research and development. Firmly rooted in its community, it is a partner of choice to enhance the vitality of the areas surrounding its campuses and Nova Scotia's Acadian community as a whole.
7. The members of Nova Scotia's Acadian community are very aware of Université Sainte-Anne's importance: they know that no other university, even though the province's anglophone universities offer programs in French, is dedicated to serving the needs of their community.
8. Université Sainte-Anne offers:

¹ <https://www.acadiene.ca/>

- a. vocational and technical programs in French;
 - b. undergraduate programs in the arts, humanities and natural sciences in French; and
 - c. graduate programs in education and Acadian and francophone studies. (The community is looking forward to the master's in biology program currently being developed.)
9. Agreements between Université Sainte-Anne and its partners from the Association des collèges et des universités de la Francophonie canadienne provide access to professional health care programs in French (i.e., social work, medicine and pharmacy), without which French-language health care services in Nova Scotia would be at great risk.
10. Thanks to the recruitment, integration and training of international students, Université Sainte-Anne is one of the main sources of population and workforce renewal in Nova Scotia's Acadian community, especially in qualified and highly qualified jobs.
11. Université Sainte-Anne offers one of the few French-language work, social and cultural environments in Nova Scotia.
12. Université Sainte-Anne is an irreplaceable partner of choice for most member organizations of the Fédération acadienne de la Nouvelle-Écosse and municipal, provincial and federal governments.
13. Université Sainte-Anne is a shining light for Nova Scotia's Acadian community, community members, the French language and francophone cultures.

Research and publication in French

14. The research on the Canadian Francophonie, more specifically on Nova Scotia's Acadian community), conducted by Université Sainte-Anne researchers and their partners at Canada's francophone universities and colleges is essential to the vitality of our communities. Their research:
- a. provides a basis for understanding our linguistic and cultural past, present and future;
 - b. describes and explains our collective identity;
 - c. provides evidence for better policy and strategic decisions; and
 - d. increases the visibility of our language, cultures and knowledge, thereby becoming one of the main mechanisms by which we contribute to building a better society.
15. Université Sainte-Anne's research centres and chairs promote the French language and francophone cultures and are invaluable to the vitality of our

community.

16. Researchers at Université Sainte-Anne are increasingly important partners, and their research is essential to the development of a sustainable, innovative economy in Nova Scotia's Acadian community. Their research informs community economic development strategies, and partnerships with our entrepreneurs are a critical link to building a dynamic, innovative and sustainable economy in our communities.
17. Undergraduate, graduate, doctoral and postdoctoral students are major drivers of this research. Their practical, scientific and experiential knowledge positions them to lead our communities' organizations and businesses.
18. Like other post-secondary institutions in francophone minority communities, Université Sainte-Anne and its researchers must do more with less when considering the need to communicate and publish in French to fulfil their francophone vocation and in English to remain relevant to their colleagues and the broader scientific community. This recognition is needed to obtain grants, especially from the three federal research funding agencies (SSHRC, NSERC and CIHR) and the Canada Foundation for Innovation.
19. Université Sainte-Anne's small size is an additional challenge. Its limited resources prevent it from developing specialized programs. Furthermore, the critical lack of professors in specific fields makes it very hard to create master's programs. This also makes it virtually impossible to create doctoral programs. Student researchers are therefore scarce.
20. Research office staff is limited. Université Sainte-Anne's resources and services for researchers and partners cannot compete with the range of services available in research offices at English-language universities, which are usually much bigger. Office staff, just like researchers, are often called on to adapt and work in fields outside their area of expertise.
21. Inter-institutional collaboration is therefore becoming more important in French-language university research offices than in English-language university research offices.

Conclusion and recommendations

22. Université Sainte-Anne is a central pillar that is critical to the vitality of Nova Scotia's Acadian community. No other institution can make such a significant contribution to our community.

23. The recent report of the États généraux sur le postsecondaire en contexte

francophone minoritaire ² details the challenges that minority francophone institutions face. The report makes no fewer than 32 recommendations to fix the situation, including 6 that specifically address research and publication in French. We support each of the report's recommendations.

24. Université Sainte-Anne's position within Nova Scotia's Acadian community is possible in large part due to its autonomy and the fact that it is a francophone institution, as per the Act that established it.³
25. However, this autonomy brings major challenges. Because of its small size, Université Sainte-Anne must do everything that a big university does but with fewer resources. As if that were not enough, it is also responsible for delivering college programs. Furthermore, it must do so in French by vocation and, often, in English out of need.
26. We recommend that the federal government use the next Action Plan for Official Languages to take positive measures to further support scientific research and publication in French in post-secondary institutions in the Canadian francophonie. Our recommendations include:
 - a. a fund to enable researchers at these institutions to use data from the 2021 Census;
 - b. increased access, made possible through a dedicated fund for innovation, so that francophone community organizations can hire researchers to conduct research aimed at informing and adopting new ways of seeing and doing things; and
 - c. an envelope to foster the sharing of knowledge from research in French with francophone minority communities.
27. In addition, we recommend a long-term, increased federal funding program. Funding must take into consideration the specific challenges of publishing and conducting scientific research in French in a minority setting, especially in smaller institutions. It must:
 - a. ensure that the funds take into consideration and address challenges related to smallness, remoteness and the additional costs of operating in French in a minority setting;
 - b. help implement an inter-institutional collaboration structure for services for researchers, joint graduate programs and student and research staff mobility; and
 - c. directly fund collaboration between post-secondary institutions and their community partners.

² ACUFC (2022). Report of the États généraux sur le postsecondaire en contexte francophone minoritaire. https://egpostsecondaire.ca/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/Rapport_FINAL.pdf.

³ Université Sainte-Anne – Collège de l'Acadie Act (2002). <https://nslegislature.ca/sites/default/files/legc/statutes/univanne.htm>.

28. Lastly, we recommend that you avoid creating a program that only supports research and publication on francophone minority communities and official languages. Francophone minority communities, including Nova Scotia's Acadian community, need institutions that conduct research in a variety of fields, such as computer science, agri-food and engineering, as well as francophone studies.
29. In conclusion, we would like to thank you for including the voices of communities and organizations that speak for them, such as the Fédération acadienne de la Nouvelle-Écosse, in your study. We hope we have convinced you that scientific research and publication in French is crucial to the vitality of francophone minority communities and that this deserves more attention from the federal government.