



CLARENCEVILLE MAINTAINS ITS BILINGUAL STATUS

Clarenceville, February 23rd, 2023 - While Bill 96 seeks to amend the Charter of the French Language, the Municipality of Clarenceville is of the opinion that its bilingual status should be maintained.

The Municipality of Clarenceville was notified on December 12th, 2022 by the Office québécois de la langue française (hereinafter "Office") that the Municipality of Clarenceville would no longer meet the condition required by section 29.1 of the Charter of the French Language (R.R.S.Q., c. C-11) (hereinafter "Charter"), i.e., that more than half of the residents of its territory have English as their first language.

According to the demolinguistic data collected during the 2021 Statistics Canada census, 22.5% of the residents of the municipality declared English as their mother tongue.

At the February 7th, 2023 meeting, Council adopted Resolution 2023-02-028 informing the Board of its desire to maintain its status as a bilingual municipality, which was confirmed by the Board on February 9th, 2023.

When asked about the issue, Mayor Serge Beaudoin stated: "It was important for the entire Council that no citizen be left out of municipal communications since the history of our municipality is marked by the English-speaking community that originally built the parish of Saint-Georges-de-Clarenceville. It is not only a question of respect, but also a desire to demonstrate that Council wants to remain inclusive despite the importance it places on the French language. "

In concrete terms, the municipality will respect the guidelines set out by the Board. Council has decided that the municipal newsletter, Facebook, budget publications and major news releases on topics such as the village water project will be bilingual. The language of administration will remain French, with the understanding that requests made in English will be answered in English. As for the municipal registry, sworn statements, agendas, minutes of

Council, policies, by-laws and other legal documents, will be prepared in French. As for the Omnivigil automated call system, it is up to each citizen to choose the language in which they wish to receive alerts. The website will remain in French, but communications in the event of an emergency or regarding the water project in the village will be bilingual.

Source :
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