

Proposals for Consideration by S-101PT

Multiple Language in S-101, Canadian perspective

Submit by:	CA
Resume	Why it is important to retain the ability to code more than 2 languages in the S-101 standard.
Related documents	S-101DCEG, S-57 to S-101 Conversion guidance, S-101 to S-57 Conversion guidance
Related projects	S-101 vs S-57

Introduction and Background

Canada must comply with two federal laws committing it to promote, use and provide services in a minimum of two official languages. With the advent of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act and the Federal Government's Action Plan, it must now consider the language of these Peoples. Canada must therefore comply with two pieces of legislation: (See Annexe 1 for substantive definitions

- The Official Languages Act: Recognition for the equal status of English and French in Canada dates back to Confederation when the [Constitution Act of 1867](#) recognized the use of both languages in Parliament and in federal courts.
- The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act: Principles respecting the Government of Canada's relationship with Indigenous peoples.

Analysis/Discussion

It is therefore the responsibility of Canada's representatives at the IHO to ensure that this obligation can be applied in the future S-101 standard, and to maintain the flexibility of being able to code future electronic charts in more than 2 languages, while at the same time being able to include Unicode Canadian Aboriginal Syllabic.

Indeed, the current S-57 standard makes it impossible to code English, French and Aboriginal Syllabic. A choice must therefore be made at the expense of one of the 3 languages.

Demonstration S-57 :



Recommendations

Although this could add an additional technological difficulty, it would be essential to be able to keep the greater flexibility and modernity offered by the new S-101 standard at the dawn of 2026, unlike the S-57 standard which has been restrictive, frozen and written for several years now.

Canada is therefore counting on the flexibility of the S-101 standard to meet its legislative obligations regarding Bilingualism and Reconciliation with Aboriginal Peoples, by being able to encode electronic navigation charts in these languages: English-French-Aboriginal.

Justification and Impacts

The benefits of codification in different languages is a modern advantage, enabling the legislative commitments and obligations of certain countries to be met.

The necessary resources will be at the technological level, possibly in ECDIS Portrayal, and should be studied by the Sub-Group identified for this purpose within S-101PT. Or any other appropriate group or sub-group.

The idea is to agree to keep the possibility of codifying the S-101 standard in a minimum of 3 languages and not to bring it back like the S-57 (2 languages only) before the S-101 standard goes into operation. Do not reverse this decision and possibility then status quo.

Action Required of [HSSC] [Relevant HSSC WG]

The S-101PT is invited to:

- a. endorse
 - b. agree
 - c. note
- et cetera

Annexe 1

Additional information and definitions of the legislation:

Definition of the Official Language Act:

Recognition for the equal status of English and French in Canada dates back to Confederation when the *Constitution Act of 1867* recognized the use of both languages in Parliament and in federal courts.

Status for the two languages was reinforced by the first *Official Languages Act* of 1969 and the 1982 *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms* (the Charter), which declared English and French as Canada's official languages and provided for their equality of status in Parliament and in the Government of Canada.

The Act was revised in 1988. It integrates and specifies the principles set out in the earlier legislation and the Charter and it provides for federal policies to put those principles into action. In 2005, Parts VII and X were modified to strengthen the commitment to official language minority communities and to foster linguistic duality.

The *Official Languages Act* itself, and the *policies and directives* on official languages are describing:

- 1- *Communications with and Services to the Public should be delivered.*
- 2- *Language of Work*
- 3- *Participation of English-speaking and French-speaking Canadians*
- 4- *Advancement of English and French, etc.*

From: [The Official Languages Act and you - Canada.ca](http://www.canada.ca/en/treasury-board-secretariat/services/values-ethics/official-languages/official-languages-act-and-you.html)

<https://www.canada.ca/en/treasury-board-secretariat/services/values-ethics/official-languages/official-languages-act-and-you.html>

Definition of The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act:

Principles respecting the Government of Canada's relationship with Indigenous peoples.

The Government of Canada is committed to achieving reconciliation with Indigenous peoples through a renewed, nation-to-nation, government-to-government, and Inuit-Crown relationship based on recognition of rights, respect, co-operation, and partnership as the foundation for transformative change.

Indigenous peoples have a special constitutional relationship with the Crown. This relationship, including existing Aboriginal and treaty rights, is recognized and affirmed in section 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982*. Section 35 contains a full box of rights, and holds the promise that Indigenous nations will become partners in Confederation on the basis of a fair and just reconciliation between Indigenous peoples and the Crown.

The Government recognizes that Indigenous self-government and laws are critical to Canada's future, and that Indigenous perspectives and rights must be incorporated in all aspects of this relationship. In doing so, we will continue the process of decolonization and hasten the end of its legacy wherever it remains in our laws and policies.

The implementation of the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* requires transformative change in the Government's relationship with Indigenous peoples. The UN Declaration is a statement of the collective and individual rights that are necessary for the survival, dignity and well-being of Indigenous peoples around the world, and the Government must take an active role in enabling these rights to be exercised. The Government will fulfil its commitment to implementing the UN Declaration through the review of laws and policies, as well as other collaborative initiatives and actions. This approach aligns with the UN Declaration itself, which contemplates that it may be implemented by States through various measures.

This review of laws and policies will be guided by Principles respecting the Government of Canada's Relationship with Indigenous peoples. These Principles are rooted in section 35, guided by the UN Declaration, and informed by the Report of the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples (RCAP) and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC)'s Calls to Action. In addition, they reflect a commitment to good faith, the rule of law, democracy, equality, non-discrimination, and respect for human rights. They will guide the work required to fulfill the Government's commitment to renewed nation-to-nation, government-to-government, and Inuit-Crown relationships.

These Principles are a starting point to support efforts to end the denial of Indigenous rights that led to disempowerment and assimilationist policies and practices. They seek to turn the page in an often troubled relationship by advancing fundamental change whereby Indigenous peoples increasingly live in strong and healthy communities with thriving cultures. To achieve this change, it is recognized that Indigenous nations are self-determining, self-governing, increasingly self-sufficient, and rightfully aspire to no longer be marginalized, regulated, and administered under the *Indian Act* and similar instruments. The Government of Canada acknowledges that strong Indigenous cultural traditions and customs, including languages, are fundamental to rebuilding Indigenous nations. As part of this rebuilding, the diverse needs and experiences of Indigenous women and girls must be considered as part of this work, to ensure a future where non-discrimination, equality and justice are achieved. The rights of Indigenous peoples, wherever they live, shall be upheld.

These Principles are to be read holistically and with their supporting commentary. The Government of Canada acknowledges that the understandings and applications of these Principles in relationships with First Nations, the Métis Nation, and Inuit will be diverse, and their use will necessarily be contextual. These Principles are a necessary starting point for the Crown to engage in partnership, and a significant move away from the status quo to a fundamental change in the relationship with Indigenous peoples. The work of shifting to, and implementing, recognition-based relationships is a process that will take dynamic and innovative action by the federal government and Indigenous peoples. These Principles are a step to building meaning into a renewed relation.

From: [Implementing the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People Act \(justice.gc.ca\)](https://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/declaration/index.html)

<https://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/declaration/index.html>

Implementing
the *United Nations Declaration*
on the *Rights of*
Indigenous Peoples Act

CANADA.CA/DECLARATION



Annexe 2

Unified Canadian Aboriginal Syllabics Syllabaire autochtone canadien unifié

[The Unicode Standard, Version 15.1](#)

[Unified Canadian Aboriginal Syllabics \(Unicode block\) - Wikipedia](#)

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