

Base Service Spotlight: Formation Coordinator Official Languages



How many people work in the Formation Coordinator Official Languages (FCOL) team?

The FCOL team includes two indeterminate employees, six French language teachers, one pedagogical advisor from École La Cité, and various civilian contractors.

What are the responsibilities of the FCOL team?

The role of the FCOL team is to provide Formation senior management and personnel with quality advice and guidance on how best to implement the Official Language (OL) Program within their organization. The team provides French or English Second Official Language evaluation and testing and the Decentralized Military Second Language Training Program to Department of National Defence (DND) civilian employees and Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) members. The team is supported by a network of unit and organization coordinators of official languages who help disseminate OL information across all levels within Maritime Forces Atlantic (MARLANT), including 12 Wing Shearwater.

FCOL is assisted by the Formation Official Languages Administration Officer (OLAO). The OLAO is the frontline resource person who plans, coordinates, administers, and monitors the Military Second Language Training Program, the Public Service Commission Candidate Assessment Tool, and the Test of Oral Proficiency; acts as a central liaison and resource person for MARLANT military and civilian employees; recommends solutions, provides advice, guidance and implementation of the second language training and testing program; and is responsible for all administration processes of the section.

How does the FCOL team support CAF members and/or operations?

The FCOL team supports CAF members by implementing the RCN Official Languages Action Plan 2023-2028 (OLAP) “Lead with Respect,” which focuses on reassessing and realigning the departmental resources required to meet the OL goal. The OLAP places the onus on supervisors to respect the language rights of their subordinates; to improve their own second official language competency; to encourage second language learning, use, and retention by their subordinates; and to participate in increasing bilingualism in work environments in bilingual units.

Where is the FCOL team located?

The FCOL team is located on the 1st floor of Canadian Forces Base Halifax headquarters (building S90) in Room 131.

How can I contact the FCOL team?

The FCOL team can be contacted at the following:

- FCOL positional mailbox : FCOLCFBHALIFAX@forces.gc.ca
- FCOL: gilles.st-pierre@forces.gc.ca / 902-721-8955
- OLAO: Lorena.Perron-Robles@Forces.gc.ca / 902-721-8956

Are there any noteworthy achievements or interesting facts to share about the FCOL team?

The FCOL team processes yearly, on average, over 250 French language registration forms; conducts the Military Second Language Training Program for 150 military and 30 DND Employees; and administers 360 Public Service Commission linguistic evaluations and 350 Official Language Information Forms for MARLANT.