

**Resolution Relating to**

UPDATE TO 2011 FRENCH-FRIENDLINESS  
RESOLUTION

**RESOLUTION** \_\_\_\_\_

Sponsor(s): Councilors Knodell, Paul,  
Bushor  
Introduced: \_\_\_\_\_  
Referred to: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Action: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Signed by Mayor: \_\_\_\_\_

**CITY OF BURLINGTON**

In the year Two Thousand Eighteen .....

Resolved by the City Council of the City of Burlington, as follows:

1 That WHEREAS, in 2011 the City Council passed a resolution relating to French Language and Cultural  
2 Initiatives, sponsored by Councilors Blais, Decelles, Adrian, and Berezniak, that resolved to accommodate  
3 francophone natives and visitors wherever possible; that directed public signage and visitor information in  
4 Burlington to be made English/French bilingual in significant measure; that encouraged private businesses to  
5 make their signage, maps, and materials bilingual and hire bilingual staff whenever possible; and that  
6 encouraged Burlington and regional schools to promote basic familiarity with the French language and  
7 Burlington’s francophone history; and

8 WHEREAS, Burlington and its surrounding region continues to be the largest United States population  
9 center close to Montreal and the second-largest French-speaking city in the world; and

10 WHEREAS, the Montreal metropolitan region has a population of approximately 4.1 million people,  
11 65.8% of whom speak French at home; and

12 WHEREAS, Burlington is the recipient of significant revenue from tourism, including many visitors  
13 from Québec; and

14 WHEREAS, French is one of the major languages spoken by immigrants to Burlington, including  
15 former refugees and asylees; and

16 WHEREAS, since the 2011 resolution the Department of Parks, Recreation & Waterfront has added  
17 English/French bilingual signage at the Waterfront and at North Beach Campground; and

18 WHEREAS, the Department of Parks, Recreation & Waterfront has prioritized hiring seasonal staff  
19 with French fluency and has 50% bilingual staff at the Marinas and North Beach Campground; and

20 WHEREAS, the Department of Public Works has created bilingual signage for parking in the  
21 downtown corridor on parking meters and city garage entrance signs, and has French language options for all  
22 smart meters and payment kiosks in parking lots; and

23 WHEREAS, the Fletcher Free Library has two French-speaking staff members, one of whom teaches  
24 computer classes in French; and

25 WHEREAS, the Fletcher Free Library hosts a weekly French conversation group, “Dimanches;” and

26 WHEREAS, the Burlington School District has retained a Superintendent who is French-English  
27 bilingual, who worked in bilingual school systems in Canada, and who has expressed the desire to introduce  
28 innovative bilingual elementary instruction in our schools; and

29 WHEREAS, the Church Street Marketplace has helped to design and fund a cart in coordination with  
30 Alliance Française that provides information to French-speaking visitors on Saturdays during the summer and  
31 fall; and

32 WHEREAS, the Church Street Marketplace works with Alliance Française to provide opportunities for  
33 employees of businesses in the downtown area to take French language classes;

34 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that, for the continued benefit and enrichment of the  
35 regional culture, economy, and opportunity on both sides of the international border, the City of Burlington  
36 will continue to accommodate French-speaking natives and visitors wherever practical; and

37 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the progress by City of Burlington departments on  
38 accommodation of French language speakers since the 2011 resolution be acknowledged and continued; and

39 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that public informational signage created and maintained by the City  
40 of Burlington include French translation and universally accessible wayfinding symbols as signage is updated  
41 and replaced; and

42 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Burlington School Department be encouraged to pursue a pilot  
43 French-English bilingual immersion curriculum in at least one elementary school; and

44 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the lessees of the city-owned public information installations on  
45 Church Street and the Waterfront be encouraged to staff their facilities with French-speaking staff; and

46 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Burlington retail and hospitality businesses are encouraged to  
47 affirmatively hire employees with French language skills, and are encouraged to support existing employees to  
48 acquire and enhance such skills; and

49 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of Burlington will continue to partner with the Alliance  
50 Française and other local groups and institutions to increase opportunities for French language and cultural  
51 education.