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:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, the Fletcher Free Library hosts a weekly French conversation group, “Dimanches;” and
WHEREAS, the Burlington School District has retained a Superintendent who is French-English bilingual, who worked in bilingual school systems in Canada, and who has expressed the desire to introduce innovative bilingual elementary instruction in our schools; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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