

1. Why is the province installing bilingual stop signs?

As expressed in the French-language Services Act 2004, Nova Scotia has committed to promote the development of its Acadian and francophone community and to safeguard the French language for future generations.

2. Does this mean Nova Scotia is moving towards becoming a bilingual province?

This initiative aligns with other francophone communities in Canada where bilingual stop signs have been introduced to support, reflect and celebrate francophone culture. The regulatory change is solely intended to permit the use of bilingual stop signs (English and French).

3. Where did the idea for bilingual stop signs come from?

A group of Acadian students from École secondaire de Clare met with cabinet ministers in October 2019 to request bilingual stop signs for the municipality of Clare. After considering their request, the decision was made to permit bilingual stop signs on municipal and provincial roads throughout the entire province.

4. How does a community request bilingual stop signs?

The Office of Acadian Affairs and Francophonie and the Department of Public Works have developed a limited funding programme to facilitate the replacement of bilingual stop signs in Nova Scotia's Acadian and francophone regions. For a request to be considered, the municipality and the local Acadian and francophone community must submit a joint application. For more information, contact the Office of Acadian Affairs and Francophonie.

5. Which communities or regions are eligible under this funding programme?

While the funding programme prioritizes traditional Acadian and francophone regions, for example Clare, Argyle, Richmond and Chéticamp, all requests submitted will be evaluated until the deadline of 31 March 2023. To receive bilingual stop signs on provincially owned roads, a community must make a compelling case demonstrating the importance of the French language to the community, as well as its links to Acadian or French history. Approval of any requests is subject to available funding.

6. What if other linguistic communities want signage in their own languages?

The current regulatory change exclusively concerns stop signs in French and English. Use of other languages on stop signs would require additional changes to the existing regulations.

7. Can municipalities choose to put bilingual stop signs on municipal roads?

Yes, any municipality in Nova Scotia can install these stop signs on municipally owned roads at its own expense. No application process or provincial approval is necessary in this case.

8. How long does it take to manufacture and install a bilingual stop sign?

Once a community's request is approved and after all appropriate consultations have taken place, stop signs could be replaced within a few months. However, this timeframe can vary depending on factors including season, weather, production quotas and the number of application requests.