

Summary of the impact study:

*Quelle autonomie pour les francophones hors Québec? Le point de vue des dispositions linguistiques de la Charte*

In this impact study, Stéphanie Chouinard looks into the part played by Canadian courts on the development of autonomy for francophones outside Quebec since the adoption of the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms* in 1982. After she examined the notion of autonomy and the different forms it can take, the author studies each relevant decision in order to take stock of the gains regarding the autonomy of francophone communities.

The author concludes that courts promoted a greater cultural and institutional autonomy for francophone communities. However, she believes this autonomy remains fragile. Indeed, there is still some way to go before francophones outside Quebec are granted the right to their own health care, social services and economic development institutions. The author is also concerned that the development of their autonomy largely depends on court's interpretation, because that makes their rights vulnerable to Supreme Court's potential ideological changes.