



Case Study

Doucet

Answer Sheet

1. **Does it affect Mr. Doucet's rights that the RCMP, a federal institution, was acting under a contract with the provincial government of Nova Scotia?**

A contract with a province does not change anything in the status of the RCMP. It continues to be a federal institution. Any other conclusion would allow the RCMP to avoid its language obligations to individuals, as guaranteed by the Charter. That certainly would not be consistent with the purpose of the constitutional language rights.

2. **Is there a “significant demand” to justify services in both official languages to Mr. Doucet?**

Though Amherst does not have a large population, it is, however, situated close to New Brunswick, where 32% of the population is Francophone (according to the 2001 census) and, even more significant, near a region where 38% of the population is Francophone. The evidence has established that there is significant traffic coming from New Brunswick in the Amherst area which meant that more than 800 000 of travelers were francophones which accounted for more than 20% of the travellers.

3. **If Mr. Doucet had a right to services in French, what kind of services was he entitled to?**

When patrolling Nova Scotia highways or responding to calls from citizens, the RCMP is a federal institution offering services to the public. As such, the RCMP is bound by the provisions of the *OLA* and the *Charter* on the right of Canadians and the public in general to communicate with federal institutions and receive services in either of the two official languages, **at their choice**.