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## Ensuring access to justice in both of Canada's official languages

### Bill C-203, An Act to amend the Supreme Court Act (understanding the official languages)

Dear Sir or Madam:

I am very proud to contact you to seek your support for my bill concerning the bilingualism of Canada's Supreme Court judges, which will come up for debate shortly.

The objective of Bill C-203, An Act to amend the Supreme Court Act (understanding the official languages) is to ensure citizens enjoy substantive equality regarding access to justice in both official languages. The bill would amend the *Supreme Court Act* by establishing a new requirement for judges appointed to the Supreme Court to understand French and English without the assistance of an interpreter.

The Supreme Court of Canada is currently the only federal court whose judges are not required to understand the people appearing before them or their counsel without resorting to an intermediary. This situation is an issue given that all citizens have the basic right to express themselves in the official language of their choice.

The Supreme Court of Canada is the final court of appeal for all Canadian jurisdictions. As we prepare to celebrate Canada's 150th anniversary, we must work together to enhance the vitality of official language minority communities. The passage of my bill on the bilingualism of judges would be a significant milestone in ensuring access to justice in both official languages.

**That is why I am asking you to pass a resolution in support of Bill C-203 and to notify your local Member of Parliament.**

Sincerely,

*François Choquette*

François Choquette  
Member of Parliament (Drummond)  
Official Languages Critic  
New Democratic Party