

Tweets on Politics, Press Releases, and Government © Anglocom

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Politics

In FR, **politique** may mean **political**, **politics**, or **policy**. Context is key.

In FR, being a **militant** is a good thing, but not in EN. Translate as **activist** (or for political parties, **member** or **supporter**).

Don't translate QC gov't ministry names, but for actual ministers' titles see www.premier.gouv.qc.ca/equipe/conseil-des-ministres-en.shtml.

In EN, say **la Francophonie** for the int'l org., but **the Francophonie** when referring geopolitically to FR-speaking nations.

The best translation for **collectivité** is usually **community**. The EN word **collectivity** can have political connotations.

It is tempting to translate **conseiller politique** as **political assistant/advisor**, but **political aide** is a good generic descriptor.

Say **regulation** (singular) in relation to acts of the Quebec parliament and **regulations** (pl) for acts of the Canadian federal parliament.

Articles of Quebec legislation are called **sections** in EN, except for codes and charters, which remain **articles** in EN.

Bear in mind that a **commission parlementaire** in Quebec is a parliamentary **committee** in EN, not a commission.

In Quebec, **fromage d'ici** is used to avoid political passions, e.g. **fromages d'ici** can mean Canadian or Quebec cheese depending on context.

Mandat: It's true: politicians get **mandates** from voters. However, they are not elected for a **mandate** but rather a **term of office**.

Remember, the FR **premier ministre** is **premier** in EN for a province, **prime minister** for all of Canada.

Député: In Canada, MP federally, MPP Ontario, MNA Quebec, MHA NL, MLA elsewhere. In Latin countries (France/Italy/Spain/Brazil, etc): deputy.

In US, red states are Republican (right), blue states Democratic (left). In Canada blue is Conservative (right), red is Liberal (center).

Try translating **groupe d'intérêt** by advocacy group/lobby group/pressure group/special interest group.

Cabinet politique: Not a cabinet or a political office, but a ministers' office where the ministers' chief of staff works.

Cabinet ministériel: Not a gov't ministry office (staffed by civil servants), but a gov't ministers' office (staffed by political aides).

Élu: This short FR word is a very neutral way to refer to politicians. The EN translation is much longer: elected officials/representatives.

Le législateur: Rarely **legislator** in EN. Try **the government** or **Parliament** unless the text is referring to a specific person.

The FR **personnage** is usually **character** in the arts world, but often **figure** or **personality** in public life or politics.

When you see the word **citoyen** in FR, consider just saying **people** in EN (or residents/Canadians/Americans/taxpayers, etc.).

Press Releases

If quoted speakers are named at the end of a long paragraph, move their names closer to the paragraph start so readers know who's talking.

Translating/writing a quote for a press release? Make it sound like someone is actually talking: spoken style, no complicated syntax.

Sentence case is the most common style for press release headers (capitals on first word and all proper nouns, lower case elsewhere).

Communiqué is usually **press release** in EN. However, if it's not actually for the press, say **bulletin** or even **communiqué**.

Both the past and present tenses work fine with press release quotes (said So-and-So/says So-and-So), but keep the same tense throughout.

Insister: Check first to see if it means **stress** or **emphasize** before translating as **insist**. A common trap in FR press releases.

Government

Organisme gouvernemental is not always **government organization** in EN. Other options include **government body** or **agency**.

@anglais And in France **autorités territoriales** is not **local authorities** but rather local government agencies.

@anglais in French (France) **government body** can sometimes be translated as **institution publique** (or **collectivité**, if regional).

For **les/nos gouvernements**, be more specific in EN (the federal and provincial/state gov'ts) or less specific (**government** collectively).