

Dear Mr. Boutilier,

With respect to your first question, my answer will be referenced to: respect, discrimination and decision.

1. I arrived in Manitouwadge in 1979 and worked as a miner. Mining is more, or less, multicultural employment. After work, 4 of us would go to our favourite 'watering hole' and talk about many things. Three of us were English (only) speaking while one of us was both English and French speaking. When another person joined our table who spoke both English and French started a conversation in French with the other person of our group. Everyone spoke English, but these two individuals chose to continue to speak French only at our table. It wasn't long before I and the other English (only) speaking friends got up and went to another table. This is the lack of respect that I and many other English (only) speaking people are subjected to.

2. When I was on council (2014-2018), I advocated to have the Franco-Ontarian flag to be raised in support to the French community here in Manitouwadge. I visited the first flag-raising ceremony, which was mainly in the French language, but I accepted that given the nature of the event. However, subsequent years I was told that only French speaking people are to be present at the ceremony. I am only English speaking. I help convince our council to accept the French speaking culture and showing respect about raising of the Franco-Ontarian flag. I felt so betrayed and discriminated against when I was informed that I could not attend the flag-raising ceremony, that I swore that I would never attend any ceremony reflecting the French culture. These are just a couple of issues. Now there are retailers here that mainly speak French. When I speak to them, they look at me as if I am a lesser person.

3. My decision reflects the fact that Manitouwadge was and still very much an English speaking community. I would like it to remain that way.

With respect to your second question, it sounds more practicable to seek intervention with our MPP - Mr. Bill Rosenberg (Algoma-Manitoulin District) and bring your concerns to Queen's Park. It is of a provincial nature and not that of a municipal nature. I will abstain my vote if any policy is brought to council, because municipal government does not have jurisdiction over provincial government affairs.

Sincerely,

Ed Dunnill