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## l'el Dit Quoi ? A Study of the Emergence and Acceptance of Gender Neutral Language in the Francophone World. Case Study: France versus Canada

Alyssa Langlois  
*University of Mississippi*

Daniel E. O'Sullivan  
*University of Mississippi*

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# Iel Dit Quoi ? A Study of the Emergence and Acceptance of Gender Neutral Language in the Francophone World

## Case Study: France versus Canada

Primary Researcher: Alyssa Langlois

Advisor: Dr. Daniel E. O'Sullivan



How has gender neutral language evolved in French, and how is it being used and accepted today?

Examining 3 aspects:

- Gender and Job Titles
- L'écriture inclusive*
- Gender Neutral Pronouns

Primary Sources:

- Twitter and other forms of social media
- Interviews with gender non-conforming Francophone individuals
- Official Statements from *l'Académie Française* and *L'Office Québécois de la Langue Française*

Secondary Sources:

- Academic Literature
- Opinion Pieces from French and Canadian Newspapers

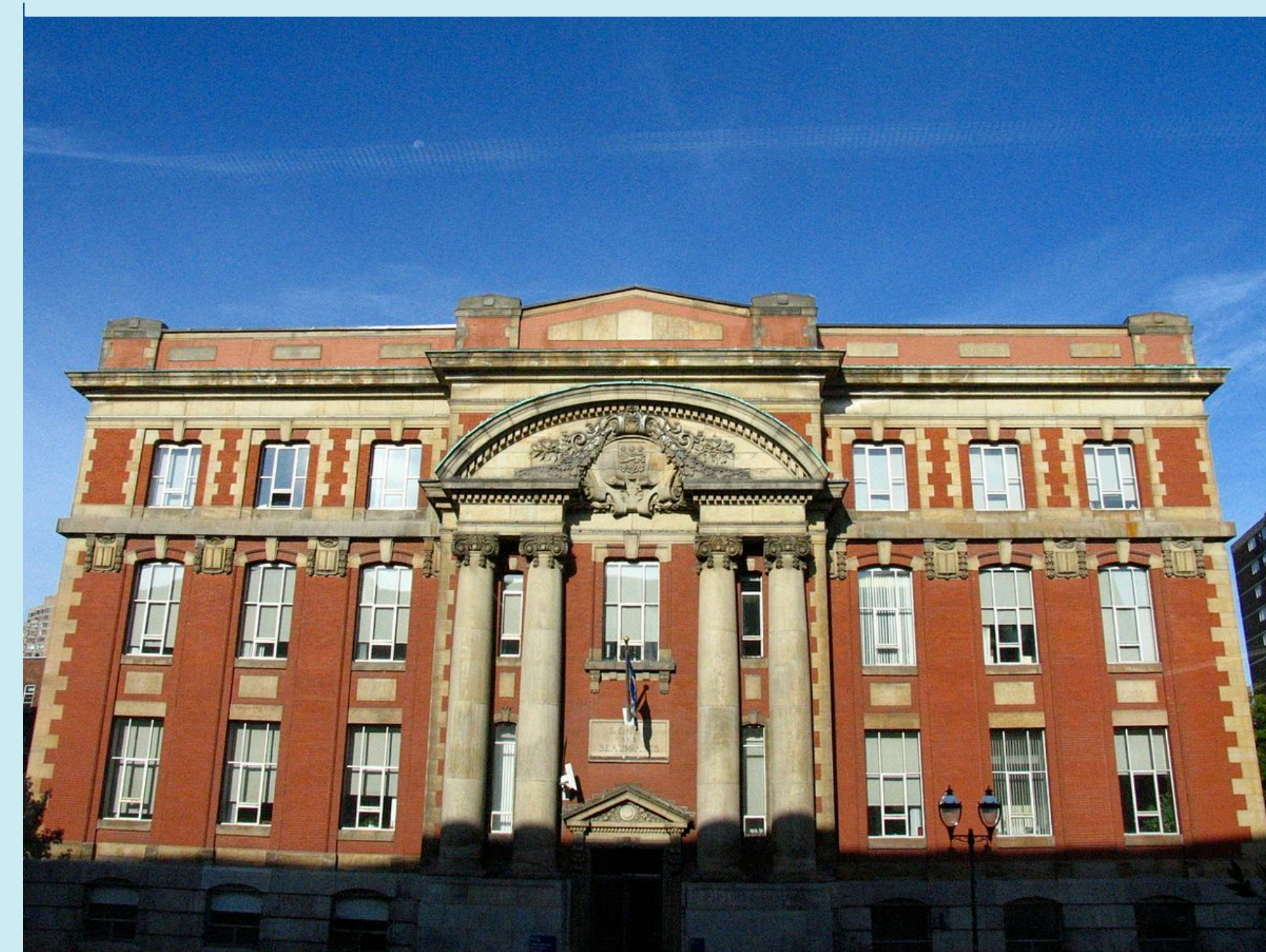


*L'Académie Française* (above) has taken a strong stance against inclusive French language, declaring it an invasion of American *wokeisme*.

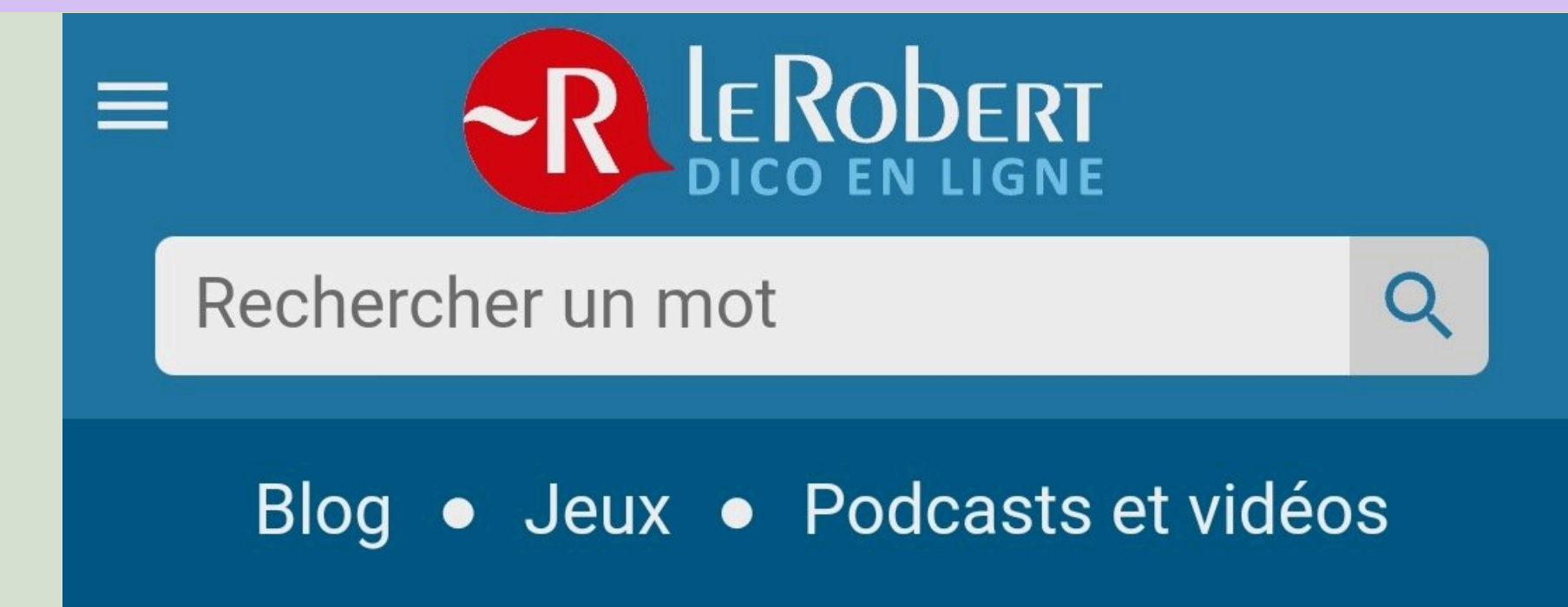
Sommes nous... prêtEs prêt.e.s prêt-e-s prêt-e-s prêt(e)s prêt/e/s pour l'écriture inclusive ?

*L'Écriture inclusive* is a style of writing that combines the masculine and feminine forms of any word referring to a person or group of people in order to be gender neutral and/or gender inclusive.

*L'Office Québécois de la Langue Française* (below) has an opposite approach. They have been researching the topic since the 1970's, and have multiple resources on how to implement the language into one's daily vernacular.



The general public's reaction is quite mixed. In general, people outside of the LGBTQ+ community, people do not often use the language, but within the community, people are also mixed, some people love having a gender-neutral option, while others would prefer something that is more removed from the gender binary.



### iel

#### DÉFINITIONS

**iel** , **iels** pronom personnel

**RARE** Pronom personnel sujet de la troisième personne du singulier et du pluriel, employé pour évoquer une personne quel que soit son genre. *L'usage du pronom iel dans la communication inclusive.* - REM. **ON ÉCRIT AUSSI ielle** , **ielles** .

Iel is the most prominent gender neutral third person singular pronoun in the French language, made by combining the two gendered pronouns, *il* and *elle*.

# Canada



Much like with the official language offices, Canada and France are opposite in their opinions of the language. Canada has published an extensive guide on the usage of inclusive language, but France's First Lady, Brigitte Macron has publicly condemned the language.