

Unilingual Security Guards lose their jobs after language rules change

Description

Unilingual security guards lose jobs after language rules change

ZACK BRADLEY | Times & Transcript
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"Public service to health-care patients should, at no time, be deficient in either official language. There is in a commissioner's role, but there is also an undeniable security element," said Foulem.

Dickinson, who has not seen the complaint, says he has never had difficulty communicating with patient

"No one has ever come to me and asked to be spoken to in French," he said. "If that was the case, I would because I know a little bit. If I couldn't, I would have found someone who could."

MacDonald, who has worked as a security guard at the centre for five years, says he has never had a c troubled by this one.

"We don't know who it was against or when it was," he says. "It just makes me feel betrayed."

Dickinson and MacDonald each say they would learn French if it meant keeping their jobs, but that option

Both Dickinson and MacDonald say they do not want the issue to create a divide between French and E they have many relatives and friends who speak French.

"Language has never been a problem between my French Acadian friends and myself," says Dickinson.

While two employees have not been "fired," Kramers said in the news release that there are no new pos

"We continue to look after the best interests of all our commissioners, including those who are displaced requirements. Unfortunately, at this time, alternative opportunities are limited," said Kramers, who decline

A similar situation occurred last year when the province's Official Languages Commissioner Katherine d speaking with a unilingual commissioner at a provincial government building in Fredericton. That situat having his hours cut back.

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