

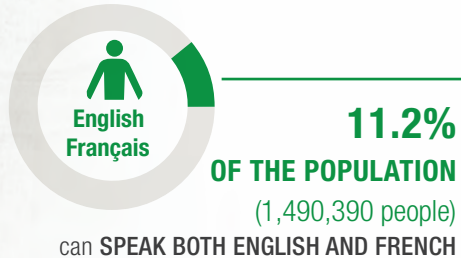


# The French Presence in ONTARIO



622,340<sup>†</sup>

Ontario has the  
**LARGEST FRENCH-SPEAKING  
MINORITY COMMUNITY** in Canada



French is:

- the **MOTHER TONGUE** of **4% OF THE POPULATION** (527,690 people)
- the **FIRST OFFICIAL LANGUAGE** of **4.1% OF THE POPULATION** (550,600 people)

<sup>†</sup>Using the Inclusive Definition of Francophone, the French-speaking population in Ontario is 622,340, **OR NEARLY 4.5% OF THE POPULATION**.



**979,269 CHILDREN**  
**ARE LEARNING FRENCH** in publicly funded  
English-language school boards in Ontario  
(2015–2016)



**766,555  
STUDENTS**  
are enrolled in  
**CORE FRENCH**  
(2015–2016)



**212,714  
STUDENTS**  
are enrolled in  
**FRENCH IMMERSION**  
(2015–2016)

\*of eligible enrolment



**103,490 STUDENTS** are enrolled in  
**FRENCH LANGUAGE SCHOOLS** (Kindergarten  
to Grade 12) in **12 school boards**  
(2015–2016)

## NUMBER OF FRENCH-LANGUAGE EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS



**351** **ELEMENTARY  
SCHOOLS**












**104** **HIGH  
SCHOOLS**

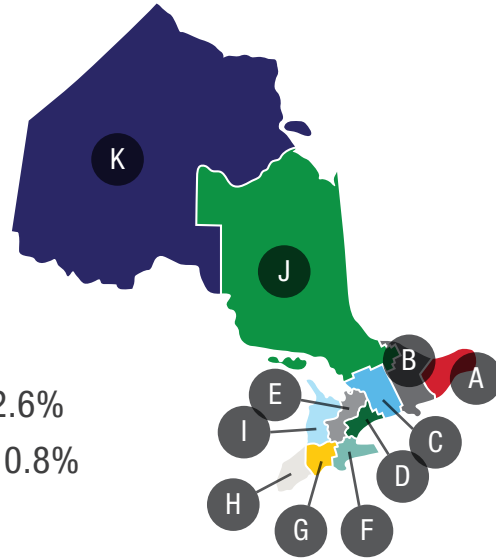
**21,300 STUDENTS**  
are enrolled in French-language  
post-secondary programs  
(colleges, and bilingual and  
French-language universities)  
(2015–2016)

## WHERE DO FRANCOPHONES LIVE?

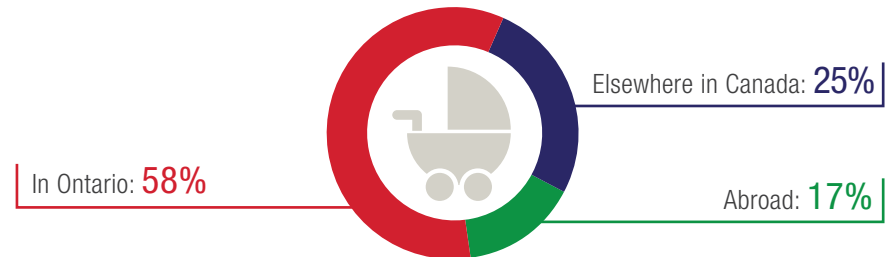
Most Franco-Ontarians live in the eastern part of the province, in and around Ottawa. Other main areas include north-eastern Ontario (Sudbury, North Bay) and central Ontario.

### ECONOMIC REGIONS

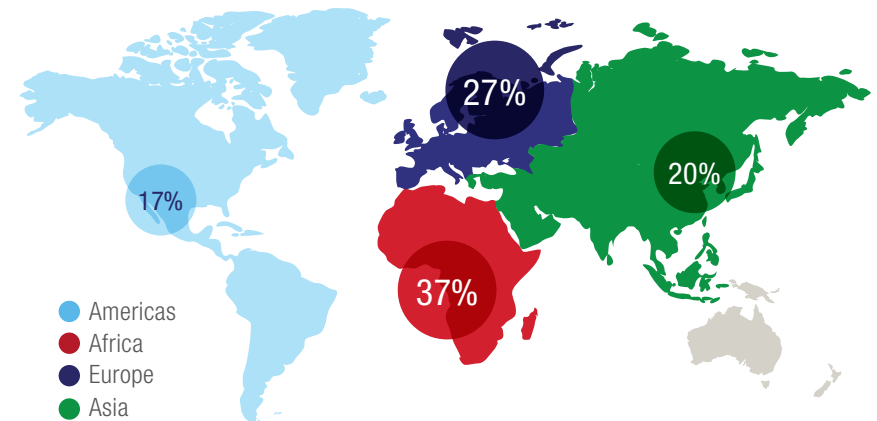
-  A Ottawa: 42.7%
-  B Kingston–Pembroke: 2.6%
-  C Muskoka–Kawarthas: 0.8%
-  D Toronto: 19%
-  E Kitchener–Waterloo–Barrie: 3.8%
-  F Hamilton–Niagara Peninsula: 4.7%
-  G London: 1.5%
-  H Windsor–Sarnia: 2.9%
-  I Stratford–Bruce Peninsula: 0.4%
-  J Northeast: 20.7%
-  K Northwest: 1.1%



## WHERE WERE THEY BORN?



## WHERE WERE FRENCH-SPEAKING IMMIGRANTS BORN?



## MEDIA



*Le Droit* (daily) and 16 French-language newspapers published weekly or monthly



7 French-language radio stations, and Radio-Canada ICI Première and ICI Musique



3 French-language television stations, Télévision française de l'Ontario (TFO), ICI Radio-Canada Télé and Unis TV

## CELEBRATE!

Spring

**THÉÂTRE ACTION** holds theatre festivals for young French-speaking Canadians at alternating sites in Sudbury and Ottawa.

Toronto's **CINÉFRANCO**, founded in 1997, celebrates and promotes French-language films in Ontario.

March–April

**LA NUIT SUR L'ÉTANG** is a popular Francophone music festival that has been held in Sudbury since 1973.

May

The **FRANCO-ONTARIAN GAMES** are held in different parts of Ontario every year and are the largest gathering of young Franco-Ontarians in the province.

June

The **FESTIVAL FRANCO-ONTARIEN** is a major festival for Francophones and Francophiles held in Ottawa that celebrates Franco-Ontarian culture and community.

August

The St-Albert **CURD FESTIVAL** has been celebrating Francophone culture in Eastern Ontario since 1994.

September

**FRANCO-ONTARIAN DAY** is held on September 25.

## HISTORY

The French presence in Ontario officially dates back to 1615 with the arrival of Samuel de Champlain.

The Francophone population grew steadily in the 19th and early 20th centuries, mostly in eastern and northeastern Ontario as a result of the forestry, mining and railway industries.

The Association canadienne-française d'Éducation de l'Ontario (now called the Assemblée de la francophonie de l'Ontario) was created in 1910 to lobby for French language education rights in the province.

In 1913, the French newspaper *Le Droit* was founded.

The Franco-Ontarian flag was adopted in 1975.

TVOntario launched La Chaîne française in 1987, which became Télévision française de l'Ontario in 1995.

The *French Language Services Act* was passed in 1986, giving French legal status in the Legislative Assembly of Ontario and guaranteeing the public the right to receive government services in French.

The Franco-Ontarian community rallied to save Monfort hospital from closure in 2002.

The Office of the French Language Services Commissioner was created in 2007.

In 2015, Franco-Ontarians proudly celebrated 400 years of history.

In 2017, the Office of Francophone Affairs became the Ministry of Francophone Affairs.

Bill 177, passed in 2017, recognized the bilingual character of the City of Ottawa and established the Université de l'Ontario français.

### Sources:

- Statistics Canada, 2016 Census of Population
- Statistics Canada, 2011 National Household Survey
- Fédération des communautés francophones et acadienne du Canada
- Profiles of the Francophone and Acadian Communities of Canada
- Canadian Parents for French
- Éducation en langue française en Ontario
- Government of Ontario: *French as a second language enrolment*
- Government of Ontario, Office of Francophone Affairs: *History of the French Presence in Ontario*