



The Daily

Statistics Canada

Tuesday, September 15, 1992

1991 CENSUS OF CANADA

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HIGHLIGHTS

- More Canadians have a non-official language as mother tongue
- Little change in proportion of the population with English mother tongue
- Proportion of French mother tongue population declines slightly
- Considerable diversity in Metropolitan Areas

Mother Tongue (print and diskette) 1991 Census

Mother Tongue, one of 24 publications from The Nation series, is now available.

This publication covers official and non-official languages and provides information on mother tongue by age and sex for Canada, provinces and territories.

This product is also available on diskette. The diskette version contains some data for CMAs not presented in the publication.

For a copy of Mother Tongue (93-313, \$40, 93-313 D, \$100), or for more information on census products, please contact your nearest Statistics Canada Regional Reference Centre.



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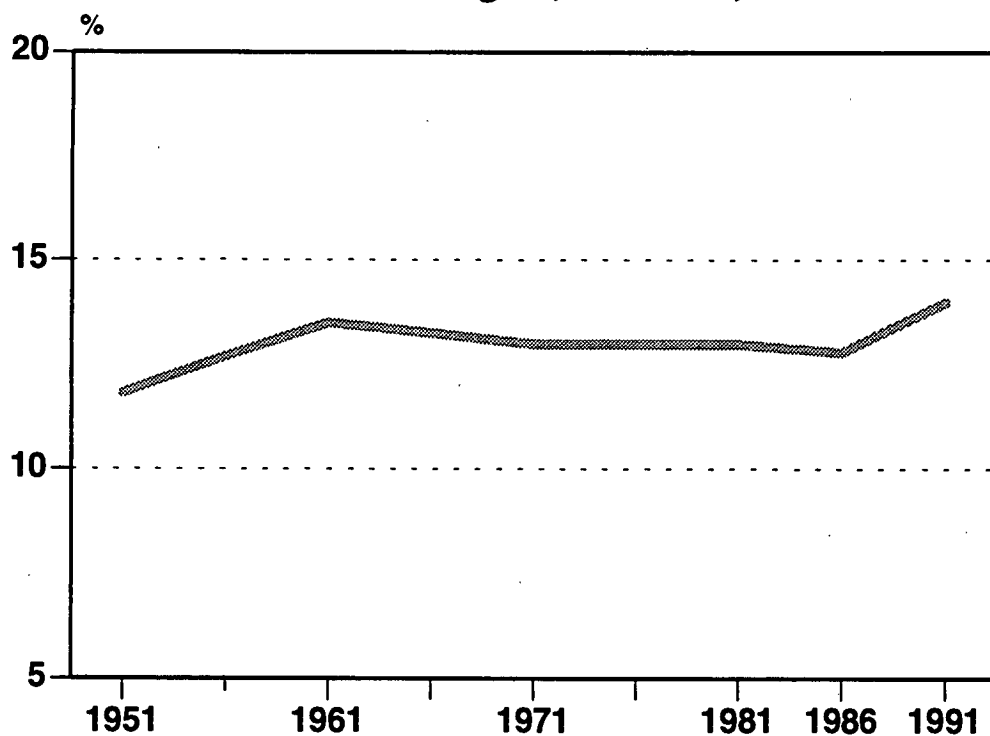
Statistics Canada conducted the 17th Census of Population on June 4, 1991. Information from more than 27 million people living in over 10 million households will provide us with a new portrait of Canada and Canadians. Today, the third release from the Census tells us about Canada's language groups, mixed language couples and language transmission to children.

More Canadians Have a Non-Official Language as Mother Tongue

Between 1986 and 1991, there was a significant increase in the percentage of the population who reported a non-official language as their only mother tongue – from 11.3% in 1986 to 13.0% in 1991.

When people with more than one mother tongue are included, the proportion of the population who reported a non-official language as mother tongue in 1991 was 14.9%, up from 13.8% in 1986. This increase is due largely to the rise in the number of recent immigrants whose mother tongue is neither English nor French. Much of the increase in non-official languages occurred in Ontario, British Columbia and Quebec where the majority of recent immigrants have settled. Another factor contributing to the increase is the inclusion in the Census, for the first time, of refugee claimants and other non-permanent residents, few of whom have English or French as mother tongue (for more information on non-permanent residents, please see the Data Comparability Note on page 16 of today's Daily).

Percentage of the Population with a Non-official Language as Mother Tongue, Canada, 1951-1991¹



¹ For 1986 and 1991, multiple responses were distributed among the language indicated using a method which makes the data approximately comparable to those of the previous censuses.

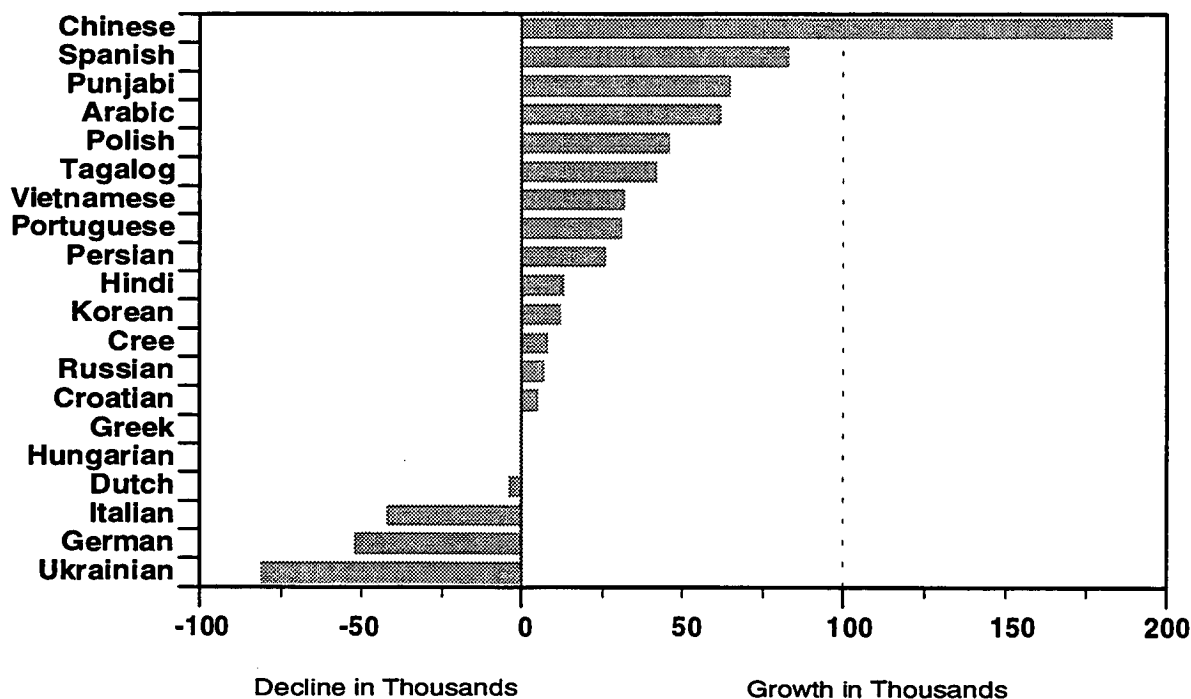
Mother Tongue

Mother tongue is defined as the first language a person learned at home in childhood and still understood at the time of the census. Information on mother tongue was collected from all Canadians in 1991. Additional information on knowledge of languages and language spoken at home was collected from a sample of 20% of households and will be published in January 1993.

In 1991, the three largest mother tongue language groups other than English and French were Italian (reported by 512,000 people), Chinese (reported by 492,000) and German (reported by

476,000). Combined, these three language groups represent about one-third (36%) of all persons with a mother tongue other than English or French, but only 5% of Canada's total population. The next three largest language groups were much smaller – Portuguese (reported by 211,000 people), Polish (reported by 197,000) and Ukrainian (reported by 196,000). In 1991, 29 different Aboriginal languages and families of languages were used to compile mother tongue data. The three largest Aboriginal language groups were: Cree (reported by 84,000 people), Ojibway (reported by 25,000 people) and Inuktitut (reported by 25,000). Incomplete enumeration of some Indian reserves means that Aboriginal language data are under reported (for more information, please see the Data Comparability Note on page 16 of today's Daily).

Change in Size of the 20 Largest Non-official Language Groups, Canada, 1986-1991¹



¹ Includes single and multiple responses to the mother tongue question.

The non-official language group which grew the most over the 1986-1991 period was Chinese. Between 1986 and 1991, the number of people who reported Chinese as their mother tongue increased by 183,000, or 59%. This large growth is primarily the result of immigration. Spanish, often the mother tongue of recent immigrants from Latin America, experienced the next largest increase (reported by 83,000 more people in 1991 than in 1986). Punjabi and Arabic, with increases of 65,000 and 62,000, respectively, experienced the third and fourth largest increases over the same period.

There was a substantial decline in three language groups which were more heavily represented in earlier waves of immigration: Ukrainian (decrease of 81,000), German (decrease of 52,000) and Italian (decrease of 42,000).

Little Change in Proportion of the Population with English Mother Tongue

In 1991, 16.5 million people, or 60.5% of the population, indicated English as their only mother tongue, almost unchanged from 1986 when the proportion was 60.6%. When people with more than one mother tongue are included, the proportion of the population who reported English as mother tongue in 1991 was 62.9% down from 64.2% in 1986.

The slight decrease in the percentage of the population reporting English as mother tongue follows a long period of increases. In 1961, 58.5% of the population reported English as their mother tongue, as did 60.2% in 1971 and 61.3% in 1981. Although 1991 Census data on immigration are not yet available, data from Employment and Immigration Canada indicate that the trend in recent years is due largely to increased immigration to Canada of people with a mother tongue other than English. Another

Single and Multiple Responses

Beginning with the 1986 Census, the census questionnaire provided respondents with the opportunity to report more than one mother tongue. In 1991, most respondents (97%) reported only one mother tongue (a single response) while about 3% reported more than one (multiple response). In 1986, some 4% of respondents reported having more than one mother tongue.

When single and multiple responses are combined, the total number of responses is greater than the total population. For example, Canada's population was 27.3 million in 1991 but there were over 28.0 million responses to the mother tongue question. For this reason, the percentages of the population reporting English and/or French and/or a non-official language as mother tongue add to more than 100%.

In today's Daily, when the total number (or percentage) of persons reporting a language as

mother tongue is given, multiple responses are included, except where otherwise noted.

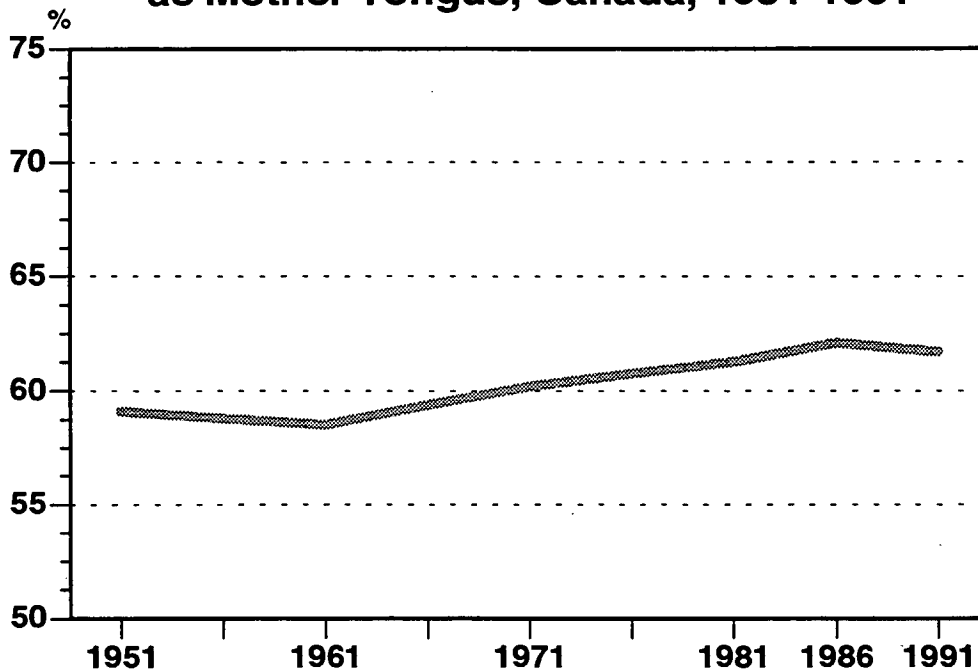
The reduction in the proportion of multiple responses (from 4% in 1986 to 3% in 1991) was partly due to two significant changes implemented by the 1991 Census affecting mainly the long form Census questionnaire completed by 20% of all households. The first was to add a new question on knowledge of languages other than English or French. The second and more significant, change was to group all the language questions together on the form, rather than following previous census practice of asking the mother tongue question separately. These changes, while providing more and better information on the language characteristics of the population, complicate the task of comparing 1991 Census mother tongue data with data from the 1986 and previous censuses. For more information on the comparability of mother tongue data, please see the Data Considerations Note on page 16 of today's Daily.

contributing factor is the inclusion for the first time in the census of non-permanent residents, relatively few of whom have English as their mother tongue (for more information on non-permanent residents please see the Data Comparability Note on page 16 of today's **Daily**).

Anglophones (persons with English as mother tongue) are the majority in all of the provinces and territories except Quebec. However, in 1991 the size of this majority varied substantially, from 56.1% of the population in the Northwest Territories to 98.7% in Newfoundland. Two provinces, Ontario and British Columbia, experienced a significant decrease in the relative size of their anglophone populations over the last census period. Between 1986 and 1991, the proportion of the population reporting English as the only mother tongue decreased from 76.3% to 75.1% in Ontario and from 80.9% to 79.4% in British Columbia. This decline is primarily due to immigration and the inclusion of non-permanent residents.

The relative size of the anglophone language group in Quebec continued to decrease – 8.7% of Quebec's population reported English as their only mother tongue in 1991, compared with 8.9% in 1986. When people with more than one mother tongue are included, the proportion of the population who reported English in 1991 was 10.7%, down from 12.1% in 1986. The decrease in the proportion of anglophones between 1986 and 1991 is smaller than that which occurred during the previous decade. Prior to 1986, the migration of anglophones to other provinces played a significant role in the decrease of the anglophone population in Quebec. Until 1991 Census data on interprovincial migration over the 1986-1991 period are released (March 1993), it is not possible to determine to what extent anglophone migration contributed to the most recent decrease in the English mother tongue share of the Quebec population.

Percentage of the Population with English as Mother Tongue, Canada, 1951-1991¹



¹ For 1986 and 1991, multiple responses were distributed among the language indicated using a method which makes the data approximately comparable to those of the previous censuses.

Population by Mother Tongue, Canada, Provinces and Territories, 1986 and 1991

1991 Census of Canada	Percentage Reporting English		Percentage Reporting French		Percentage Reporting Non-Official Language	
	Single Response	All Responses ¹	Single Response	All Responses ¹	Single Response	All Responses ¹
Canada	60.5	62.9	23.8	24.9	13.0	14.9
Newfoundland	98.4	98.7	0.4	0.6	0.9	1.0
Prince Edward Island	93.8	94.7	4.2	4.8	1.1	1.3
Nova Scotia	93.2	94.0	3.8	4.4	2.2	2.5
New Brunswick	64.1	66.1	32.7	34.6	1.2	1.4
Quebec	8.7	10.7	81.2	83.3	7.5	8.8
Ontario	75.1	78.0	4.6	5.4	17.2	19.5
Manitoba	73.3	76.8	4.3	5.1	18.7	21.8
Saskatchewan	83.1	85.4	2.0	2.5	12.5	14.5
Alberta	81.3	83.7	2.0	2.5	14.1	16.3
British Columbia	79.4	81.6	1.4	1.8	16.8	18.9
Yukon	88.1	89.6	2.9	3.4	7.4	8.5
Northwest Territories	54.2	56.1	2.4	2.7	41.4	43.2
1986 Census of Canada	Percentage Reporting English		Percentage Reporting French		Percentage Reporting Non-Official Language	
	Single Response	All Responses ¹	Single Response	All Responses ¹	Single Response	All Responses ¹
Canada	60.6	64.2	24.3	26.0	11.3	13.8
Newfoundland	98.6	99.0	0.4	0.6	0.7	0.9
Prince Edward Island	93.6	94.9	4.1	5.1	1.1	1.3
Nova Scotia	93.2	94.6	3.5	4.5	1.8	2.3
New Brunswick	63.6	67.1	31.8	35.1	1.1	1.4
Quebec	8.9	12.1	81.4	84.6	6.0	7.4
Ontario	76.3	80.3	4.7	6.0	14.9	17.9
Manitoba	71.3	77.0	4.3	5.4	18.6	23.3
Saskatchewan	80.7	84.7	2.1	2.6	13.1	16.7
Alberta	80.9	84.6	2.0	2.7	13.3	16.4
British Columbia	80.9	84.1	1.3	1.9	14.4	17.4
Yukon	88.2	90.2	2.4	2.9	7.4	9.0
Northwest Territories	53.6	57.0	2.5	3.0	40.5	43.5

¹ Includes single and multiple responses to the mother tongue question.

Proportion of French Mother Tongue Population Declines Slightly

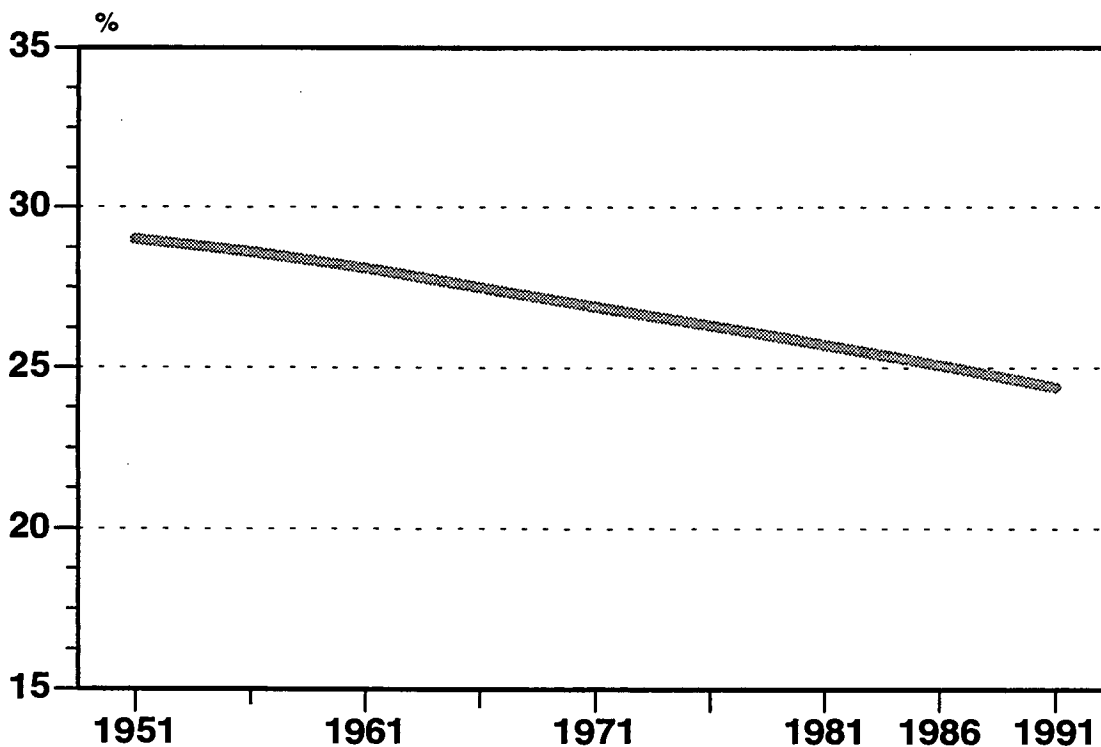
There has been a slight decline in the relative size of the francophone community in Quebec, primarily due to the increased number of immigrants settling in Quebec. In 1991, 81.2% of Quebec's population reported French as only mother tongue, down slightly from 81.4% in 1986. In keeping with the reduced number of multiple responses to the mother tongue question, there was a larger decline in the proportion of all those who reported French as a mother tongue: from 84.6% in 1986 to 83.3% in 1991. Outside Quebec, the proportion of the population who reported French as only mother tongue declined slightly between 1986 and 1991, from 4.5% to 4.4%

(5.6% reported French as a mother tongue in 1986, compared to 5.2% in 1991).

Across the country, about 6.5 million people, or 23.8% of population, reported French as their only mother tongue in 1991, down from 24.3% in 1986. When those people who reported French and at least one other language as their mother tongue are included, the size of the francophone language group was 24.9% of Canada's total population in 1991, compared with 26.0% in 1986. The relative size of the francophone community has been gradually declining since 1951 when 29.0% of the population reported French as their mother tongue.

This long-term decline is primarily attributable to the low fertility of francophones since the mid-1960s and immigration to Canada of people with a mother tongue other than French.

Percentage of the Population with French as Mother Tongue, Canada, 1951-1991¹

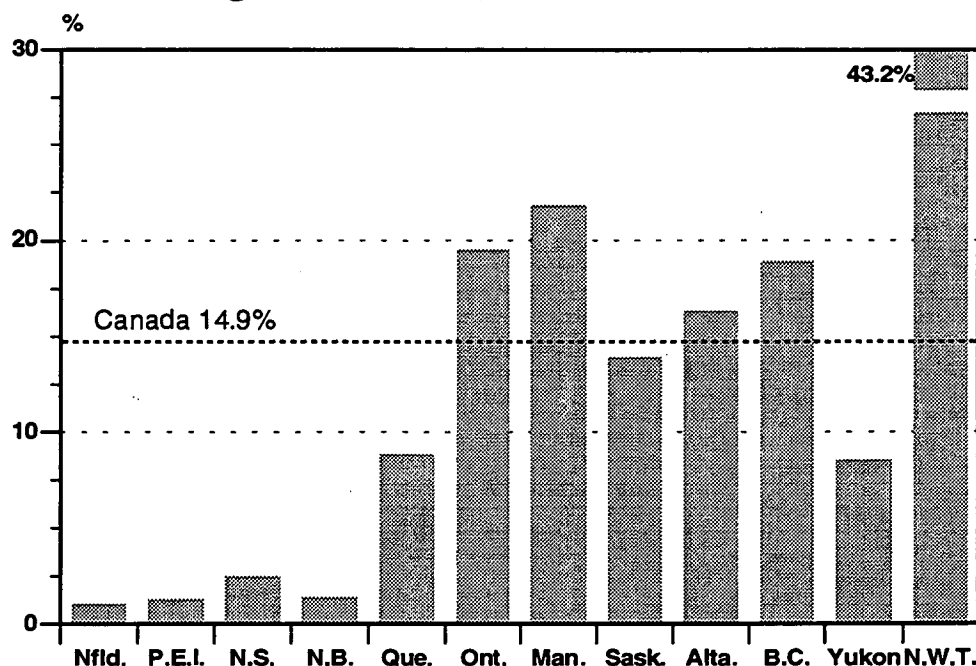


¹ For 1986 and 1991, multiple responses were distributed among the language indicated using a method which makes the data approximately comparable to those of the previous censuses.

The size of the francophone population, as a proportion of the provincial/territorial population, varied considerably across Canada. Quebec had the largest proportion of its population with French as mother tongue (83.3% reporting French, 81.2% French only), followed by New Brunswick (34.6% reporting French, 32.7% French only). The francophone population was less than 6% of the population in all other provinces and territories: Ontario was highest (5.4%) and Newfoundland lowest (less than 1%).

Canada's francophone population continues to be highly concentrated in Quebec. In 1991, as in 1986, about 85% of all francophones lived in Quebec. By comparison, only 4% of all anglophones lived in Quebec. Of the provinces and territories other than Quebec, Ontario and New Brunswick had the largest number of people reporting French as their mother tongue: 547,000 in Ontario and 250,000 in New Brunswick. These two provinces account for three quarters (75.8%) of all francophones outside Quebec.

Proportion of the Population with a Non-official Language as Mother Tongue, Canada, Provinces and Territories, 1991¹



¹ Includes single and multiple responses to the mother tongue question.

Non-Official Languages in the Provinces and Territories

In 1991, the population reporting a non-official language as mother tongue was concentrated in four provinces: 49% were living in Ontario, 15% in British Columbia, 15% in Quebec and 10% in Alberta.

Of all provinces and territories, the Northwest Territories had the highest percentage of its population (43%) reporting a language other than English or French as mother tongue with the majority

of this group reporting Inuktitut. Manitoba, with 22%, had the second largest proportion, followed by Ontario (20%), British Columbia (19%), Alberta (16%) and Saskatchewan (15%).

The proportion of the population reporting a non-official language as mother tongue was less than 10% in each of the other provinces and the Yukon, ranging from 9% in Quebec to 1% in Newfoundland. The smaller proportions in Newfoundland, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick are due mainly to the tendency of immigrants to settle in other areas of the country.

The distribution of the major non-official language groups across the country tends to reflect the changing origins and destinations of different waves of immigrants. As a result, the major non-official language groups vary considerably in their concentration by province. The Italian language group is concentrated in central Canada: 63% of those reporting Italian as mother tongue in 1991 lived in Ontario and 27% lived in

Quebec. Ontario was also home to 46% of the Chinese language group while an additional 31% lived in British Columbia. Over half of those reporting German as mother tongue live in the western provinces: 15% in Manitoba, 9% in Saskatchewan, 17% in Alberta and 19% in British Columbia. Another 35% live in Ontario.

Distribution of Non-Official Language Groups Among the Provinces and Territories¹

	All Non-Official Languages	Italian	Chinese	German	Portuguese	Polish
Canada total	4,099,890	512,005	492,400	475,710	211,040	196,895
Canada	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Newfoundland	0.1	0.0	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1
Prince Edward Island	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Nova Scotia	0.6	0.2	0.3	0.5	0.2	0.6
New Brunswick	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.1	0.1
Quebec	14.9	26.7	6.5	4.4	16.1	10.2
Ontario	48.6	63.1	46.1	34.8	70.6	62.4
Manitoba	5.9	1.1	1.9	14.7	3.6	6.7
Saskatchewan	3.5	0.2	1.3	9.1	0.2	2.3
Alberta	10.2	2.8	12.2	17.1	2.9	10.7
British Columbia	15.3	5.8	31.1	18.9	6.2	7.1
Yukon	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0
Northwest Territories	0.6	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0
	Ukrainian	Aboriginal Languages	Spanish	Dutch	Punjabi	Greek
Canada total	196,160	192,765	186,255	138,755	134,685	129,685
Canada	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Newfoundland	0.0	1.0	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.0
Prince Edward Island	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.4	0.0	0.0
Nova Scotia	0.2	2.0	0.3	1.5	0.3	0.7
New Brunswick	0.1	0.9	0.2	0.7	0.0	0.2
Quebec	3.6	14.7	30.4	2.8	2.7	35.8
Ontario	29.2	12.3	47.2	53.6	34.9	53.4
Manitoba	20.0	18.6	2.5	3.7	2.6	1.3
Saskatchewan	14.7	16.5	1.1	1.8	0.4	0.8
Alberta	23.2	14.4	8.7	14.7	8.8	2.4
British Columbia	8.9	7.1	9.3	20.3	50.1	5.3
Yukon	0.1	0.5	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0
Northwest Territories	0.1	11.9	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0

¹ Includes single and multiple responses to the mother tongue question.

Language Diversity in Our Metropolitan Areas

There is great variation in the linguistic composition of Canada's census metropolitan areas. Some metropolitan areas have populations which are linguistically homogeneous. St. John's, Saint John, and Halifax have the highest proportion of their populations reporting English as only mother tongue: 98%, 93% and 93%, respectively. Chicoutimi-Jonquière, Trois-Rivières, and Québec have the

highest proportions reporting French only: 98%, 97% and 96%, respectively.

In 1991, over half (54%) of those who reported a non-official language as mother tongue were living in Toronto, Vancouver or Montréal.

Toronto had the largest percentage (32%) of its population reporting a mother tongue other than English or French. The Italian and Chinese languages were by far the most frequently reported, each representing one-sixth (about 200,000 people) of the total non-official language population.

Population by Mother Tongue, for Census Metropolitan Areas, 1991

Census Metropolitan Area	Percentage Reporting English		Percentage Reporting French		Percentage Reporting Non-Official Language	
	Single Response	All Responses ¹	Single Response	All Responses ¹	Single Response	All Responses ¹
Calgary	81.1	83.7	1.4	1.9	14.9	17.0
Chicoutimi-Jonquière	0.9	1.5	98.0	98.7	0.3	0.4
Edmonton	77.9	80.8	2.3	3.0	16.8	19.2
Halifax	93.1	94.1	2.7	3.3	3.1	3.6
Hamilton	79.5	82.0	1.4	1.9	16.5	18.7
Kitchener	79.4	81.9	1.3	1.7	16.8	18.9
London	84.9	86.9	1.1	1.6	11.9	13.6
Montréal	14.2	17.3	66.9	70.3	14.7	17.1
Oshawa	87.3	88.9	2.1	2.6	9.0	10.2
Ottawa-Hull	53.5	56.6	32.9	35.3	10.2	11.6
Québec	1.7	2.6	95.9	97.0	1.2	1.5
Regina	87.2	89.2	1.3	1.7	9.5	11.2
Saint John	93.3	94.4	4.4	5.3	1.2	1.4
Saskatoon	84.0	86.5	1.6	2.1	11.9	14.0
Sherbrooke	6.1	7.5	90.4	92.0	1.9	2.2
St. Catharines-Niagara	80.6	83.1	3.7	4.5	13.1	15.0
St. John's	98.1	98.4	0.3	0.4	1.3	1.5
Sudbury	59.8	64.3	27.5	30.8	8.2	9.5
Thunder Bay	80.7	83.4	2.3	2.9	14.3	16.5
Toronto	66.4	70.2	1.3	1.8	28.5	32.0
Trois-Rivières	1.2	1.9	97.3	98.1	0.6	0.8
Vancouver	71.9	74.7	1.3	1.7	23.9	26.5
Victoria	88.1	89.5	1.4	1.8	9.0	10.1
Windsor	76.0	79.8	4.7	6.2	15.4	17.9
Winnipeg	73.8	77.8	4.5	5.4	17.6	20.9

¹ Includes single and multiple responses to the mother tongue question.

Vancouver had the second largest proportion of its population reporting a non-official language (27%). In Vancouver, one-third of all those who reported a non-official language as mother tongue reported Chinese.

In Montréal, 70% of the population reported French as mother tongue, 17% reported English and 17% reported a non-official language. About one-quarter of those reporting a non-official language in Montréal reported Italian – the third largest language group after French and English.

Ottawa-Hull was the census metropolitan area where the linguistic composition of the population was most similar to that of Canada as a whole: 57% of the population reported English as mother tongue, 35% reported French and 12% reported a non-official language.

Youth and Seniors: Differences by Language Groups

The proportion of children aged 0 to 14 in the various language groups varied widely. Several factors contribute to this diversity: recentness of immigration to Canada, differing levels of fertility and differences in the tendency to pass on a language as mother tongue to the next generation.

Overall, children aged 0 to 14 represented 21% of the Canadian population in 1991. They represented 23% of the English language group, 20% of the French and 12% of the non-official language group. The lower percentage of the young having a non-official language as a mother tongue reflects the tendency of parents having a non-official language as mother tongue to pass English or French to their children.

Among the fifteen largest non-official language groups, the Cree language group had the highest percentage (29%) of its population in the 0 to 14 age group. Punjabi was next (22%), followed by Vietnamese (22%) and Spanish (21%). These last three languages are common among more recent immigrants to Canada. The size of the child population was smallest among four language groups more heavily represented in earlier periods of immigration to Canada: Dutch (2%), Ukrainian (3%), Hungarian (4%) and Italian (6%).

Changing patterns of immigration also affect the proportion of seniors (aged 65 and over) in the various language groups. Overall, 12% of Canada's population was aged 65 and over in 1991. The

English and French language groups both had 11% of their populations in this group, while 15% of the non-official language group were aged 65 and over.

The proportion of seniors in specific non-official language groups varied greatly in 1991, partly due to the waves of immigrants who have come to Canada at different times. Among the fifteen largest non-official language groups, Ukrainian was the language most frequently spoken among the senior age group (42%), followed by Hungarian (25%), German (23%), Polish (22%) and Dutch (22%). The smallest proportions of seniors occurred in three

Percentage¹ of the Population 0 to 14 Years of Age by Mother Tongue, 1991

	Percentage of the Population Aged 0 to 14
Total Population	20.9
Official Languages	
English	23.2
French	19.7
Non-Official Languages	12.1
Cree	28.9
Punjabi	22.3
Vietnamese	22.0
Spanish	21.4
Arabic	19.8
Chinese	16.1
Portuguese	14.6
Polish	12.5
Greek	11.3
Tagalog	7.6
German	7.0
Italian	5.9
Hungarian	4.3
Ukrainian	2.5
Dutch	2.2

¹ Determined using the population who reported only one mother tongue. The 15 largest non-official language groups are included in this table.

Percentage¹ of the Population 65 Years of Age and Older by Mother Tongue, 1991

	Percentage of the population Aged 65 and over
Total Population	11.6
Official Languages	
English	11.0
French	11.0
Non-Official Languages	15.3
Ukrainian	42.3
Hungarian	25.4
German	23.3
Polish	22.3
Dutch	21.7
Italian	15.5
Chinese	9.4
Greek	8.5
Tagalog	7.8
Portuguese	6.8
Punjabi	6.8
Cree	6.6
Arabic	5.3
Spanish	3.8
Vietnamese	3.8

¹ *Determined using the population who reported only one mother tongue. The 15 largest non-official language groups are included in this table.*

language groups which have been immigrating to Canada more recently: Vietnamese (4%), Spanish (4%) and Arabic (5%).

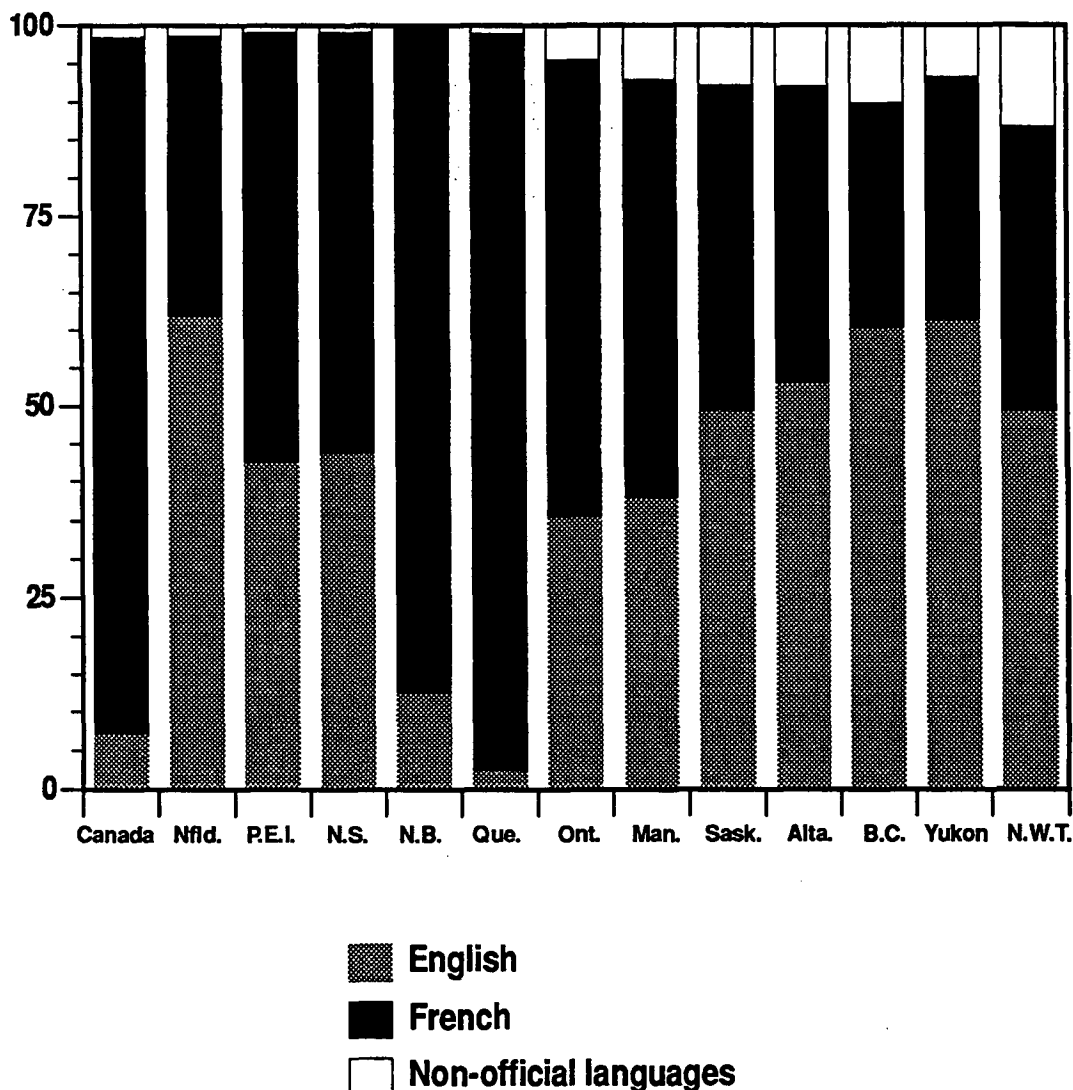
Most couples formed by partners with the same mother tongue

In 1991, there were 6.4 million husband-wife couples (people who were married or living common-law) in Canada. Of these couples, the majority of partners had the same mother tongue : 3.4 million were anglophone couples, 1.4 million were francophone couples and 800,000 were couples where both partners reported a non-official language. Anglophones and francophones are more likely to form unions with people who have the same mother tongue: 92% of anglophones had a partner reporting English as mother tongue and 91% of francophones had a partner reporting French as mother tongue. In comparison, 80% of Canada's allophones (those who reported a non-official language as mother tongue) had a partner reporting a non-official language as mother tongue.

Official language minorities (i.e. francophones outside Quebec and anglophones in Quebec) often form unions with a partner who does not have the same mother tongue. Among anglophones in Quebec, 26% had a partner with French as only mother tongue, 68% a partner with English as only mother tongue and 6% a partner with a non-official language as only mother tongue. Among francophones in New Brunswick, 13% were living with a spouse who reported English as mother tongue, while in Ontario this figure was 36%.

Nationally, 17% of allophones had a partner who reported English as mother tongue and 2% had a partner with French as mother tongue. Among allophones in Quebec, 11% had a partner with French as only mother tongue and 6% had a partner with English as only mother tongue.

Husband-Wife Couples: Mother Tongue of Partners of Francophones, Canada, Provinces and Territories, 1991



When parents have the same mother tongue

Couples where both partners had the same official language as mother tongue passed on that language to their children as the only mother tongue almost all of the time (99.7% for children of anglophone couples and 98.9% for those of francophone couples). Outside Quebec, 93% of the children of francophone

couples had French as their mother tongue. In Quebec, 98% of the children of anglophone couples had English as their mother tongue.

Children of couples where both partners had a non-official language as mother tongue had English as their only mother tongue 33% of the time and French 1% of the time. In Quebec, 12% of the children of these couples had English as their only mother tongue and 9% French.

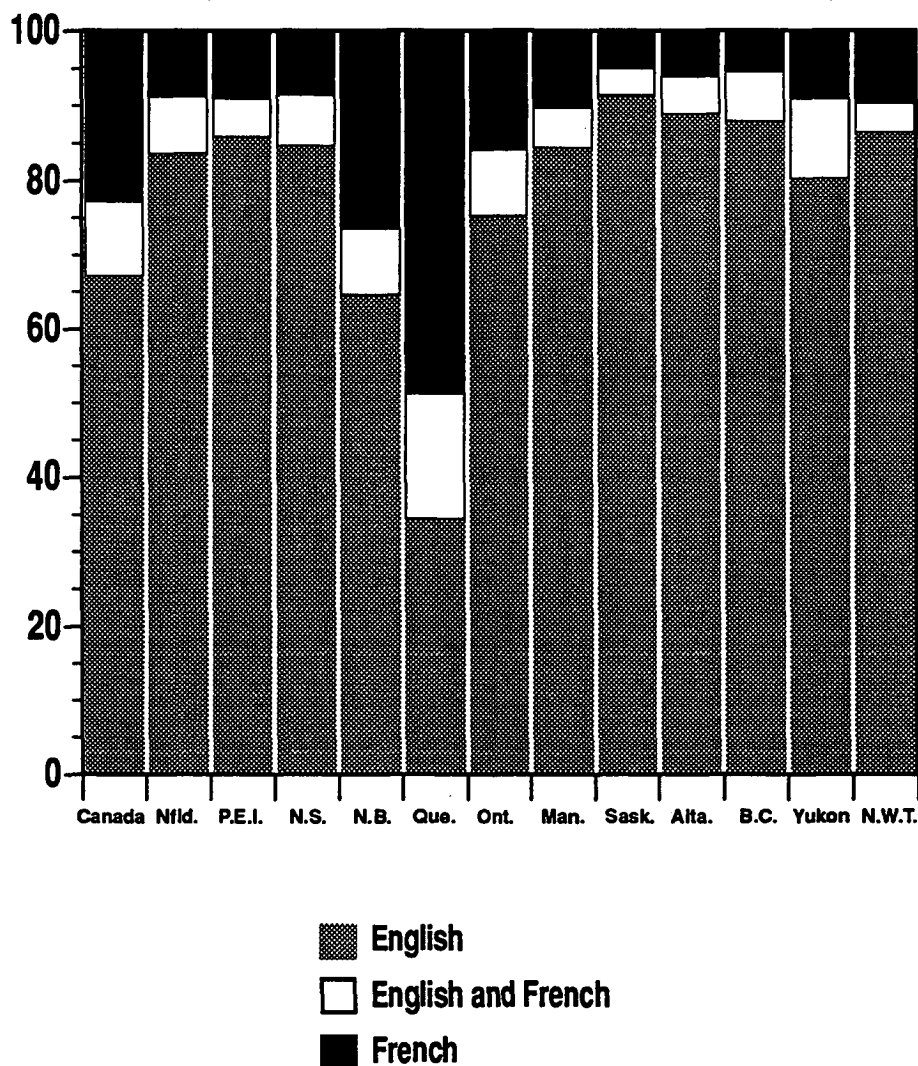
When parents have different mother tongues

The children of mixed language couples (where both partners reported only one mother tongue) represented 10% (551,000) of all children living in husband-wife couples. Manitoba and the Northwest Territories had the highest proportion of children living with parents from different language groups (15%), followed by the Yukon (14%) and Ontario (12%). Newfoundland (1%), Nova Scotia (6%), Prince Edward Island (6%) and Quebec (7%) all had

relatively small proportions of children living with parents who had different mother tongues.

The mother tongue of children of English-French couples varied considerably by province. Children of English-French couples in Quebec had French as their only mother tongue 49% of the time, English only 34% of the time and both languages 17% of the time. In Ontario, these children had English as their only mother tongue 75% of the time and French only 16% of the time, while in New Brunswick 65% had English only and 26% had French only.

Mother Tongue of Children of English-French Couples, Canada, Provinces and Territories, 1991



Children of couples where one of the partners had English as mother tongue and the other a non-official language learned English as their mother tongue in the vast majority of cases (96 %). Children of francophone and allophone partners in Quebec had French as their only mother tongue 75% of the time, English 10% of the time and a non-official language as only mother tongue 6% of the time.

Mother's mother tongue most common

Other things being equal, the children of mixed-language couples were more likely to learn the language of their mother rather than that of their

father. Thus, the children of English-French couples show a greater tendency to have French as mother tongue when the wife is French than when the husband is French. For example, in Quebec, the children of francophone women and anglophone men indicated French as their only mother tongue 58% of the time, English 24% of the time and both languages 18% of the time. By contrast, children of anglophone women and francophone men indicated English as their only mother tongue 44% of the time, French 40% of the time and both languages 16% of the time. A similar phenomenon was found for other mixed-language couples.

Mother Tongue of Children Under 18 Years of Age Living in Husband-wife Families, Canada, Quebec and other provinces and territories, 1991

		Mother Tongue of Wife:								
Mother Tongue of Child:	Mother Tongue of Husband:	English			French			Non-official Language		
		English	French	Non-Official	English	French	Non-Official	English	French	Non-Official
Canada										
English only		100	75	97	59	1	28	94	39	33
English-all responses		100	83	98	71	1	34	96	45	40
French only		0	17	0	29	99	60	0	41	1
French-all responses		0	25	0	41	99	69	0	50	2
Non-official only		0	0	1	0	0	3	4	10	59
Non-official-all responses		0	0	2	0	0	7	6	15	65
Quebec										
English only		98	44	91	24	0	7	83	14	12
English-all responses		99	60	95	42	0	12	88	19	15
French only		1	40	2	58	100	81	3	63	9
French-all responses		2	56	4	76	100	89	4	73	13
Non-official only		0	0	3	0	0	4	9	12	74
Non-official-all responses		0	0	6	0	0	8	13	19	79
Other provinces and territories										
English only		100	86	98	72	6	65	94	75	37
English-all responses		100	92	99	81	7	74	96	81	44
French only		0	8	0	19	93	23	0	11	0
French-all responses		0	14	0	28	94	32	0	17	0
Non-official only		0	0	1	0	0	3	4	7	56
Non-official-all responses		0	0	2	0	0	5	6	11	63

Data Considerations

The 1991 Census implemented two significant changes designed to better portray the language situation in Canada. The first was to add to the long-form questionnaire (completed by a sample of 20% of households) a new question on the knowledge of language(s) other than English or French. The second, and more significant, change was to group all the language questions together on the long form, rather than follow previous census practice of asking the mother tongue question separately from questions relating to language spoken at home and knowledge of Canada's two official languages.

The latter change was implemented following testing which showed that grouping the questions on the long questionnaire resulted in better understanding of the questions by respondents, and hence improved the accuracy of the reported information. When the mother tongue question is asked separately, respondents are more likely to report two or more languages (multiple responses). Evaluations of previous census data have shown that a significant proportion of such answers were incorrect, and that only one mother tongue should have been reported.

The 1991 Census results demonstrate clearly that when mother tongue is included as one of a series of questions on language, there are significantly fewer multiple response – 3.0% of respondents provided multiple responses on the short form, where the mother tongue question is asked alone, compared with only 1.2% on the long form.

Given these differences in response patterns, two publications on the mother tongue variable will be produced. The data in the publication, **Mother Tongue** (Catalogue 93-313), are based on the combined responses as reported by all respondents, whether on the short form or the long form. These data are most suited for purposes of historical comparisons, since they are more similar to data from previous censuses than are estimates derived from the mother tongue information collected on the long-form questionnaire (i.e. based on the 20% sample of households). The second publication, **Mother Tongue: 20% Sample Data** (Catalogue 93-333), scheduled for release in early October 1992, will contain data based on the long-form questionnaire, and will enable a more precise analysis of the mother tongue of Canadians as of June 1991.

Data Comparability

Users of census data should take into account factors which could affect the comparability of 1991 Census data with data from previous censuses:

Changes in the Completeness of Enumeration:

No national census can obtain a complete enumeration of the population. Variations in the completeness of enumeration can occur from one census to the next. Estimates of the completeness of the 1991 Census will be available in November 1992.

Non-permanent Residents: In 1991, the census counted both permanent and non-permanent residents of Canada. Non-permanent residents are persons who hold student or employment authorizations, Minister's permits, or who are refugee claimants. The data released today are affected by this change. Until coverage evaluation studies and immigration data are released in December 1992, it will not be possible to estimate the extent to which differences in the counts are due to the inclusion of non-permanent residents. Users should exercise caution when comparing data from 1991 and previous censuses in geographic areas where there is a concentration of non-permanent residents. These areas include the provinces of Quebec, Ontario and British Columbia.

Incompletely Enumerated Indian Reserves: Some Indian reserves and Indian settlements (a total of 78) were incompletely enumerated during the 1991 Census. Data for 1991 are therefore not available for these incompletely enumerated reserves and settlements. Because of the missing data, users are cautioned that for the affected geographic areas, comparisons (e.g. percentage change) between 1986 and 1991 are not exact. For larger geographic areas (Canada, provinces, census metropolitan areas) the impact of the missing data is quite small, except for Aboriginal languages.

Statistics Canada has started consultations on 1996 Census content and post-censal topics. For information write: 1996 Census Content Determination Project, Statistics Canada, Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0T6.

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**The
Daily**

Statistics Canada's Official Release Bulletin for Statistical Information

Catalogue 11-001E. Price: Canada: \$120 annually; United States: US\$144 annually; Other Countries: US\$168 annually

Published by the Communications Division
Statistics Canada, 10-L, R.H. Coats Building, Ottawa K1A 0T6

Senior Editor: Greg Thomson (613-951-1116)
Editor: Tim Prichard (613-951-1103)

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