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The Evolution of Public Opinion on Official Languages in Canada

Ce document est également offert en français.

September 2006



Summary

Sounding out public opinion from time to time is essential for understanding where Canadians stand on official languages and for assessing the evolution of their attitudes. For this reason, the Office of the Commissioner of Official Languages asked Decima Research to include some additional questions concerning official languages in an omnibus survey. Since most of the questions are identical to those asked in 2003 during a similar exercise, it is possible to identify a number of trends.

The results suggest that Canadian policy on official languages is increasingly part of Canada's social fabric and of what defines us as a country.

Here is the overall portrait that emerges from our inquiry into public opinion:<sup>1</sup>

- A strong majority of Canadians say they personally favour bilingualism for the entire country (72%) as well as for their own province (70%). This represents a significant increase since 2003, due to greater support from Anglophones. Among young adults aged 18 to 34 years, support for Canadian bilingualism is 80%.
- Certain additional questions make it possible to better evaluate the basis for support for bilingualism and linguistic equality. For example, 77% of Canadians feel that if more resources are required to guarantee the same quality of education for a Francophone minority (or an Anglophone minority in Quebec) as that provided to the children of the majority, such resources should be made available.

Not only have the two official languages made 21<sup>st</sup> century Canada a more open society, they have also encouraged greater solidarity among the two official language groups. 82% of Francophones and 74% of Anglophones believe that the two official language groups should enjoy equal quality of education, and are willing to provide more resources to the minority in order to meet that standard.

Moreover, the Canadian public continues to view bilingualism as an advantage, both in personal and economic terms. Bilingualism is one of the most fulfilling things one can do for oneself (84%) and constitutes a success factor, within the country (84%) and around the world (89%). For most Canadians, bilingualism means learning a second official language, although interest in learning other languages is on the rise.

Finally, 7 out of 10 Canadians think that living in a country with two official languages is one of the things that really defines what it means to be Canadian.

<sup>1</sup> This survey was conducted by telephone in February 2006 among a sample of 2,000 respondents aged 18 years and older. It has a margin of error of within plus or minus 2.2%, 19 times out of 20.



Decima Research included 9 questions on behalf of the Office of the Commissioner of Official Languages, when it polled 2,000 Canadians 18 years of age and older by telephone between February 2 and 13, 2006. The sole exceptions were the Quebec responses in Questions 6 & 7, for which 1,000 Quebecers were polled, respectively.

A sample size of 2,000 people is considered accurate to within plus or minus 2.2% 19 times out of 20. The smaller sample size of 1,000 people is considered accurate to within plus or minus 3.1%, 19 times out of 20.

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The margin of error for smaller sub-samples is larger.



## **Discussion Points**

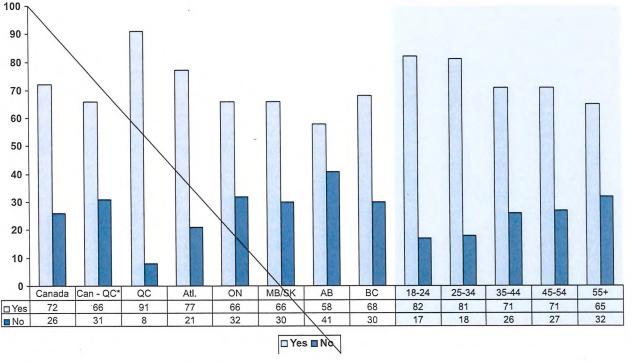
- 1. General Support for Bilingualism
- 2. Resources for Minority Language Schools
- 3. Learning a Second Official Language
- 4. Perceived Benefits of Bilingualism



1. General Support for Bilingualism



**Bilingualism for all of Canada?** 



Q.4 Are you personally in favour of bilingualism for all of Canada?

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- Strongest support, in terms of region, is found in Quebec (91%) and Atlantic Canada (77%).
- The lowest level of support is found in Alberta (58%). Yet even there, close to 6 in 10 Albertans are in favour of bilingualism for all of Canada.
- Younger Canadians between the ages of 18 and 34 are the most supportive of all age groups (82% and 81% respectively), whereas the eldest age cohort (55+) exhibit the lowest level of support (65%).
- 90% of Francophones\*\* are in favour of bilingualism for all of Canada, compared to 65% of Anglophones\*\*.
- Furthermore, women (76%) are more supportive than men (68%).

\*Canada, except Quebec.

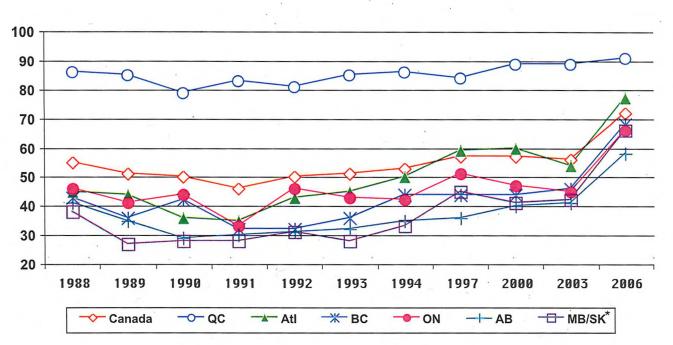
\*\*Anglophones and Francophones are defined on the basis of their mother tongue, meaning their first language learned and still understood.

#### Q.4 - Are you personally in favour of bilingualism for all of Canada?

- Agree: 72% 26%
- Disagree:



**Bilingualism for all of Canada?** % in favour (by region), 1988-2006



Q.4 Are you personally in favour of bilingualism for all of Canada?

## Percentage change in favour of bilingualism for all of Canada:

**2003 to 2006** +16% (56% to 72%) In 2003, support was above 50% only in Atlantic Canada and in Quebec. The strength of the affirmative response in Quebec (89%) brought the Canadian average of those in favour above 50%.

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In 2006, however, the gap had narrowed and the level of support in the rest of Canada is substantially higher.

#### By region:

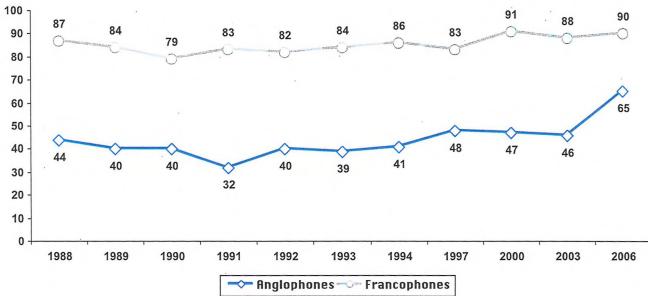
Canada

• QC	+2%	(89% to	91%)
• Atl	+23%	(54% to	77%)
• BC	+22%	(46% to	68%)
• ON	+21%	(45% to	66%)
• AB ·	+17%	(41% to	58%)
<ul> <li>MB/SK</li> </ul>	+24%	(42% to	66%)

Manitoba/Saskatchewan figures for all years except 2006 are combined averages of Manitoba and Saskatchewan. As such, they are unweighted.



**Bilingualism for all of Canada?** % in favour (by language), 1988-2006



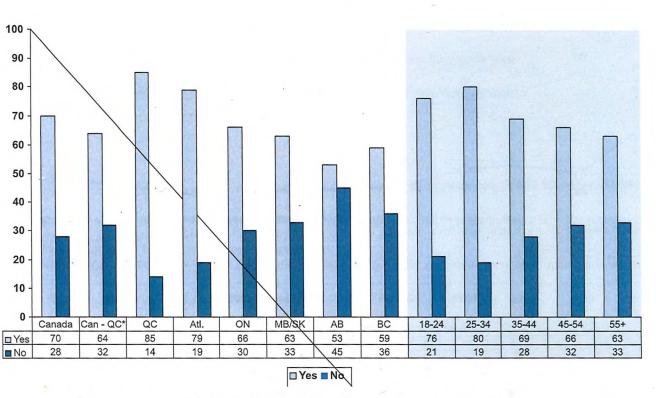
Q.4 Are you personally in favour of bilingualism for all of Canada?

- The gap between Anglophones and Francophones' support for billingualism for all of Canada has gradually diminished over the years.
- It should be noted that from 1991 to 2003 (a period of 12 years), support among Anglophones increased by 14%. In contrast, from 2003 to 2006, it grew by a robust 19%.
- Political factors may explain the restrained growth of the earlier period as well as the increase in the last 3 years.
  - The late 1980s and 1990s were a turbulent time in Canadian politics. For example, the two failed constitutional amendments, Meech Lake Accord [1987] and Charlottetown Accord [1992], the election and subsequent re-election of a PQ government in Quebec, and a second Quebec referendum.
  - The election of a Liberal government in Quebec in 2003 may have eased relations between Quebec and the rest of Canada onto a more cooperative track.
- Since young Anglophones are more favourably inclined towards bilingualism than older Canadians, support for bilingualism for all of Canada may continue to increase.

Source: Environics Focus Canada / Canadian Opinion Research Archive, Queen's University/Decima 2006



**Bilingualism for your province?** 



Q.5 Are you personally in favour of bilingualism for your province?

## Q.5 – Are you personally in favour of bilingualism for your province?

- Agree: 70%
- Disagree: 28%

- The highest level of support is found in QC (85%) and Atlantic Canada (79%).
- The youngest age groups show the strongest support (76% for the 18-24 age cohort / 80% for the 25-34 age cohort).
- 64% of Anglophones are in favour of bilingualism for their province, compared to 84% of Francophones. While lower than the level of total support (70%), a clear majority of Anglophones are in favour of bilingualism for their province. Furthermore, it is almost identical to Anglophones' support with respect to bilingualism for all of Canada (65%).
- Furthermore, women (73%) are more supportive of bilingualism than men (66%).

\*Canada, except Quebec.



**Bilingualism for your province?** % in favour, 2000, 2003, 2006

Since 2003, there has been a 13% jump in support for provincial bilingualism. That is in line with the 16% increase in support of "bilingualism for all of Canada."

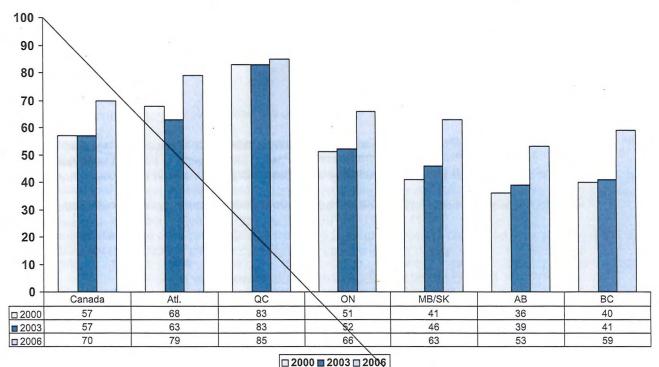
A majority of respondents in all regions are in favour of bilingualism for their province.

#### Percentage change, 2003-2006

<ul> <li>Canada</li> </ul>	+13%	(57% to 70	))
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#### By region:

• Atl.		+16%	(63% to	79%)
• QC		+ 2%	(83% to	85%)
• ON	•	+14%	(52% to	66%)
<ul> <li>MB/SK</li> </ul>		+17%	(46% to	63%)
• AB		+14%	(39% to	53%)
• BC		+18%	(41% to	59%)

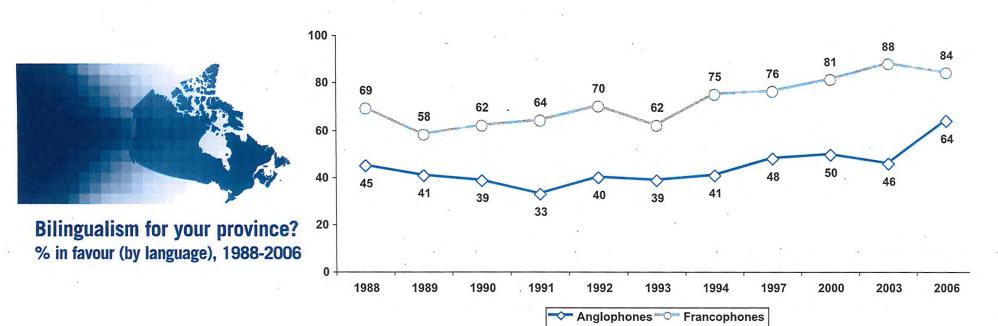


Q.5 Are you personally in favour of bilingualism for your province?

Going back to 2000, Quebecers have been the most consistent and the most favourably inclined in their views on this issue, regardless of which provincial party was in power.

There has been a marked increase everywhere, except in Quebec. British Columbia is leading with an 18% increase.

Source: Environics Focus Canada / Canadian Opinion Research Archive, Queen's University/Decima 2006



Q.5 Are you personally in favour of bilingualism for your province?

• The dramatic growth in support among Anglophones (19% between 1988 and 2006) in response to this question is similar to the support exhibited in response to the question of bilingualism for all of Canada, which increased by 21%.

• Political factors may explain the restrained growth of the earlier period as well as the increase in the last three years.

• The late 1980s and 1990s were a turbulent time in Canadian politics. For example, the two failed constitutional amendments, Meech Lake Accord [1987] and Charlottetown Accord [1992], the election and subsequent re-election of a PQ government in Quebec, and a second Quebec referendum.

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- The election of a Liberal government in Quebec in 2003 may have eased relations between Quebec and the rest of Canada onto a more cooperative track.
- Since young Anglophones are more favourably inclined towards bilingualism than older Canadians, support for bilingualism may continue to increase.

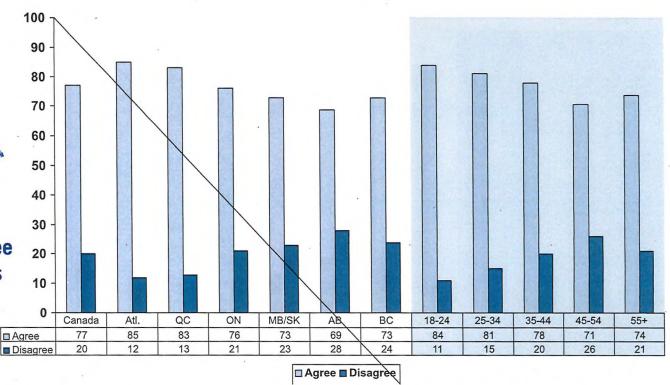
Source: Environics Focus Canada / Canadian Opinion Research Archive, Queen's University/Decima 2006



2. Resources for Minority Language Schools



More resources for minority language schools to guarantee same quality of education as for majority



Q.3 If it takes more resources per student to guarantee the same quality of education for French minority children (English in Quebec) as for children of the English majority (French in Quebec), I feel that these resources should be made available.

Q. 3 - If it takes more resources per student to guarantee the same quality of education for French minority children (English in Quebec) as for children of the English majority (French in Quebec), I feel that these resources should be made available.

Agree: 77%
Disagree: 20%

- A higher percentage of those who agree with this statement was found in Atlantic Canada (85%), followed by Quebec (83%).
- The lowest level of support is recorded in Alberta at 69%.
- Again, younger Canadians (18-34) are more supportive than those over 45, although support is strong across all age groups.
- Furthermore, 74% of Anglophones agree, compared to 82% of Francophones. It should be noted that support among Anglophones is higher with respect to the same quality of education for minorities (74%) than it is for national (65%) or provincial (64%) bilingualism.
- Women are more supportive of the principle of bilingualism than men (80% to 73%).

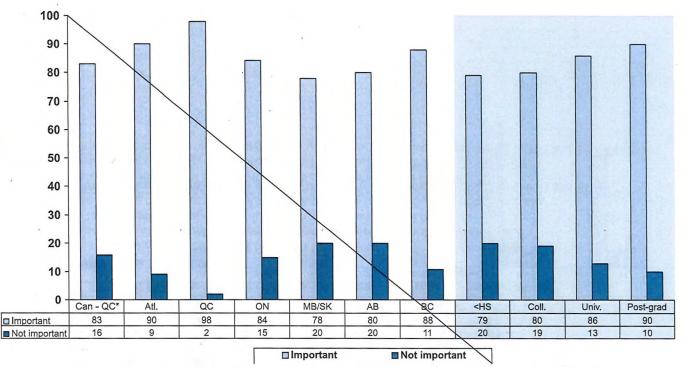


**3. Learning a Second Official Language** 



## Importance of children learning a second language

Please note: For this question, Quebec numbers are based on Francophone respondents only.



Q.6 How important is it to you that your children/children in your community learn to speak a language other than English (French in Quebec)?

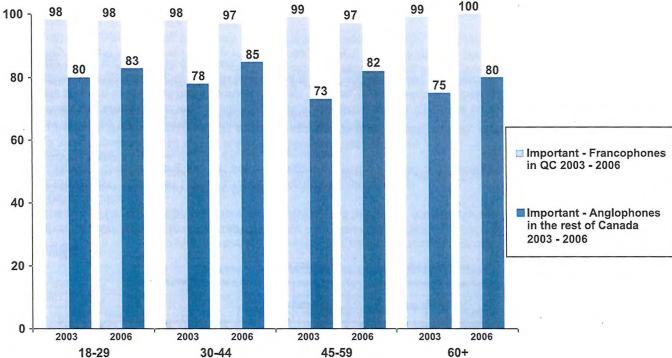
#### Q.6 - How important is it to you that your children/children in your community learn to speak a language other than English (French in Quebec)?

- Important: 83%
- Not important: 16%

- Highest support is found in Quebec (98%).
- In the rest of Canada, support is strong overall (83%) and highest in Atlantic Canada (90%) and British Columbia (88%).
- The lowest level of support (78%) is found in Manitoba/Saskatchewan.
- Furthermore, there is strong support across all age groups (the highest, at 86%, in the 35-44 age group, and the lowest, at 80%, in the 18-24 and 45-54 age groups).
- There is greater support among women (86%) than men (79%).
- A breakdown based on the level of education yields interesting results. The more education respondents have, the more likely they are to feel that it is important for their children, or the children in their community, to learn to speak another language. Among those with less than a high school education, 79% felt this way compared to 90% of \*canada, except 00st-graduate education.

Importance of children learning a second language (by language spoken and age group), 2003-2006

Please note: For this question, Quebec numbers are based on Francophone respondents only.



Q.6 How important is it to you that your children / children in your community learn to speak a language other than English (French in Quebec)?

Q. 6 - How important is it to you that your children/children in your community learn to speak a language other than English (French in Quebec)?

- There is almost unanimous support across all age groups among Francophones inside Quebec as to the importance of children learning a second language (97% to 100%).
- There is also a strong consensus among Anglophones outside Quebec (80% to 85%), in 2006, with an uptrend in support across all age groups particularly among those aged 45-59 (+9%) and 30-44 (+7%).



## Which second language?

Please note: For this question, Quebec numbers are based on Francophone respondents only.

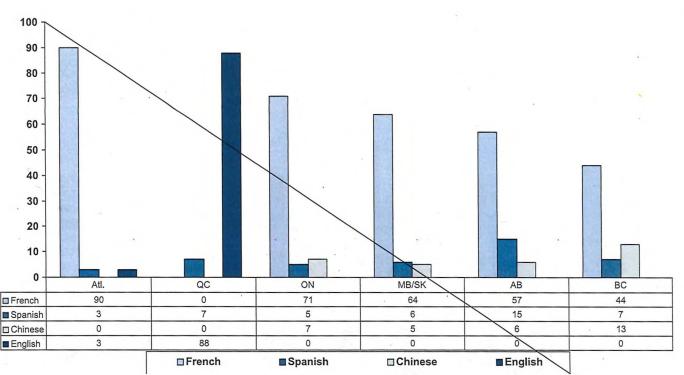
Q.7 - If your children / children in your community were to learn to speak another language, which language other than English (French in Quebec) would it be most important for them to learn?

#### Those saying French in:

- Atlantic Canada: 90%
- ON: 71% (Spanish: 5%, Chinese: 7%)
- MB/SK: 64% (Spanish: 6%, Chinese: 5%)
- AB: 57% (Spanish: 15%, Chinese: 6%)
- BC: 44% (Chinese: 13%, Spanish: 7%)

#### Those saying English in:

- Atlantic Canada: 3%
- Quebec: 88% (Spanish: 7%)

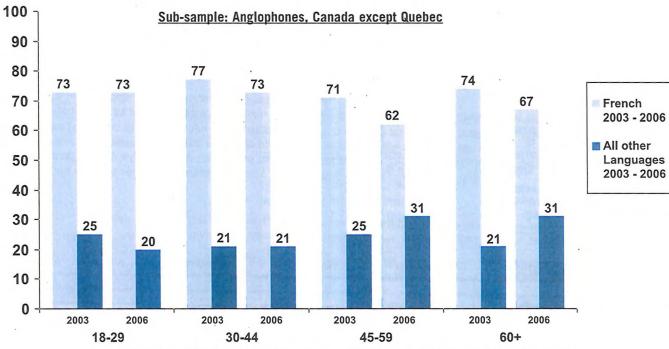


*Q.7* If your children / children in your community were to learn to speak another language, which language other than English (French in Quebec) would it be most important for them to learn?

- French was the second language of choice in all regions. Even in British Columbia, support for French was more than twice that of the second and third most popular choices combined (44% chose French compared to a total of 20% Chinese at 13% and Spanish at 7%).
- There is also an economic angle to consider: Spanish is seen as an asset for business within the Americas. China is seen as a vast, untapped market. BC's proximity to that market, coupled with a sizable Chinese immigrant community, adds a further incentive to learn Chinese.

### Which second language? (by age group)

Sub-sample: Anglophones, Canada except Quebec



Q.7 If your children / children in your community were to learn to speak another language, which language other than English (French in Quebec) would it be most important for them to learn?

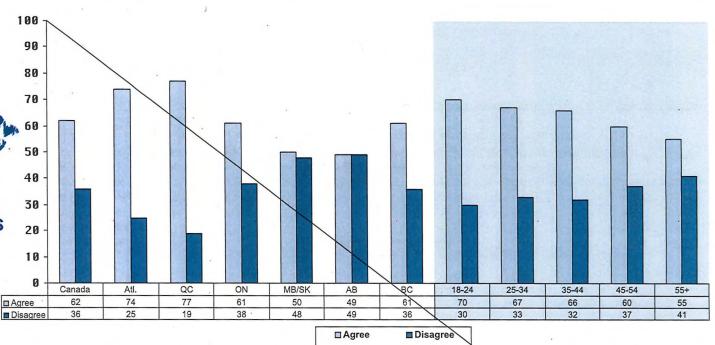
Q.7 - If your children / children in your community were to learn to speak another language, which language other than English (French in Quebec) would it be most important for them to learn? • French is clearly the second language of choice for the vast majority of Anglophones in Canada.

- There has been a decline in those who chose French as their second language of choice
  - among all age groups other than the youngest (18-29), where it has remained stable (73%).
- The decline is most marked among Canadians 45 to 59 (-9%) and those over 60 (-7%).



## More likely to learn French (English in Quebec) if classes were easily accessible

Please note: asked exclusively to those who speak English only (French in Quebec)



Q.9a I would be personally more likely to take advantage of French language training (English in Quebec) if classes were easily accessible.

#### Q.9a - I would be personally more likely to take advantage of French language training (English in Quebec) if classes were easily accessible.

- Agree: 62%
- Disagree: 36%

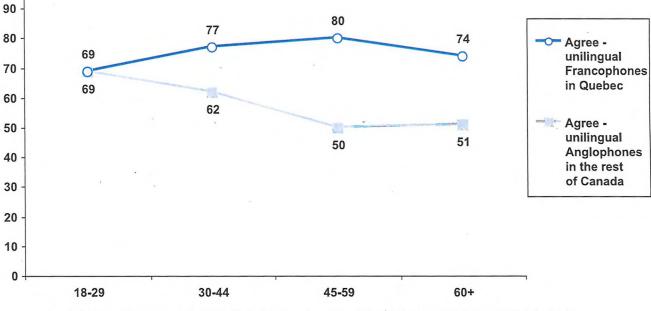
- Quebec (77%) and Atlantic Canada (74%) record the highest levels of support. This proposal splits respondents in Manitoba/Saskatchewan (50% agree) and Alberta (49% agree).
- The youngest Canadians (18-24) demonstrate the highest agreement (70%). Each successive age group registers lower levels of agreement, with the 55+ cohort registering the lowest level (55%).
- Furthermore, a majority of Anglophones who speak English only (58%) and Francophones who speak French only (77%) would be more likely to take advantage of language training in their second official language if classes were more accessible.
- Women are more likely to agree (65%) than men (59%).



More likely to learn French (English in Quebec) if classes were easily accessible (by language spoken and age group)

Please note: asked exclusively to those who speak English only (French in Quebec)

Q.9a - I would be personally more likely to take advantage of French language training (English in Quebec) if classes were easily accessible.



Q.9a I would be personally more likely to take advantage of French language training (English in Quebec) if classes were easily accessible.

- Francophones in the 30-44 age group who speak French only, and especially in the 45-59 age group, express higher levels of agreement. There may be an economic component to this. Learning to speak English could be perceived to enhance job opportunities and economic security and as such would be of particular interest.
- In Quebec, it is the youngest age group (18-29) that demonstrates the lowest level of agreement (69%).
- For Anglophones who speak English only, however, the highest level of agreement (69%) is found among the youngest age group (18-29) demographic.

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• For unilingual Anglophones outside of Quebec, the economic argument to learn French would appear to be less compelling.

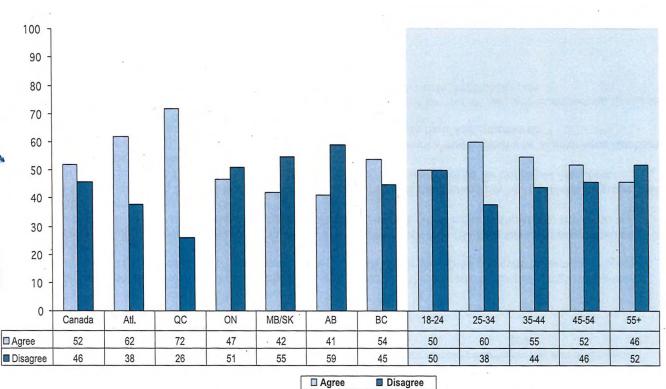


## Willing to pay for French language training (English in Quebec) if it were subsidized

Please note: asked exclusively to those who speak English only (French in Quebec)

Q.9b - If French language training (English in Quebec) was subsidized, I would be willing to pay part of the cost.

- Agree: 52%
- Disagree: 46%



Q.9b If French language training (English in Quebec) was subsidized, I would be willing to pay part of the cost.

- Support is above 50% in Atlantic Canada, Quebec, and British Columbia. Of the other regions, agreement in Ontario (47%) is the closest to majority status.
- In all age groups except the oldest (55+) and the youngest (18-24), the majority were willing to pay for language training. The low level of support among 18 to 24-year-olds reminds us that their disposable income is generally limited and it is subject to many demands (education and discretionary spending to name two). It is, therefore, not all that surprising to find a rift between their idealism and their fiscal capacity.
- Furthermore, 47% of Anglophones who speak English only would be prepared to assume part of the cost of French language training, compared to 72% of Francophones who speak French only.
- Women are more prepared to pay (55%) than men (48%).



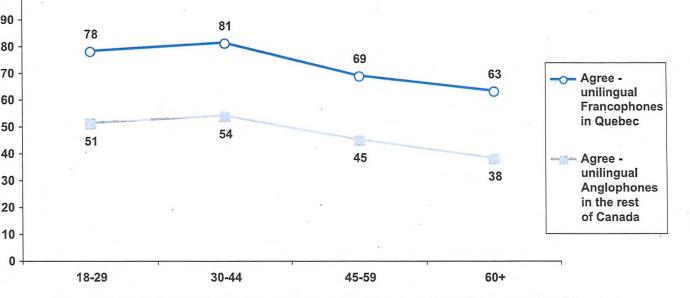
## Willing to pay for French language training (English in Quebec) if it were subsidized

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Please note: asked exclusively to those who speak English only (French in Quebec)

Q.9b - If French language training (English in Quebec) was subsidized, I would be willing to pay part of the cost.



Q.9b If French language training (English in Quebec) was subsidized, I would be willing to pay part of the cost.

- Among Francophones who speak French only, those who would be willing to pay for English language training if it were subsidized form solid majorities across all age groups (81% for the 30-44 age cohort, down to 63% among those 60+).
- The highest level of agreement among Anglophones who speak English only (54%) is found among those aged 30-44. In the two older demographic groupings, the level of agreement falls below majority threshold, and rather dramatically among those aged 60+.
- These findings appear to indicate that for uniligual Anglophones outside Quebec, paying for French language training, even if it were subsidized, is not a priority. If this is the case, it is clearly not so for unilingual Francophone Quebecers, especially among the two youngest age groups (18-29 / 30-44).
- Once again, the status of French as a minority language in North America may explain why Francophone Quebecers consistently demonstrate greater enthusiasm for personal bilingualism than Anglophones do.



## 4. Perceived Benefits of Bilingualism

Perceived benefits of bilingualism: Canada, Quebec, Canada except Quebec % agree 2006 (2003)

The five statements all garner strong majorities in terms of agreement.

<b>Q.B</b> I am going to read you a series of statements. For each of the following please tell me if you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree or strongly disagree	CANADA 2006	QUEBEC 2006 (2003)	Can - QC 2006 (2003)
a) In today's global economy, people with an ability to speak more	89%	91%	88%
than one language will be more successful.		(87%)	(88%)
b) Learning a second language is one of the more fulfilling things that	84%	93%	81%
you can do for yourself as a person.		(94%)	(82%)
c) In Canada, if you speak French as well as English, you have a better chance of finding a good job.	84%	96% (97%)	80% (77%)
d) Having two official languages has made Canada a more welcoming	73%	86%	69%
place for immigrants from different cultures and ethnic backgrounds.		(86%)	(63%)
e ) Living in a country with two official languages is one of the things that really defines what it means to be Canadian.	69%	74% (73%)	67% (64%)

• The strongest levels of agreement are found in response to statements with economic overtones (a and c) as well as for the statement that learning a second language is personally fulfilling (b).

• Levels of agreement above 90% for the first three statements (a, b, c) in Quebec also convey the linguistic reality: learning to speak English increases the chances of landing a well-paying job and ensures the ability to interact more fully with the continent's English-speaking majority.

The remaining assertions (d & e) touch on aspects of national identity. These assertions generated lower levels
of agreement.

- Overall, however, both linguistic groups produced solid majorities on all issues. Quebecers, however, consistently demonstrated higher levels of agreement than Canadians from other provinces. The gap between Quebec and the rest of Canada may be an indication of different conceptions of national identity; specifically, that language is a more important component of national identity for Quebecers.
- When asked if "Living in a country with two official languages is one of the things that really defines what it means to be Canadian", the difference between Quebec and the rest of Canada is only 7%. Furthermore, support for this statement among respondents in the rest of Canada has grown since 2003.



Perceived benefits of bilingualism (by gender)

		phones uebec	Anglophones Can, except QC	
<b>Q.8</b> I am going to read you a series of statements. For each of the following please tell me if you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree or strongly disagree	Men	Women	Men	Women
a) In today's global economy, people with an ability to speak more than one language will be more successful.	91%	90%	87%	88%
b) Learning a second language is one of the more fulfilling things that you can do for yourself as a person.	89%	96%	79%	84%
c) In Canada, if you speak French as well as English, you have a better chance of finding a good job.	96%	96%	76%	84%
d) Having two official languages has made Canada a more welcoming place for immigrants from different cultures and ethnic backgrounds.	85%	87%	66%	72%
e) Living in a country with two official languages is one of the things that really defines what it means to be Canadian.	71%	75%	65%	68%

• Throughout this study, Francophones have consistently been more supportive of bilingualism than Anglophones, and women have been more supportive than men.



# Perceived benefits of bilingualism % agree (by age), 2006 (2003)

Sub-sample: Anglophones, Canada, except Quebec

		ıb-sample: A , except Que					
<b>Q.8</b> I am going to read you a series of statements. For each of the following please tell me if you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree of strongly disagree	18–29	30-44	45–59	60+			
<ul> <li>a) In today's global economy, people with an ability to</li></ul>	84%	90%	89%	85%			
speak more than one language will be more successful.	(88%)	(88%)	(86%)	(90%)			
<ul> <li>b) Learning a second language is one of the more fulfilling</li></ul>	81%	80%	80%	85%			
things that you can do for yourself as a person.	(81%)	(80%)	(81%)	(86%)			
c) In Canada, if you speak French as well as English, you have a better chance of finding a good job.	80%	82%	78%	81%			
	(76%)	(74%)	(78%)	(82%)			
d) Having two official languages has made Canada a more welcoming place for immigrants from different cultures and ethnic backgrounds.	80%	68%	64%	67%			
	(72%)	(63%)	(58%)	(64%)			
e) Living in a country with two official languages is one of	72%	66%	62%	68%			
the things that really defines what it means to be Canadian.	(68%)	(65%)	(59%)	(64%)			

- Among Anglophones (Canada Quebec), there is basically no change since 2003 in terms of their views regarding learning a second language and personal fulfillment (b).
- There has been a slight rise in the number of young Anglophones from outside Quebec between the age of 18 and 44 who believe in the economic benefits of knowing both official languages with respect to their job prospects in Canada (c).
- With respect to the national identity assertions (d & e), there is a swelling of support across all age groups, especially among the youngest (e). As mentioned earlier, young people tend to be the strongest supporters of bilingualism. Therefore, over time, support for bilingualism may continue to grow. A corollary to this would be increasing levels of agreement with and support for the aspects of Canadian society that flow from it, such as openness to and tolerance of difference (as embodied in assertions d & e).



### **Questions** asked

- Q. 1. What is your mother tongue, meaning the first language you learned and still understand?
- Q. 2. Which languages do you speak well enough to take part in a conversation?
- Q. 3. Please tell me if you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree or strongly disagree with the following statement: If it takes more resources per student to guarantee the same quality of education for French minority children (English in Quebec) as for children of the English majority (French in Quebec), I feel that these resources should be made available.
- Q. 4. Are you personally in favour of bilingualism for all of Canada? Yes or no? [tracking question]
- Q. 5. Are you personally in favour of bilingualism for your province? Yes or no? [tracking question]
- Q. 6. How important is it to you that your children/children in your community learn to speak a language other than English (French in Quebec)? [tracking question]
- Q. 7. If your children/children in your community were to learn to speak another language, which language other than English (French in Quebec) would it be most important for them to learn? [tracking question]
- Q. 8. I am going to read you a series of statements. For each of the following please tell me if you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree or strongly disagree. [tracking question all items]
  - a) In today's global economy, people with an ability to speak more than one language will be more successful.
  - b) Living in a country with two official languages is one of the things that really defines what it means to be Canadian.
  - c) Having two official languages has made Canada a more welcoming place for immigrants from different cultures and ethnic backgrounds.
  - d) Learning a second language is one of the more fulfilling things that you can do for yourself as a person.
  - e) In Canada, if you speak French as well as English, you have a better chance of finding a good job.
- Q. 9. [Use answers to "Which languages do you speak well enough to take part in a conversation", and prompt those who say "only English" or "only French", and proceed:]
   In your opinion, please tell me if you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree with each of the following statements:
  - a) I would be personally more likely to take advantage of French language training [English in Quebec] if classes were easily accessible.
  - b) If French language training [English in Quebec] was subsidized, I would be willing to pay part of the cost.



### **Questions** asked

- Q. 1. What is your mother tongue, meaning the first language you learned and still understand?
- Q. 2. Which languages do you speak well enough to take part in a conversation?
- Q. 3. Please tell me if you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree or strongly disagree with the following statement: If it takes more resources per student to guarantee the same quality of education for French minority children (English in Quebec) as for children of the English majority (French in Quebec), I feel that these resources should be made available.

Q. 4. Are you personally in favour of bilingualism for all of Canada? Yes or no? [tracking question]

- Q. 5. Are you personally in favour of bilingualism for your province? Yes or no? [tracking question]
- Q. 6. How important is it to you that your children/children in your community learn to speak a language other than English (French in Quebec)? [tracking question]
- Q. 7. If your children/children in your community were to learn to speak another language, which language other than English (French in Quebec) would it be most important for them to learn? [tracking question]
- Q. 8. I am going to read you a series of statements. For each of the following please tell me if you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree or strongly disagree. [tracking question all items]
  - a) In today's global economy, people with an ability to speak more than one language will be more successful.
  - b) Living in a country with two official languages is one of the things that really defines what it means to be Canadian.
  - c) Having two official languages has made Canada a more welcoming place for immigrants from different cultures and ethnic backgrounds.
  - d) Learning a second language is one of the more fulfilling things that you can do for yourself as a person.
  - e) In Canada, if you speak French as well as English, you have a better chance of finding a good job.
- Q. 9. [Use answers to "Which languages do you speak well enough to take part in a conversation", and prompt those who say "only English" or "only French", and proceed:]
  - In your opinion, please tell me if you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree with each of the following statements:
  - a) I would be personally more likely to take advantage of French language training [English in Quebec] if classes were easily accessible.
  - b) If French language training [English in Quebec] was subsidized, I would be willing to pay part of the cost.