

# Summary of the Evaluation of the Official Languages Support Programs, 2003-04 to 2020-21

## Description

The Evaluation of the Official Languages Support Programs (OLSPs) covers the period from 2003-04 to 2020-21. It focuses on the relevance, effectiveness, and efficiency of the OLSPs, with particular attention to the contribution of intermediate and long-term results.



The OLSPs are composed of two programs:

- The Development of Official Language Communities (DOLC), which aims to enhance the vitality of, and support the development of, Official Language Minority Communities (OLMCs)
- The Enhancement of Official Languages (EOL), whose objective is to promote the recognition of both official languages in Canadian society

## Relevance

**Significant and continuous progress has been made on official languages in Canada since 2003.**

The OLSPs have supported:

- the development of OLMCs
- the promotion of linguistic duality
- the learning of both official languages

Some challenges remain:

- access to post-secondary education in the minority language
- a shortage of qualified teaching staff
- opportunities to practise a second language outside the school environment
- consideration of socio-demographic changes

*Since 2018, Official Languages represents the fifth core responsibility of PCH.*

*The OLSPs have remained aligned with PCH's priorities and the Government of Canada's constitutional and legislative obligations.*

## Effectiveness

**The OLSPs are effective in contributing to the desired results.**

The DOLC program has helped to:

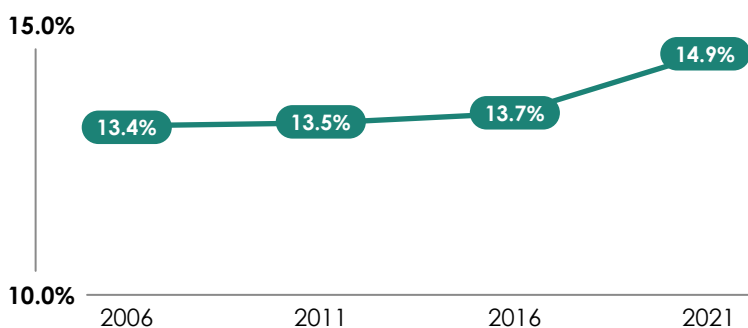
- promote access to infrastructure, programs, and services for OLMCs
- support access to minority-language education

The sustainability of OLMCs remains fragile, particularly for Francophone OLMCs:

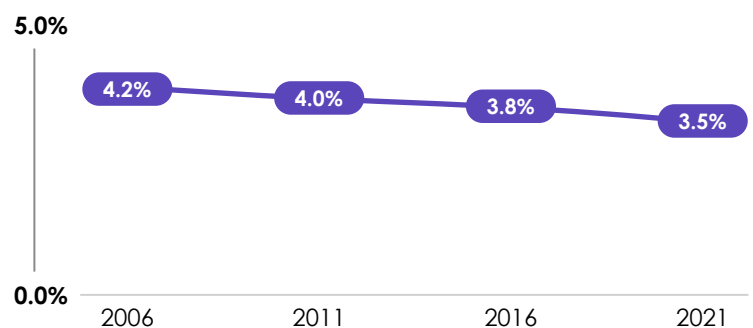
- the demographic weight of Francophone OLMCS is decreasing
- in Quebec, the number of students in minority-language has decreased between 2003-04 and 2019-20

### Demographic Weight by First Official Language Spoken in a Minority Context, 2006-2021

*English in Quebec*



*French outside Quebec*



Sources: National Censuses 2006 to 2021

The EOL program has contributed to:

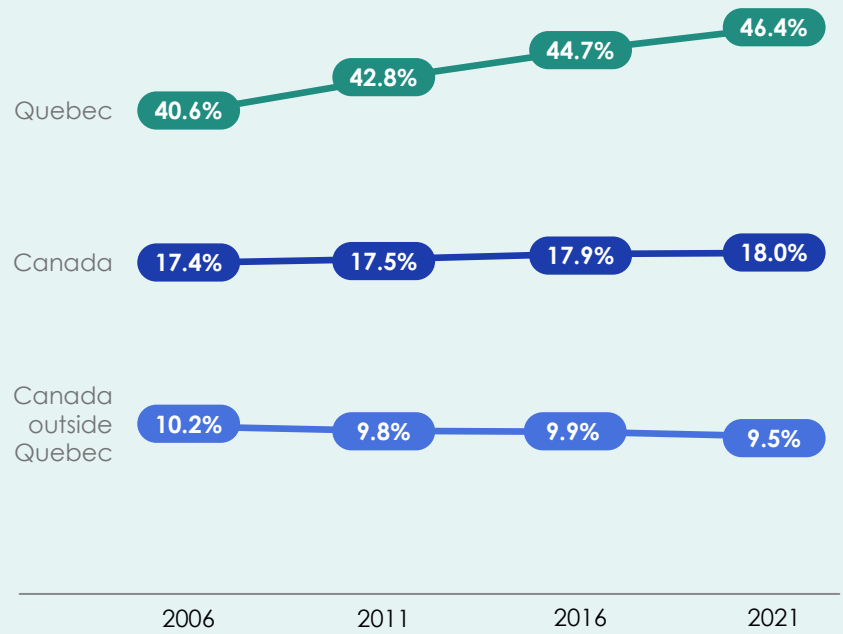
- a better understanding and appreciation of the benefits of both official languages
- learning a second official language



Challenges remain for access to second language learning:

- the number of students in French immersion has increased, but the supply is not keeping up with demand
- the number of students in second language learning programs has increased only slightly between 2003-04 and 2019-20

## The Bilingualism Rate (%) of Canadians from 2006 to 2021



Sources: National Censuses 2006 to 2021

- the bilingualism rate of Canadians has increased only slightly between 2006 and 2021
- the rate of bilingualism has increased in Quebec, while it has decreased in Canada outside Quebec between 2006 and 2021



## Efficiency

**The efficiency of the OLSPs has improved, particularly by adapting reporting and working with the provinces and territories.**

Some issues have limited the efficiency of the OLSPs:

- complex structure
- funding has increased only slightly between 2008-09 and 2017-18
- funding is not sufficiently aligned with provincial and territorial needs
- cumbersome reporting for beneficiaries

## Recommendations

Based on the findings of this evaluation, it is recommended that the Assistant Deputy Minister, Official Languages, Heritage and Regions:

- 1 Review the structure of the OLSPs, as well as its priorities and objectives, with particular attention to the objectives of the EOL program.
- 2 Analyze the results chain to improve the consistency of the logic model and the indicators associated with it.
- 3 Revise the reporting process and targeted data collection to strengthen informed decision-making.

