

Indigenous languages in Canada, 2021



In 2021, **237,420** Indigenous people reported speaking an Indigenous language well enough to conduct a conversation, down **4.3%** from 2016.

This represents 13.1% of the Indigenous population.

A diversity of Indigenous languages spoken across Canada, some growing and some in decline

Number of Indigenous people able to speak an Indigenous language in 2021 and percentage change from 2016

Decline Growth -30% -20% -10% 0 +10% +20% +30% -40% **THRESHOLDS** Kwak'wala (Kwakiutl) Tahltan 760 Michif Assini 1,050 Wolastoqewi boine 350 (Malecite) 1,845 790 Straits Haisla uktun **Atikamekw** Nisga'a Anicinabe-Tsilhqot'in 350 (Chilcotin) 1,080 mowin Tsimshian Lillooet 6,740 855 Oji-Cree (Algonquin) 445 580 Gitxsan 1,925 nulth (Nootka) **665** Stoney (Gitksan) 15,210 (Okanagan) Inuinnaqtun 665 750 915 1,110 Tlicho Dakelh (Dogrib) (Carrier) Mohawk Dakota Halkomelem 1,435 1,505 1,530 2,115 1,335 Slavey-Hare Mi'kmaq Blackfoot languages 9,000 6,585 2,215 Innu (Montagnais) and Naskapi languages Ojibway languages Dene 11,605 25,440 11,375 Cree languages Inuktitut 40,320 86,475

LEGEND

- * Tlingit 120
- ★ Tse'khene (Sekani) 135
- ♦ Kaska (Nahani) **225**
- □ Tsuu T'ina (Sarsi) 175
- △ Ktunaxa (Kutenai) 210
- O Tutchone languages **255**
- ★ Wetsuwet'en-Babine **240**
- ♦ Dane-zaa (Beaver) 270
- Gwich'in **275**
- ▲ Heiltsuk 325
- Ntlakapamux (Thompson) 470

Canada

3. The Assiniboine language was not included separately in 2016, thus no growth rate could be applied.

Indigenous languages classified as not included elsewhere (n.i.e.) are not shown.

Sources: Statistics Canada, Census of Population, 2016 and 2021. ISBN: 978-0-660-47966-8 | Catalogue number: 11-627-M

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^{1.} During the 2021 Census of Population, 63 census subdivisions defined as reserves and settlements were incompletely enumerated. As a result, some languages were undercounted, and the counts for Tsuu Tina and for Iroquoian languages such as Mohawk and Cayuga were significantly impacted.

To make appropriate comparisons across time, calculations of growth within this document are conducted by adjusting for incompletely enumerated reserves and settlements.
Thus, counts and proportions of Indigenous language speakers in 2016 may not match previously published figures.