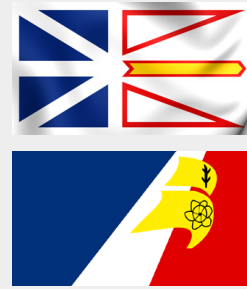




The French Presence in NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR



130

people **can speak French, but not English**

Less than 0.1%

of population

2,283

people **speak French as their first official language**

0.5%

of population¹

5,510

people **have French as a mother tongue or speak it at home**

1.1%

of population²

13,505

people **have French as a mother tongue, or speak it at home, or use it at work or have it as a language of instruction at school**

2.7%

of population³

26,075

people **can speak French, including 25,945 (5.1%) who can speak both English and French**

5.2%

of population

EDUCATION

For 2020–2021 in public schools from junior kindergarten to Grade 12:⁴

**26,796
STUDENTS**

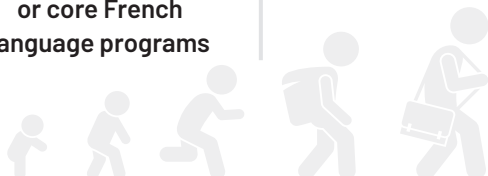
were in **regular French-as-a-second-language programs or core French language programs**

**10,458
STUDENTS**

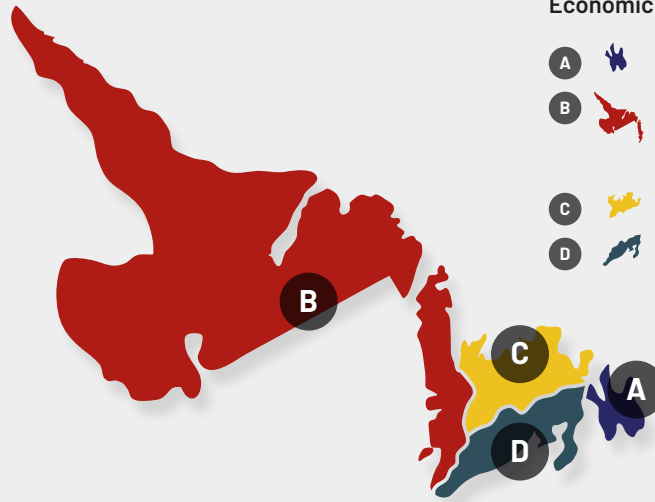
were in **French immersion programs**

**372
STUDENTS**

were in **education programs in the minority official language (French)**



WHERE DO PEOPLE LIVE WHO SPEAK FRENCH AS THEIR FIRST OFFICIAL LANGUAGE?⁵



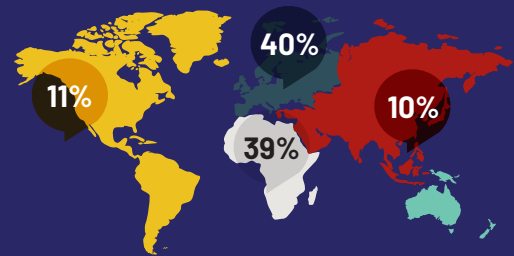
Economic Regions:

- A** Avalon Peninsula (St. John's): **54.0%**
- B** West Coast-Northern Peninsula-Labrador (Port au Port Peninsula, Labrador): **34.4%**
- C** Notre Dame-Central Bonavista Bay: **9.2%**
- D** South Coast-Burin Peninsula: **2.2%**

WHERE WERE THEY BORN?⁶



WHERE WERE FRENCH-SPEAKING IMMIGRANTS BORN?⁶



MEDIA

NEWSPAPER



Le Gaboteur

RADIO



Radio-Canada ICI Première
and ICI Musique

TELEVISION



ICI Radio-Canada Télé and
Unis TV

CELEBRATE!

MARCH

The **Jeux d'hiver franco-labradoriens** are held annually in Labrador City.

MAY

Provincial Francophonie Day is held yearly on May 30.

JUNE-JULY

The **Saint-Jean Baptiste Walk-a-thon** has been held each year for the past half century in the Port au Port Peninsula.

FALL

The **Festival du vent** in St. John's celebrates Francophone culture and music.

YEARLY

Three annual folk festivals are held on the Port au Port Peninsula:

Une Longue Veillée in Cape St. George, Une Journée dans l'Passé in Mainland and Un plaisir du vieux temps in Black Duck Brook.

HISTORY

From time immemorial, Indigenous peoples and their languages have been present in the land that we now call Newfoundland and Labrador.

1400s and 1500s: After the temporary presence of the Vikings in the 11th century, the first European fishers and explorers arrive on the shores of Newfoundland, including the English (1497) and the French (1534).

1610: An English colony settles in Cuper's Cove (now Cupids).

1660: A French colony settles in Plaisance (now Placentia).

1696-1697: The majority of English settlers are deported by French forces, but the settlements are rebuilt in the decades and centuries that follow, including with the arrival of Irish settlers, who bring with them their own language and dialect.

1600s-early 1900s: French and Acadian fishers settle mainly around St. Georges Bay and the southwest coast of the island.

1973: The Fédération des francophones de Terre-Neuve et du Labrador is created to represent the province's Francophone community.

1984: The province's first French language school opens in Mainland.

1986: The Franco-Newfoundland and Labrador flag is adopted and then raised for the first time at the House of Assembly on May 30, 1992.

1996: The Newfoundland and Labrador government grants the province's French speakers the right to form their own school board, which they do a year later.

1999: The provincial government declares May 30 as Provincial Francophonie Day.

2015: The provincial government adopts its *French Language Services Policy*, which aims to provide a consistent and coordinated approach to deliver provincial government services in French.

Sources and notes:

Unless indicated otherwise, all data is from Statistics Canada, *Census Profile*, 2021 Census of Population, Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 98-316-X2021001, Ottawa.

¹ For additional information, please see our [Snapshots of official languages in Canada \(2021\)](#).

² [Statistics Canada. Table 98-10-0214-01.](#)

³ Data provided by Statistics Canada, from 2021 Census of Population (2A-L). Includes all individuals having French alone or in combination with another language as a mother tongue, or a language spoken at home, or a language used at work or, among school-aged children who could speak French, had attended a regular French-language school or a French immersion program.

⁴ [Statistics Canada. Table 37-10-0009-01.](#)

⁵ [Statistics Canada. Table 98-10-0196-01.](#)

⁶ Data provided by Statistics Canada, from 2021 Census of Population (2A-L).