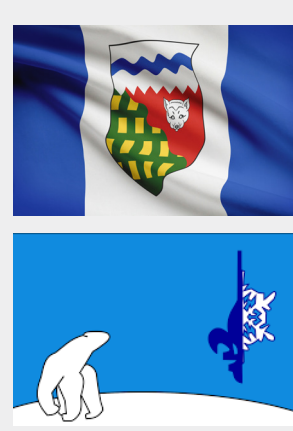


The French Presence in the NORTHWEST TERRITORIES



100 people can speak French, but not English

0.2% of population

1,213 people speak French as their first official language

3.0% of population¹

1,955 people have French as a mother tongue or speak it at home

4.8% of population²

3,035 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

7.5% of population³

4,395 people can speak French, including 4,295 (10.6%) who can speak both English and French

10.8% of population

EDUCATION

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

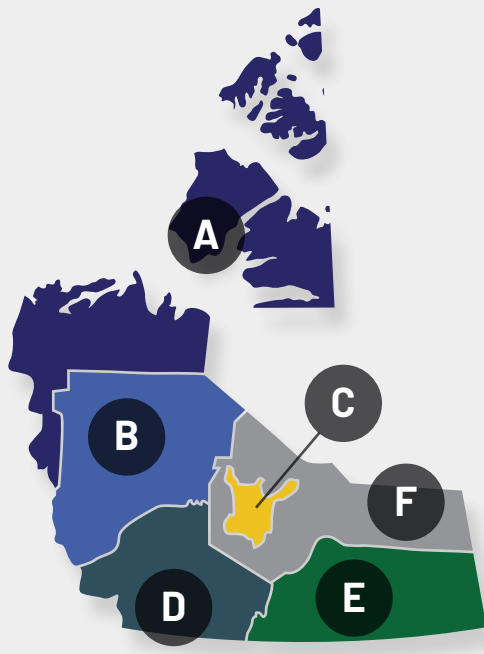
1,839 STUDENTS were in regular French-as-a-second-language programs or core French language programs

1,038 STUDENTS were in French immersion programs

246 STUDENTS were in education programs in the minority official language (French)



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



Census Divisions:

- A Region 1 (Inuvik): **3.5%**
- B Region 2: **2.5%**
- C Region 3: **0.0%**
- D Region 4: **2.5%**
- E Region 5 (Fort Smith, Hay River): **12.8%**
- F Region 6 (Yellowknife): **78.0%**

WHERE WERE THEY BORN?⁶



CELEBRATE!

Throughout the year, the Association franco-culturelle de Yellowknife and the Association franco-ténoise du Sud et de l'Ouest in Hay River organize many French-language activities and festivals.

The Association franco-culturelle de Yellowknife also organizes a Francophone component to several large festivals, including **Folk on the Rock** (July), **Old Town Rumble and Ride** (August) and the **Snowking's Festival** (Winter).

JUNE

Saint-Jean-Baptiste Day (June 24) showcases the diversity of the French-speaking people of the Northwest Territories.

MEDIA

NEWSPAPER

L'Aquilon

RADIO

CIVR Radio Taïga FM 103.5 (Yellowknife)

TELEVISION

Unis TV, Radio-Canada - ICI Grand Nord

HISTORY

- ✦ **From time immemorial**, Indigenous peoples have been present in the land that we now call the Northwest Territories. Today, nine Indigenous languages are spoken in the territory.
- ✦ **Late 1700s–1800s**: English and French explorers begin arriving and establishing fur trade routes in what will be the Northwest Territories.
- ✦ **1892**: English becomes the territory's only official language by law, overriding an 1877 act that gave equal status to English and French.
- ✦ **1950s**: The mining and petroleum boom in the Northwest Territories attracts many Francophones, especially from Quebec.
- ✦ **1978**: The Association culturelle franco-ténoise, now the Fédération franco-ténoise, is founded.
- ✦ **1984**: With the adoption of the territory's first official languages act, French is re-established as one of the official languages of the Northwest Territories. Today, there are 11 official languages in this territory, including English, French and 9 Indigenous languages.
- ✦ **1990**: The position of Languages Commissioner of the Northwest Territories, who oversees compliance with the territory's *Official Languages Act*, is created.
- ✦ **1992**: The Franco-Ténois flag is raised for the first time.
- ✦ **1997**: The Conseil scolaire francophone, now the Commission scolaire francophone des Territoires du Nord-Ouest, the only school board in the territory to offer a French first language program, is created.
- ✦ **1999**: The Northwest Territories divide into two territories, creating the new territory of Nunavut.
- ✦ **Since the turn of the millennium**, many Francophones from Canada and abroad, attracted by the experience of the Great North, have settled in the Northwest Territories and contributed to the vitality of the Franco-Ténois community.

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).