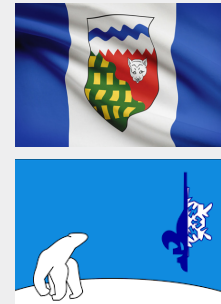




# The French Presence in the NORTHWEST TERRITORIES



**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 population<sup>1</sup>

**1,955**

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

**4.8%**

of population<sup>2</sup>

**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 population<sup>3</sup>

**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:<sup>4</sup>

**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**

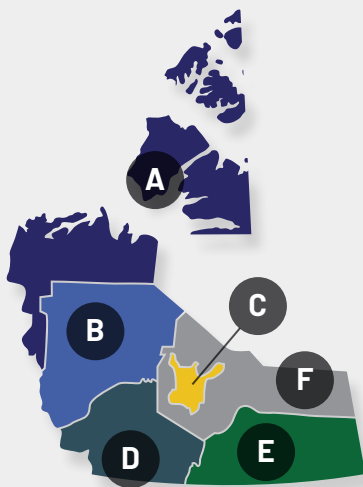
**246  
STUDENTS**

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



## WHERE DO PEOPLE LIVE

WHO SPEAK FRENCH AS THEIR FIRST OFFICIAL LANGUAGE?<sup>5</sup>



### 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?<sup>6</sup>



## 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 Québec.
- 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.

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## 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.

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

<sup>2</sup> [Statistics Canada, Table 98-10-0214-01](#).

<sup>3</sup> 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.

<sup>4</sup> [Statistics Canada, Table 37-10-0009-01](#).

<sup>5</sup> [Statistics Canada, Table 98-10-0196-01](#).

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