

# The French Presence in NUNAVUT

65

people can speak French, but not English

623

people speak French as their first official language

880

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

995

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

1,455

people can speak French, including 1,390 (3.8%) who can speak both English and French

0.2%

of population

1.7%

of population<sup>1</sup>

2.4%

of population<sup>2</sup>

2.7%

of population<sup>3</sup>

4.0%

of population

## EDUCATION

For 2020–2021 in public schools from junior kindergarten to Grade 12:<sup>4</sup>


108  
STUDENTS

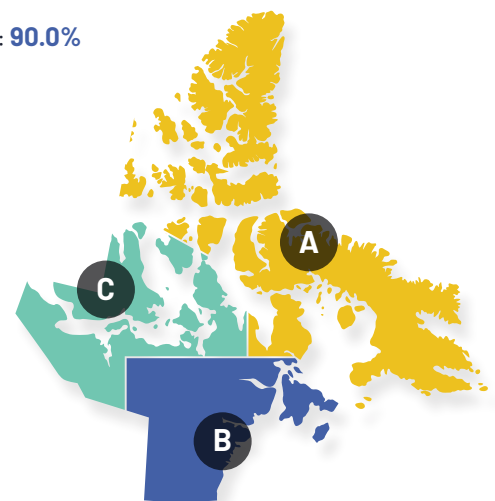
were in education programs in the minority official language (French)

## WHERE DO PEOPLE LIVE

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

Census Divisions:

- A  Qikiqtaaluk (Iqaluit): 90.0%
- B  Kivalliq: 5.6%
- C  Kitikmeot: 4.4%



## MEDIA

### NEWSPAPER



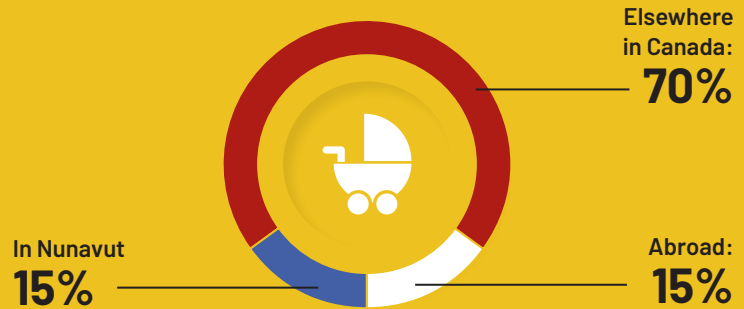
Le Nunavoix

### RADIO



CFRT FM 107.3 (Iqaluit)

## WHERE WERE THEY BORN?<sup>6</sup>



## CELEBRATE!



The Association des francophones du Nunavut hosts events throughout the year, such as French-language film screenings, music concerts, book fairs and traditional suppers, including:

**JUNE**

The **Souper de homards** (lobster supper)

**FALL**

The **Souper d'huîtres** (oyster supper)

## HISTORY

- **From time immemorial**, Inuit and their languages have been present in the land that we now call Nunavut.
- **Between the 16th and 19th centuries**: The first Anglophones and Francophones to come to the area are part of exploration, fur trade, whaling and military expeditions.
- **20th century**: English-speaking and French-speaking minorities begin to settle more permanently in what is now Nunavut.
- **1970s**: The federal government opens regional offices with bilingual English-French employees in Iqaluit. Services in French are then offered to those living in the territory.
- **At the same time**, a number of French speakers from Quebec, recruited by Bell Canada to build the infrastructure necessary for the development of Iqaluit, settle in what is now Nunavut.
- **1981**: The organization that is now the Association des francophones du Nunavut is created.
- **1993**: The first elementary school program with French as the language of instruction is launched.
- **1999**: The territory of Nunavut is officially created.
- **2001**: The only French-language school in Nunavut, École des Trois-Soleils, opens.
- **2002**: The Franco-Nunavois flag is adopted.
- **2004**: The Commission scolaire francophone du Nunavut is created.
- **2008**: The Legislative Assembly of Nunavut passes its *Official Languages Act*, which recognizes three official languages: Inuktitut, English and 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.

<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 98-10-0193-01.](#)

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