

The French Presence in PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND



135 people can speak French, but not English

0.1% of population

4,558 people speak French as their first official language

3.0% of population¹

7,175 people have French as a mother tongue or speak it at home

4.7% of population²

12,380 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

8.2% of population³

19,520 people can speak French, including 19,385 (12.7%) who can speak both English and French

12.8% of population

EDUCATION

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

6,651 STUDENTS were in regular French-as-a-second-language programs or core French language programs

5,253 STUDENTS were in French immersion programs

1,098 STUDENTS were in education programs in the minority official language (French)



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



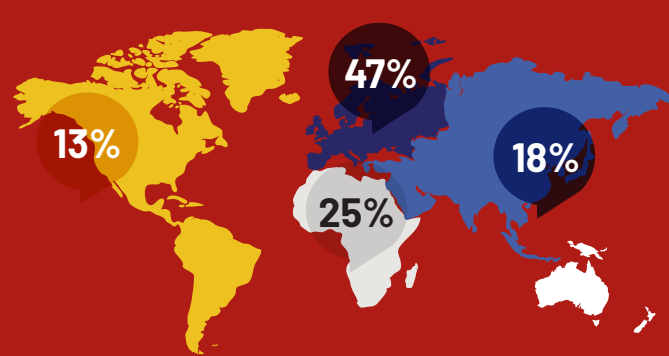
Census Divisions:

- A Prince County: **55.6%**
- B Queens County: **39.4%**
- C Kings County: **5.0%**

WHERE WERE THEY BORN?⁶



WHERE WERE FRENCH-SPEAKING IMMIGRANTS BORN?⁶



MEDIA

NEWSPAPER

La Voix acadienne

RADIO

Radio-Canada ICI Première and ICI Musique

TELEVISION

ICI Radio-Canada Télé and Unis TV

CELEBRATE!

SEPTEMBER

The **Evangeline Area Agricultural Exhibition and Acadian Festival** celebrate the area's Acadian culture and agricultural roots.

SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER

The friendly annual **festival "Meat Pie"** is held across PEI to find the best traditional Acadian meat pie and the best non-traditional meat pie.

FRENCH-LANGUAGE BOOK FAIRS are held alternately every year in Summerside or Charlottetown.

FOR MORE EVENTS, CHECK OUT ACADIEPEI.COM/EXPERIENCES/FESTIVALS-EVENTS/

HISTORY

- ★ **From time immemorial**, Indigenous peoples and their languages have been present in the land that we now call Prince Edward Island.
- ★ **1720**: A French colony settles on what was then called Isle Saint-Jean.
- ★ **1758**: Almost the entire Acadian population is deported from the island.
- ★ **1763**: The island is ceded to the British, after which English-speaking settlers begin to move in, followed by other settlers from various linguistic groups in the following decades (including Gaelic speakers). Despite this, the province's Acadian and French-speaking communities manage to hang on over the years, especially with the return of deported Acadian settlers, and gradually regain their vitality.
- ★ **1884**: Acadians across the Maritimes adopt their national symbols, including their flag, at the Acadian Convention in Miscouche.
- ★ **1917**: Aubin-Edmond Arsenault becomes Prince Edward Island's premier, the first Acadian premier in Canada.
- ★ **1919**: The Société Saint-Thomas-d'Aquin (now the Société acadienne et francophone de l'Île-du-Prince-Édouard - SAFÎle), an organization representing the province's Acadians and French-speakers, is created.
- ★ **1990**: The Prince Edward Island government creates a French-language school board, responsible for managing and promoting French education in the province.
- ★ **1999**: Prince Edward Island adopts its first *French Language Services Act*. However, few of the Act's provisions are ever enacted.
- ★ **2013**: The revised Act provides for the designation of bilingual services, the creation of the Acadian and Francophone Community Advisory Committee and the establishment of a complaint mechanism.

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 \(2021\)](https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/98-316-x2021001/article/00001-eng).

² [Statistics Canada, Table 98-10-0214-01](https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/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](https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/37-10-0009-01).

⁵ [Statistics Canada, Table 98-10-0193-01](https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/98-10-0193-01).

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