



# 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 population<sup>1</sup>

**7,175**

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

**4.7%**

of population<sup>2</sup>

**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 population<sup>3</sup>

**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:<sup>4</sup>

**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?<sup>5</sup>



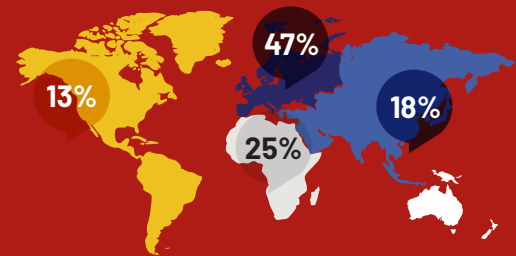
Census Divisions:

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

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



## WHERE WERE FRENCH-SPEAKING IMMIGRANTS BORN?<sup>6</sup>



## 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/](http://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.

OFFICIALLANGUAGES.GC.CA

## 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).