



The French Presence in NOVA SCOTIA

605 people can speak French, but not English

0.1% of population

27,935 people speak French as their first official language

2.9% of population¹

43,705 people have French as a mother tongue or speak it at home

4.6% of population²

62,460 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

6.5% of population³

99,545 people can speak French, including **98,940 (10.3%)** who can speak both English and French

10.4% of population

EDUCATION

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

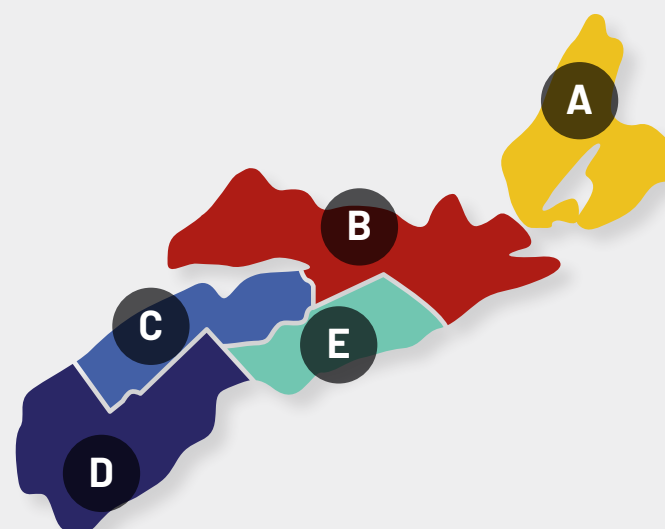
43,581 STUDENTS were in regular French-as-a-second-language programs or core French language programs

15,936 STUDENTS were in French immersion programs

6,408 STUDENTS were in education programs in the minority official language (French)

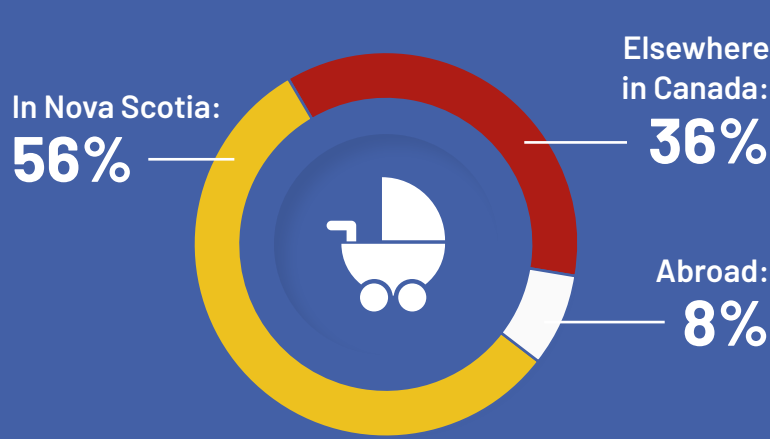


WHERE DO PEOPLE LIVE WHO SPEAK FRENCH AS THEIR FIRST OFFICIAL LANGUAGE?⁵

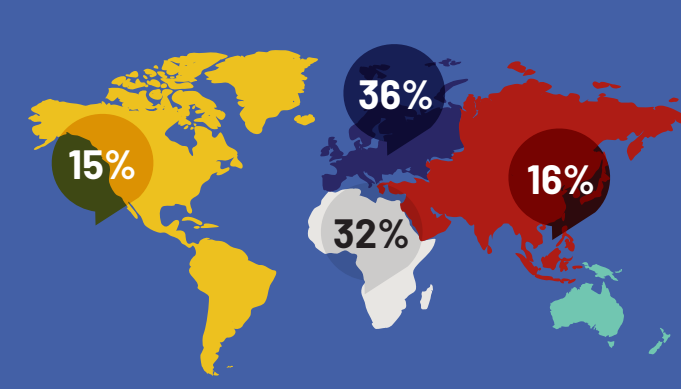


- Economic Regions:**
- A Cape Breton: **14.4%**
 - B North Shore: **5.8%**
 - C Annapolis Valley: **7.5%**
 - D Southern: **33.8%**
 - E Halifax: **38.5%**

WHERE WERE THEY BORN?⁶



WHERE WERE FRENCH-SPEAKING IMMIGRANTS BORN?⁶



MEDIA

NEWSPAPER

Le Courrier de la Nouvelle-Écosse

RADIO

4 French-language radio stations and Radio-Canada ICI Première and ICI Musique

TELEVISION

ICI Radio-Canada Télé and Unis TV

CELEBRATE!

FEBRUARY-MARCH

The **Mi-Carême (Mid-Lent) festival**, whose French origins date back to the Middle Ages, is celebrated in the Chéticamp and St. Joseph du Moine region.

JULY-AUGUST

The **world's oldest Acadian festival** is held each year in Clare, in the Baie Sainte-Marie region.

AUGUST 15: **National Acadian Day**

FALL

Francofest is the largest annual Francophone event held in Halifax.

FOR MORE EVENTS, CHECK OUT ACADIEN.NOVASCOTIA.CA/EN/CELEBRATIONS

HISTORY

- ★ **From time immemorial**, Indigenous peoples and their languages have been present in the land that we now call Nova Scotia. In 2022, Mi'kmaq was recognized as Nova Scotia's first language.
- ★ **1605**: The first French settlers establish Port-Royal, which will become the heart of the Acadian colony.
- ★ **1713**: The Nova Scotia peninsula is transferred to Great Britain. Over the next few decades, English speakers would begin to settle in the area (particularly Halifax in 1749), as would other language groups (in Lunenburg, for example, in 1753).
- ★ **1755–1763**: All of Acadia is ceded to the British, and the majority of the Acadian population is deported by British forces.
- ★ **Beginning in 1764**: The deported Acadians are allowed to return and settle along the coast, particularly in Chéticamp, Isle Madame, St. Mary's Bay and Par-en-Bas.
- ★ **1890**: The Collège Sainte-Anne, now the Université Sainte-Anne, is founded. This institution contributes to the development of the Acadian people of Nova Scotia.

- ★ **1968**: The Fédération acadienne de la Nouvelle-Écosse, an organization representing the province's Acadian population, is founded.
- ★ **1981**: The province passes the *Education Act*, which grants the Acadian population the right to receive French first language education.
- ★ **1996**: Acadians are given control of their own education system with the creation of the Conseil scolaire acadien provincial, the province's only French-language school board.
- ★ **2004**: Nova Scotia's *French-language Services Act* is passed, followed by its *French-language Services Regulations* in 2006.
- ★ **2012**: The province's Acadian and French-speaking community rallies following the abolition of protected electoral districts. The abolition would be ruled unconstitutional by the province's Court of Appeal in 2017.

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).