



The French Presence in NEW BRUNSWICK

60,175

people **can speak French, but not English**

231,850

people **speak French as their first official language**

256,325

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

283,620

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**

320,295

people **can speak French, including 260,120 (34%) who can speak both English and French**

7.9%

of population

30.3%

of population¹

33.5%

of population²

37.4%

of population³

41.9%

of population

EDUCATION

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

**22,389
STUDENTS**

were in **regular French-as-a-second-language programs or core French language programs**

**25,161
STUDENTS**

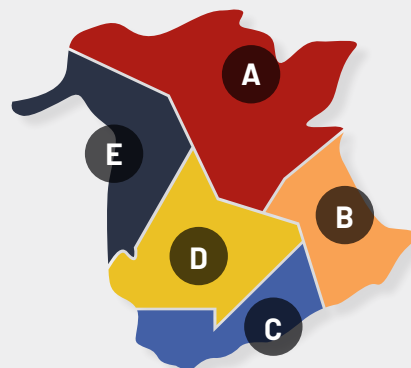
were in **French immersion programs**

**29,136
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** Campbellton–Miramichi: **40.0%**
- B** Moncton–Richibucto: **37.5%**
- C** Saint John–St. Stephen: **2.3%**
- D** Fredericton–Oromocto: **4.2%**
- E** Edmundston–Woodstock: **16.0%**

WHERE WERE THEY BORN?⁶

In New Brunswick:

86%



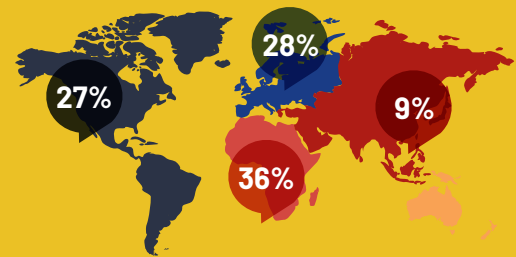
Elsewhere
in Canada:

10%

Abroad:

4%

WHERE WERE FRENCH-SPEAKING IMMIGRANTS BORN?⁶



MEDIA

NEWSPAPER



Acadie Nouvelle (daily) and 3 French-language regional newspapers published weekly (*Le Moniteur Acadien*, *Info-Weekend* and *L'Étoile*)

RADIO



14 French-language radio stations

TELEVISION



ICI Radio-Canada Télé, Unis TV and Rogers Francophone community programming in Bathurst, Edmunston and Moncton

There are **SEVERAL MAJOR FRENCH-LANGUAGE BOOK FAIRS** in the province, including Edmunston, the Acadian Peninsula, Dieppe and Saint John.

CELEBRATE!

APRIL

The **Frye Festival**, a bilingual celebration of books, ideas and the imagination, takes place in Moncton and is the largest literary event in Atlantic Canada.

JUNE-JULY

The **Grand Falls Regional Potato Festival** is a popular bilingual event offering an array of activities and entertainment for all ages.

AUGUST

AUGUST 15: **National Acadian Day**

The **Festival acadien de Caraquet** promotes Acadian and Francophone culture.

NOVEMBER

The **FrancoFête en Acadie** is an annual Acadian and Francophone performing arts event, bringing together local presenters, artists and professionals, as well as members of the public.

FOR MORE EVENTS, CHECK OUT INSPIREDBYNB.CA

HISTORY

- ★ **From time immemorial**, Indigenous peoples and their languages have been present in the land that we now call New Brunswick.
- ★ **1604**: French pioneers, the ancestors of Acadian people, settle on Saint Croix Island, between what is now New Brunswick and Maine. Over the course of a century and a half, they establish vibrant communities along the Bay of Fundy.
- ★ **1755–1763**: The Acadian community is deported and dispersed by British forces during the Great Upheaval, but gradually recovers its vitality.
- ★ **After the American War of Independence (1775–1783)**, Loyalist refugees came to settle in what is now New Brunswick, resulting in the establishment of the province's English speaking population. Beginning in the early 20th century, other language groups also began to settle in what is now New Brunswick.
- ★ **1875**: Acadians protest in Caraquet against a law that prohibits the teaching of Catholicism in schools. As a result of this protest, amendments are passed, allowing the teaching of Catholicism outside of school hours and guaranteeing instruction in French.
- ★ **1881**: The first Acadian National Convention is held in Memramcook. August 15 is then designated National Acadian Day.
- ★ **1923**: Pierre Veniot becomes premier of the province, a first for an Acadian.
- ★ **1960**: Acadian Louis J. Robichaud is elected premier. His government affirms the equal status and opportunities of Acadians, creates the Université de Moncton and adopts the *Act Respecting the Official Languages of New Brunswick* (1969). This act, implemented by his Anglophone successor Richard Hatfield, makes New Brunswick an officially bilingual province.
- ★ **1973**: The Société des Acadiens (now the Société de l'Acadie du Nouveau-Brunswick), a political representation structure for Acadia in the province, is founded.
- ★ **1981**: The *Act Recognizing the Equality of the Two Official Linguistic Communities in New Brunswick* (Bill 88) is passed. The equality of the province's Anglophone and Francophone communities is incorporated in the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms* in 1993.
- ★ **2002**: The province passes a new *Official Languages Act* and creates the position of Commissioner of Official Languages for New Brunswick.
- ★ **2002**: The city of Moncton becomes the first Canadian city to become officially bilingual.

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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.

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).