

# The French Presence in SASKATCHEWAN

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

Less than 0.1% of population

**12,243** people speak French as their first official language

1.1% of population<sup>1</sup>

**23,245** people have French as a mother tongue or speak it at home

2.1% of population<sup>2</sup>

**36,315** 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

3.3% of population<sup>3</sup>

**52,420** people can speak French, including 51,970 (4.7%) who can speak both English and French

4.7% of population

## EDUCATION

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

**26,046 STUDENTS** were in regular French-as-a-second-language programs or core French language programs

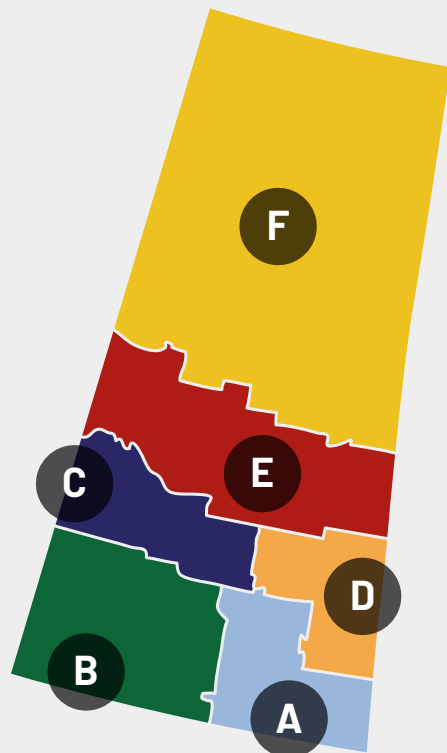
**16,758 STUDENTS** were in French immersion programs

**1,995 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>

There are three main French-speaking regions in the province: along the North and South Saskatchewan rivers, in the southeast and in the southwest of the province.



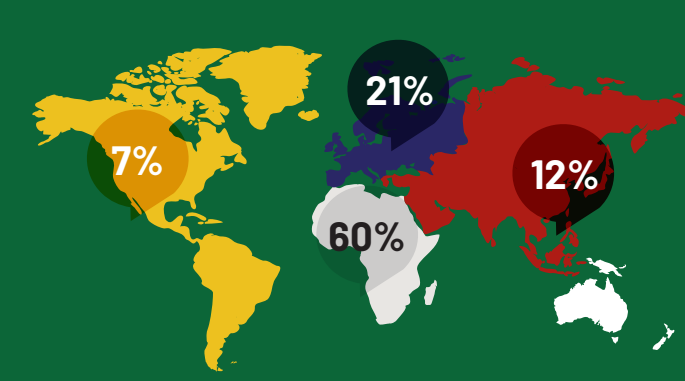
### Economic Regions:

- A Regina–Moose Mountain: 27.7%
- B Swift Current–Moose Jaw: 12.0%
- C Saskatoon–Biggar: 31.9%
- D Yorkton–Melville: 3.4%
- E Prince Albert: 24.3%
- F Northern: 0.8%

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



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



## MEDIA

### NEWSPAPER

**L'Eau Vive**

### RADIO

CFRG FM 93.1 (Gravelbourg) and Radio-Canada ICI Première and ICI Musique

### TELEVISION

ICI Radio-Canada Télé and Unis TV

## CELEBRATE!

### MAY

**Cinergie**, the International Francophone Film Festival, is held yearly in Saskatoon.

### JULY

The **Fête Fransaskoise festival** showcases Francophone art, culture and music.

### NOVEMBER

The **Rendez-vous Fransaskois** brings the community together to talk about and celebrate its vitality and development.

## HISTORY

- From time immemorial**, Indigenous peoples and their languages have been present in the land that we now call Saskatchewan.
- 1753**: Fort à la Corne, the westernmost French settlement at the time, is built on the banks of the Saskatchewan River.
- 1800s**: French-speaking Catholic clergy arrive in Saskatchewan and establish a mission at Île-à-la-Croix, a trading post where there is a large population of French-speaking Métis. The Métis, people of mixed European and Indigenous ancestry, enjoy a particular influence in what is now Saskatchewan, especially through their involvement in the fur trade.
- 1877**: The Parliament of Canada amends the *North-West Territories Act* to incorporate guarantees of legislative and judicial bilingualism. The North-West Territories of the time includes the future province of Saskatchewan. Many English-speaking settlers from Ontario and Great Britain settle in the area in the following decades.
- 1884**: The local Métis, led by Louis Riel, launch a resistance movement against the Canadian government. The resistance is eventually defeated by the Canadian militia, and Riel is arrested and hanged in Regina.
- 1891–1892**: Some members of the territorial council try unsuccessfully to abolish legislative and judicial bilingualism. Teaching in French is nevertheless prohibited.

- 1905**: The Parliament of Canada passes twin acts that create the provinces of Alberta and Saskatchewan. The guarantees of bilingualism granted in 1877 remain in effect in Saskatchewan but are not applied.
- 1912**: The Association franco-canadienne de la Saskatchewan, now the Assemblée communautaire fransaskoise, is founded.
- 1920s**: French speakers from elsewhere in Canada and Europe come to settle in Saskatchewan. At the same time, many settlers speaking other languages also move to the province.
- 1968**: The *Education Act* is amended to allow teaching in French.
- 1970s**: The Fransaskois flag is adopted by Saskatchewan's Francophone community.
- 1988**: Saskatchewan adopts the *Act Respecting the Use of the English and French Languages*, which recognizes the right to use French in the legislature and in the courts.
- 1990**: Saskatchewan's Francophone Affairs Branch is created.
- 1990s**: The province's first French-language school boards are established.
- 2003**: Saskatchewan adopts its French-language Services Policy.
- 2012**: The provincial government declares 2012 as the Year of the Fransaskois.

### 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 98-10-0196-01.](#)

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