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[1]
23,245	people **have French as a mother tongue** or **speak it at home**	**2.1%** — of population[2]
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[3]
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:[4]

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

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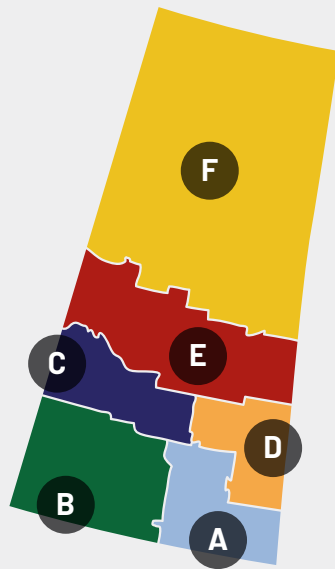were in **French immersion programs**

1,995 STUDENTS
were in **education programs in the minority official language (French)**

WHERE DO PEOPLE LIVE

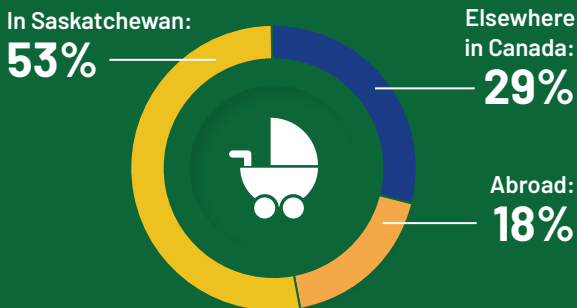## WHO SPEAK FRENCH AS THEIR FIRST OFFICIAL LANGUAGE?[5]

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.
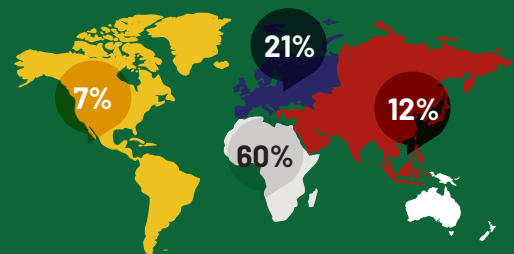
Economic Regions:

- **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?[6]

In Saskatchewan:
53%

Elsewhere in Canada:
29%

Abroad:
18%

WHERE WERE FRENCH-SPEAKING IMMIGRANTS BORN?[6]

- **7%**
- **21%**
- **12%**
- **60%**

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-Crosse, 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.

OFFICIALLANGUAGES.GC.CA