



The French Presence in ALBERTA

3,105 people can speak French, but not English

0.1% of population

72,203 people speak French as their first official language

1.7% of population¹

119,690 people have French as a mother tongue or speak it at home

2.8% of population²

161,725 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

3.9% of population³

261,435 people can speak French, including 258,330 (6.1%) who can speak both English and French

6.2% of population

EDUCATION

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

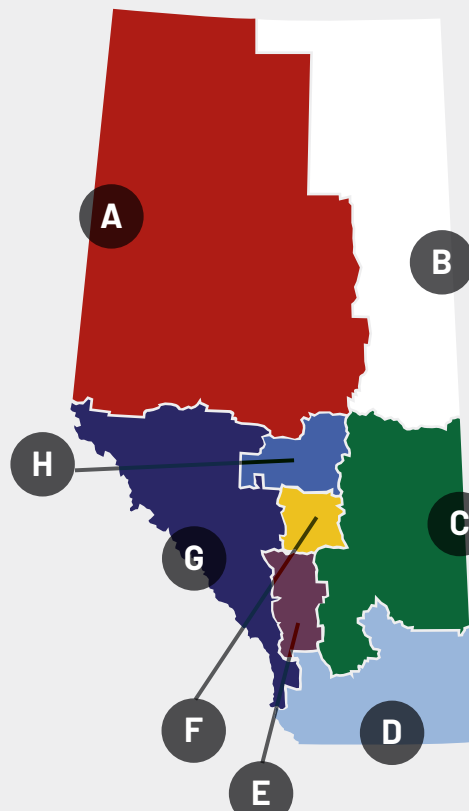
122,961 STUDENTS were in regular French-as-a-second-language programs or core French language programs

43,587 STUDENTS were in French immersion programs

8,532 STUDENTS were in education programs in the minority official language (French)



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



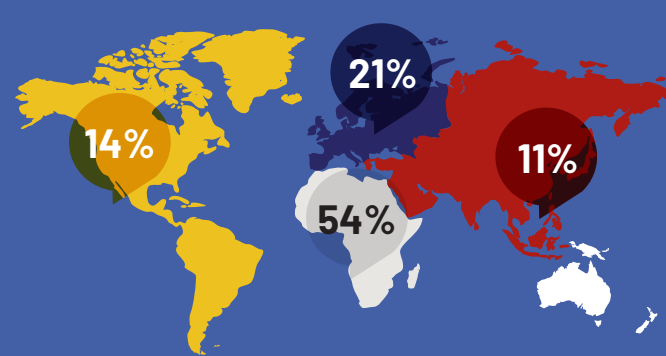
Economic Regions:

- A Athabasca-Grande Prairie-Peace River: **7.6%**
- B Wood Buffalo-Cold Lake: **6.6%**
- C Camrose-Drumheller: **2.4%**
- D Lethbridge-Medicine Hat: **3.2%**
- E Calgary: **33.7%**
- F Red Deer: **3.0%**
- G Banff-Jasper-Rocky Mountain House: **3.6%**
- H Edmonton: **39.8%**

WHERE WERE THEY BORN?⁶



WHERE WERE FRENCH-SPEAKING IMMIGRANTS BORN?⁶



MEDIA

NEWSPAPER

Le Franco

RADIO

Radio-Cité 97.9 (Edmonton), Boréal FM 92.1 (Plamondon / Lac La Biche), Nord-Ouest FM (Rivière-la-paix), and Radio-Canada ICI Première and ICI Musique

TELEVISION

ICI Radio-Canada Télé and Unis TV

THE FRABIO APP BRINGS TOGETHER LE FRANCO, RADIO-CITÉ, BORÉAL FM AND NORD-OUEST FM.

CELEBRATE!

FEBRUARY

The Flying Canoë Volant festival showcases the culture and traditions of the First Nations, French Canadian and Métis peoples and celebrates the beauty of the Mill Creek ravine and Edmonton's French quarter.

The Carnaval de St-Isidore celebrates French culture and traditions in Alberta.

MARCH

Alberta's Francophonie month includes a rich program of activities to celebrate the province's Francophone community.

JULY

The Fête franco-albertaine is a family festival that brings together Francophones of all ages from across the province.

AUGUST

Franco Festival Calgary is a celebration of many Francophone cultures, from Africa to Europe, through Asia and the Americas, using music, dance, cooking and crafts.

HISTORY

- ✦ **From time immemorial**, Indigenous peoples and their languages have been present in the land that we now call Alberta.
- ✦ **18th century**: With the arrival of the first French fur traders and the subsequent development of Métis communities in the region, French was the first European language spoken in Alberta.
- ✦ **1890s**: Many settlers from Ontario, the United States and Eastern Europe arrive in Alberta in search of prosperity. English becomes the majority language in the region, where an increasing number of other languages are spoken. French-speaking communities continue to develop, however, with the arrival of French-speaking settlers from Quebec, New England and Europe, encouraged by the Catholic orders, including the Oblates and the Grey Nuns.
- ✦ **1892**: The Legislative Assembly makes English the only language of debate and instruction.
- ✦ **1908**: The Catholic Oblate order founds the Juniorat Saint-Jean, the current Campus Saint-Jean at the University of Alberta.

- ✦ **1925**: The Association canadienne-française de l'Alberta is created.
- ✦ **From the latter half of the 20th century**, many Francophones from Quebec, Acadia and elsewhere in the world moved to the province in search of opportunity.
- ✦ **1964**: The School Act is amended to allow one hour of instruction in French per day.
- ✦ **1982**: The Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms guarantees the teaching of French at the primary and secondary levels in the province.
- ✦ **1982**: The Franco-Albertan flag is raised for the first time.
- ✦ **1990**: After a lawsuit filed by Francophone parents against the Alberta government in 1983, the Supreme Court recognizes the right of Franco-Albertans to manage their schools, which leads to the creation of the first French-language school boards in the province. This ruling is important for the development of the network of French-language minority schools across the country in the 1990s.
- ✦ **1999**: The Alberta government creates the Francophone Affairs Secretariat.
- ✦ **2017**: The Alberta government adopts its first French Policy, which contains principles for provincial French services.

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).