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Silent speakers of Indigenous languages in Canada: A socio-demographic and geographic analysis

by Henry Robertson

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Introduction

Released data from the 2021 Census of Population have found that 14,020 people in Canada had an Indigenous mother tongue, but while still able to understand it, could no longer speak that language well enough to conduct a conversation. In language research and revitalization work, this situation is sometimes described using the concept of “silent speakers,” referring to individuals who have strong comprehension of their language even if they do not actively speak it (First Peoples’ Cultural Council, 2021). This group is increasingly recognized as important in efforts to support language reclamation.

By virtue of their receptive fluency, silent speakers possess a sophisticated “ear” for their languages, allowing them to verify correct pronunciation and traditional cadence. Beyond linguistic mechanics, they often carry the protocols, oral histories, and cultural contexts—the “how and when”—of traditional communication (Ross, 2025). Consequently, they serve as a vital bridge between fluent Elders and new learners.

Silent speakers made up 7.6% of the 185,510 people who had an Indigenous mother tongue, the rest (171,490 people) were active speakers, meaning they could still speak the language well enough to have a conversation. On average, silent speakers were slightly older than active mother tongue Indigenous language speakers (40 years versus 38 years). While the Indigenous population is younger than the non-Indigenous population, it too is aging (Statistics Canada, 2022). This reality highlights the need to better understand the silent speaker population.

This research seeks to clarify the characteristics of the silent speaker population in Canada. Between 2016 and 2021, the number of Indigenous people able to speak an Indigenous language declined, and all Indigenous languages remain at risk. Silent speakers thus represent a valuable reservoir of cultural and linguistic knowledge. Their potential role in language revitalization efforts makes it essential to better understand their characteristics, geographic distribution, and how their numbers have changed over time. Profiling silent speakers can offer insights into patterns of language shift, retention, and opportunities for revitalization. By examining census data across multiple years, this study aims to illuminate the demographic makeup, geographic distribution, and long-term trends of this pivotal group.

Methodology

To assess which Indigenous languages may benefit most from engaging silent speakers in revitalization efforts, two key metrics are employed. The first metric is the proportion of the mother tongue population who are silent speakers.¹ A high proportion may indicate heightened endangerment of a language. It also shows that there is a latent pool of individuals who could be re-engaged through targeted revitalization programs.

The second metric is the absolute number of silent speakers by language. This measure identifies languages with the largest silent speaker populations, regardless of their proportion within the mother tongue group.

1. This study of silent speakers includes the total (Indigenous and non-Indigenous) population.

For some of the most severely endangered Indigenous languages, silent speakers make up a quarter or more of the mother tongue population

While 7.6% of the Indigenous language mother tongue population were silent speakers, the share varied substantially by language. Among Indigenous languages for which data could be provided,² there were over a dozen languages for which silent speakers made up over 25% of the mother tongue population. These languages belong to First Nations, Métis and Inuit alike and included, for example, Tutchone languages (46% silent speakers), Michif (25% silent speakers) and Inuvialuktun (33% silent speakers). Other languages with large proportions of silent speakers included Oneida, Ktunaxa, Tlingit, Nuuchah-nulth, Gwich'in, Squamish, Lillooet, Straits Salish, Moose Cree, Haida, Gitksan, and Wetsuwet'en-Babine. Of these 15 languages, over half (8) belonged to First Nations within British Columbia, where there is a wealth of language diversity, most of which are severely or critically endangered (Moseley, 2010).

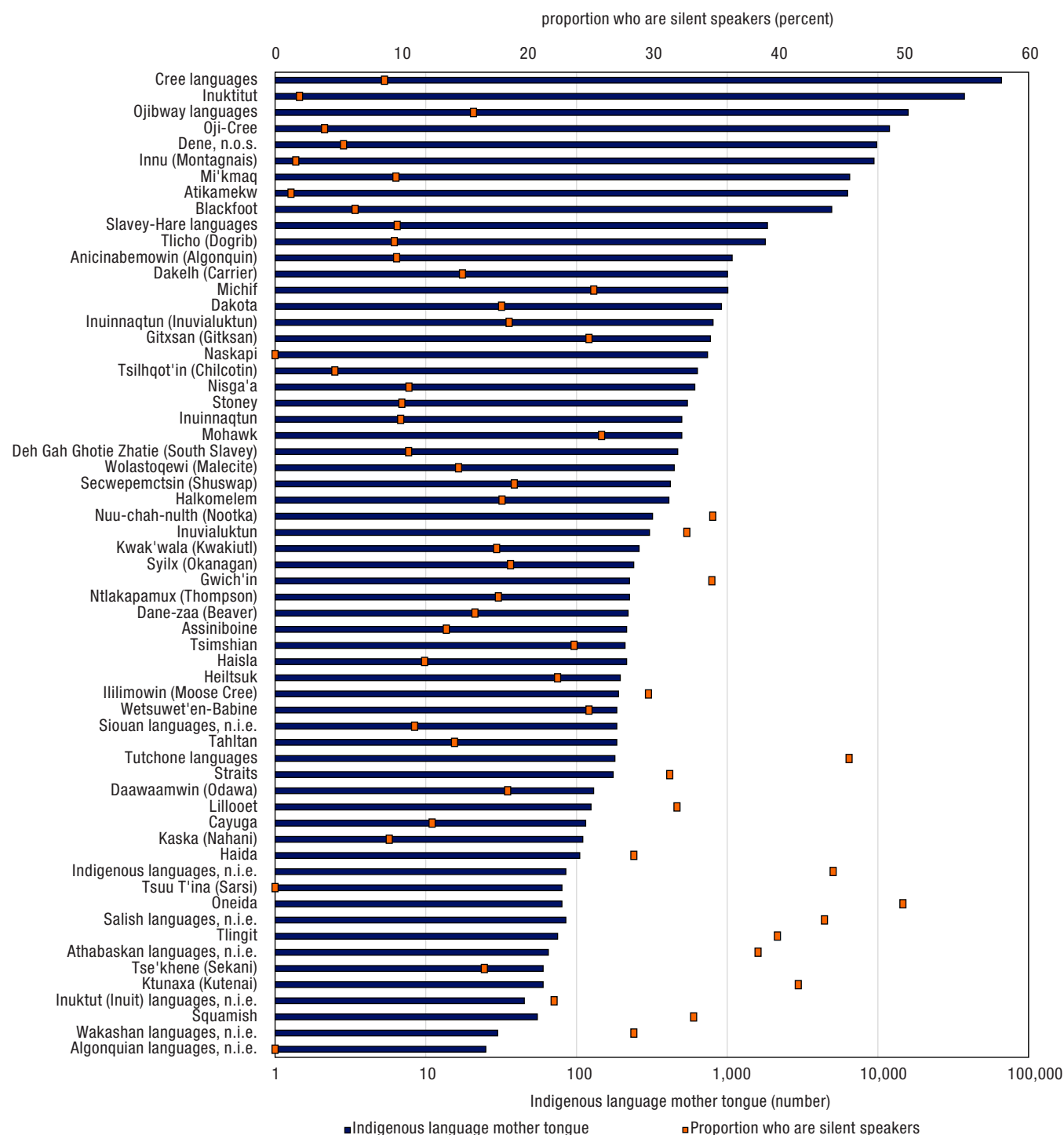
There was an inverse relationship between the number of people reporting that language as mother tongue and the percentage of the mother tongue population who were silent speakers (Chart 1).

In terms of number of silent speakers, most silent speakers (59%) had Cree Languages (41%) or Ojibway languages (18%) as their mother tongue. This should indicate that tracking silent speakers is important for the revitalization of all Indigenous languages and not solely the most severely endangered ones.

2. Data for some languages cannot be disseminated because of low census counts.

Chart 1

Number of active speakers and silent speakers of Indigenous languages and proportion who are silent speakers in 2021, by Indigenous language, Canada



Notes: N.o.s. = not otherwise specified and n.i.e. = not included elsewhere.
Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population, 2021.

Silent speakers more likely than active speakers of Indigenous languages to be women and girls

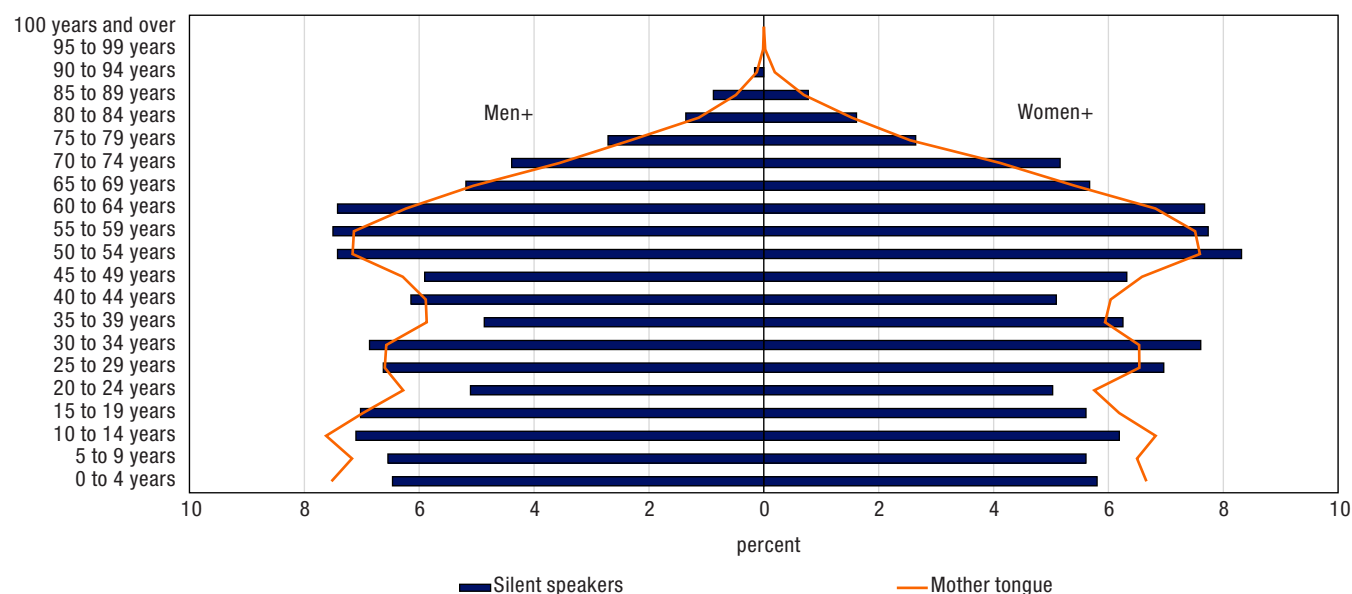
While a higher share of the Indigenous mother tongue population were women and girls (52.1%) compared to the total Indigenous and non-Indigenous population in Canada (50.6%), this was even higher among silent speakers, among whom 55.3% were women and girls compared with 51.9% of active speakers of Indigenous languages.

Silent speakers are older on average than active speakers of Indigenous languages

On average, silent speakers were older than active Indigenous language speakers (40 years versus 38 years). In Chart 2, the age distribution for silent speakers versus all those with an Indigenous language as mother tongue shows that, among both men and women, there are proportionately fewer silent speakers than active speakers below the age of 25 and proportionately more silent speakers aged 50 or older.

Chart 2

Age pyramid for silent speakers of indigenous languages and reporting an Indigenous language as Mother Tongue in 2021, Canada



Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population, 2021.

Close to one in five Métis with an Indigenous mother tongue were silent speakers

Looking at the proportion of the Indigenous language mother tongue population by Indigenous identity, the results show that 18% of Métis with an Indigenous language as mother tongue were silent speakers, 8.4% for First Nations people with an Indigenous language as mother tongue and 2.1% of Inuit with an Indigenous language as mother tongue.

Among those with an Indigenous language as mother tongue, First Nations people with Registered Treaty or Indian Status were less likely to be silent speakers (8.3%) than those without Registered Treaty or Indian Status (12.1%). Inuit who reported being enrolled under or beneficiaries of an Inuit Land Claims agreement were less likely to be silent speakers (1.9%) than those who did not report being beneficiaries (6.4%). Similarly, Métis with an Indigenous language as mother tongue were less likely to be silent speakers if they also reported being a member of one of the Signatories of the Canada-Métis Nation Accord (16.7%) or an Alberta Metis Settlement (11.7%) than if they were not a member of a Métis organization or Alberta Metis Settlement (22.2%).

Compared with active mother tongue speakers, silent speakers more often lived alone or with people that were not their family members

It is important to understand the living arrangements of silent speakers, as policy aimed at silent speakers may differ depending on whether they live alone, live with extended family or live with their children. Those living alone, or not with family, may be more likely to be silent speakers.

Looking at economic family structure, silent speakers differed from active speakers in two ways.³ Silent speakers were more likely to not be in an economic family (17%) than active speakers (10%). Of the 17% of silent speakers who were not in economic families, 13% were living alone and 4% were living with non-relatives. This higher proportion of silent speakers who were not in economic families relative to active speakers was true both inside and outside Inuit Nunangat as well as on and off reserve. A lack of family members to speak Indigenous languages with may be a contributing factor to people becoming silent speakers.

Silent speakers typically had higher levels of education than active mother tongue speakers

Compared with the total population of those with an Indigenous language as their mother tongue, silent speakers had higher levels of educational attainment (Chart 3). Silent speakers were less likely to have no certificate, diploma or degree, and conversely more likely to have a secondary or postsecondary education when compared with active mother tongue speakers. This was not just due to the older average age of silent speakers, as these results remained consistent even when restricting the analysis to only the core working age group of those aged 25 to 54 years old rather than the population aged 15 and older. This difference also was not driven by provincial and territorial differences in distributions of silent speakers as this difference between silent speakers and active mother tongue speakers existed in all provinces and territories. However, a part of the difference may stem from the fact that silent speakers more often reside off reserve and outside Inuit Nunangat compared with active mother tongue speakers of Indigenous languages and the language profiles of populations on and off reserve, and within and outside Inuit Nunangat differ.

The educational attainment differences between silent speakers and active mother tongue speakers were similar for both men and women. Among men, for example, 25% of silent speakers had a post-secondary education compared with 20% of men who were active mother tongue speakers, while the comparable statistics for women were 33% of silent speakers and 25% of active mother tongue speakers. Thus, differences in educational attainment cannot be fully explained by differences in gender distributions between silent and active mother tongue speakers.

Despite higher levels of education, silent speakers typically had slightly lower incomes and worse labour force statistics

Compared with active mother tongue speakers of Indigenous languages, silent speakers had a lower employment rate, a higher rate of unemployment and a lower rate of labour force participation (Chart 3).

The average after-tax income of silent speakers was slightly lower (\$35,600) than that for all of those with an Indigenous language as mother tongue (\$36,800). For reference, the mean after-tax income in Canada was \$44,920 overall. In terms of being in a low-income household (LIM-AT)⁴ 29% of silent speakers were in low-income households compared with 25% of all with an Indigenous language as their mother tongue.

Notably, silent speakers had lower incomes and worse labour force indicators despite their higher levels of education and more urban distribution.

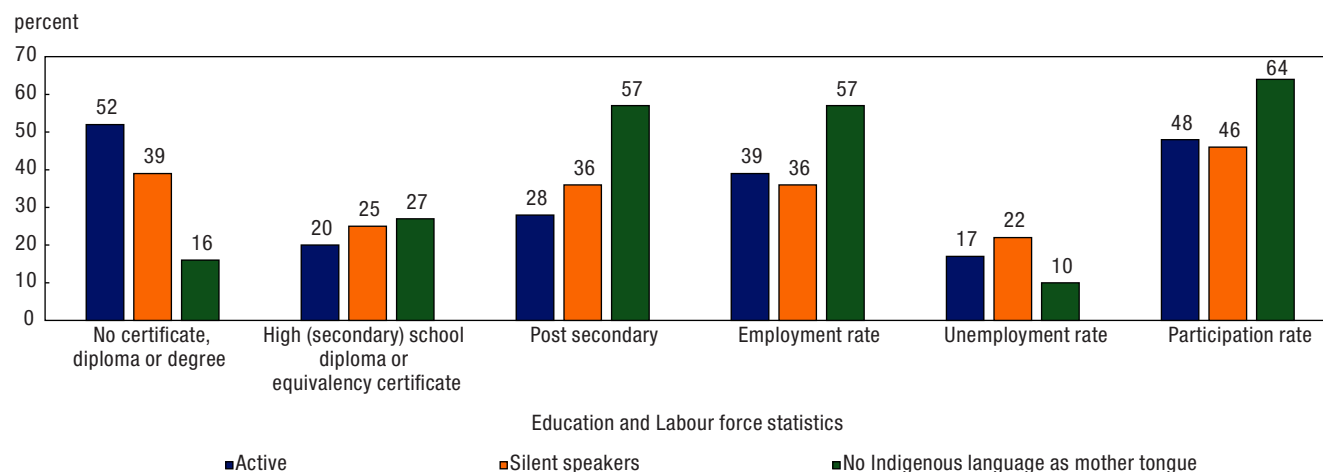
3. An economic family refers to a group of two or more persons who live in the same dwelling and are related to each other by blood, marriage, common-law union, adoption or a foster relationship.

4. The Low-income measure, after tax (LIM-AT) is a relative poverty indicator that identifies individuals living in households with after-tax income below 50% of the national median, adjusted for household size. A full definition of the Low-income measure, after tax (LIM-AT) can be found in the [2021 Census of Population dictionary](#).

Differences in income and labour force characteristics cannot be explained by differences in gender distributions between silent speakers and active mother tongue speakers of Indigenous languages. For both men and women, silent speakers had similarly higher unemployment rates (+4 percentage points), lower employment rates (-2 percentage points) and lower rates of labour force participation (-3 percentage points) than active speakers of Indigenous languages. Men who were silent speakers earned on average \$1,500 less and women silent speakers \$1,450 less than their active mother tongue speaker counterparts. In fact, these results show that among the Indigenous mother tongue population, contrary to the general population, tax incomes and labour force characteristics were more favourable among women than men – meaning that differences in gender distribution partially masked the differences in labour force and income characteristics between silent speakers and active mother tongue speakers of Indigenous languages.

Chart 3

Education and labour force characteristics of silent speakers, active mother tongue speakers, and people with no Indigenous mother tongue, Canada, 2021

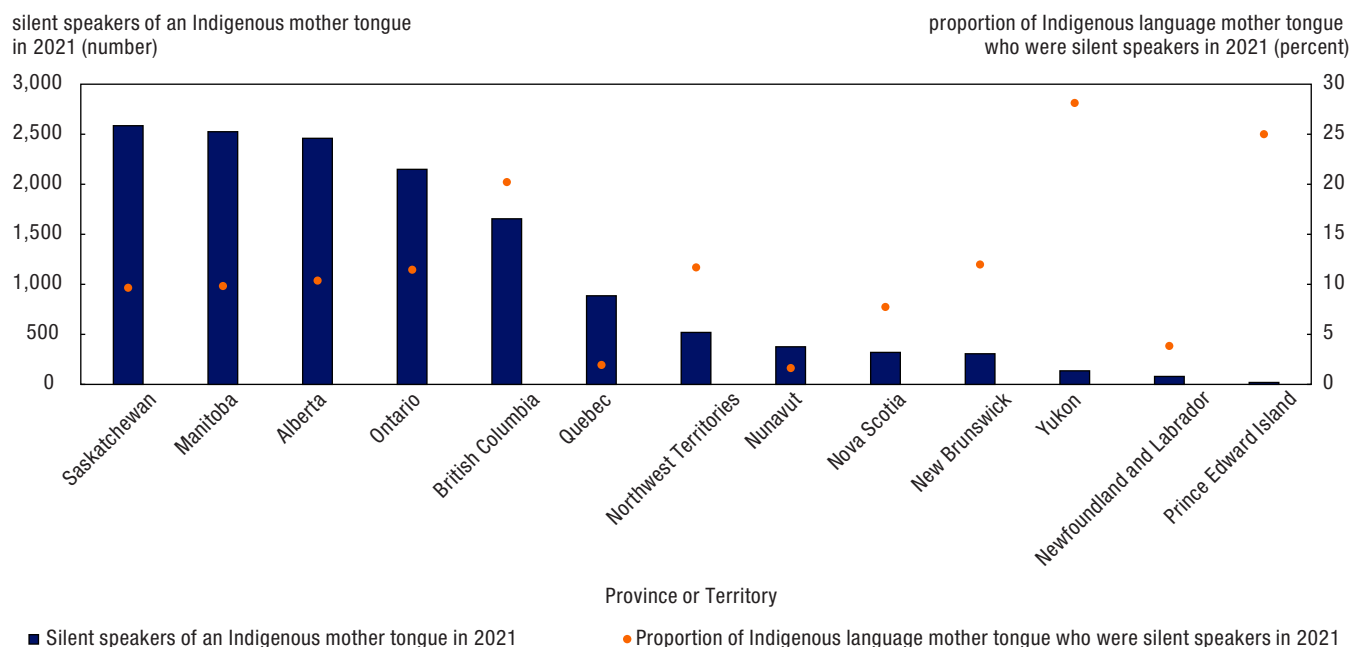


Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population, 2021.

Most silent speakers located in Prairie provinces, but made up the largest proportion of mother tongue population in Yukon, PEI, and British Columbia

Most silent speakers of Indigenous languages were in the Prairie provinces (54%). There were also large numbers in Ontario (15%) and British Columbia (12%).

As a percentage of the Indigenous mother tongue population, the proportion of silent speakers was lower in Quebec (2%), Nunavut (2%) and Newfoundland and Labrador (4%), while it was notably higher in the Yukon (28%), PEI (25%) and British Columbia (20%).

Chart 4**Number of silent speakers and proportion of silent speakers among Indigenous mother tongue population, provinces and territories, Canada, 2021**

Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population, 2021.

Within Inuit Nunangat, many silent speakers were in Iqaluit

There were 880 silent speakers of Inuktitut comprising 2% of the Inuktitut mother tongue population. Most silent speakers of Inuktitut (58%) lived within Inuit Nunangat, comprising about 4% of all silent speakers for all Indigenous languages.

The distribution of Inuktitut silent speakers also varied substantially across Inuit Nunangat, ranging from a low of 0.3% of those with an Inuktitut mother tongue in Nunavik to 25% of those in the Inuvialuit region, to 2% in Nunavut and 9% in Nunatsiavut. The largest number of silent speakers of Inuktitut in Inuit Nunangat were in Nunavut (375) and the Inuvialuit region (85), within the Inuvialuit region there were also 20 silent speakers of other Indigenous languages, likely representing Gwich'in silent speakers as two communities straddle the boundaries of Inuvialuit and Gwich'in traditional territories. Most silent speakers of Inuktitut in Nunavut were in the city of Iqaluit (135), Kugluktuk (45), or Baker Lake (40) while in the Inuvialuit region most silent speakers of Indigenous languages were in Inuvik (40) or Tuktoyaktuk (35).

Winnipeg and Edmonton are home to the highest numbers of silent speakers among cities

Outside of Inuit Nunangat, almost half (47% or 6,370) of silent speakers lived on reserve. This was lower than the two-thirds (67%) of individuals with an Indigenous mother tongue outside of Inuit Nunangat who lived on reserve.

On reserve, silent speakers were slightly more distributed in areas deemed rural (83%) than the total population with an Indigenous language as mother tongue (70%). This was primarily driven by differences between Ontario, Manitoba, and to a lesser extent Nova Scotia. In all other jurisdictions, silent speakers and active mother tongue speakers on reserve were similarly distributed to each other.

Outside of reserves and Inuit Nunangat, most silent speakers lived in large urban centres

Silent speakers were more often living in large population centres of more than 100,000 people at 20% compared with all individuals with an Indigenous mother tongue (8%). Silent speakers were also twice as likely to live in medium population centres of 30,000 to 99,999 people (8% vs 4%).

There were 14 census metropolitan areas and census agglomerations with 100 or more silent speakers in 2021. Of these, two had over 650 silent speakers, Winnipeg (685) and Edmonton (665). All others had less than 300.

Number and proportion of silent speakers increased slightly between 2001 to 2021

By including only communities that participated in each census from 2001 to 2021⁵ one can examine trends in the proportion and number of silent speakers of Indigenous languages across census cycles. For this section analysis will focus on the two ten-year periods of 2001 to 2011 and 2011 to 2021 as well as the overall change from 2001-2021.

The results show that the number of silent speakers appeared to increase substantially in the ten years between 2001 and 2011 from 11,075 to 13,595. From 2011 to 2021 there was essentially no change in the number of silent speakers — 13,595 to 13,590.

However, the proportion of silent speakers increased from 5.9% of the mother tongue population in 2001 to 7.1% in 2011 and to 7.6% in 2021. The increase between 2011 and 2021 occurred due to the decline in the mother tongue population between 2011 and 2021 from 190,480 to 177,975. Trends were distinct by region. For example, in Ontario the number of silent speakers grew while the mother tongue population decreased, leading to large growth in the proportion of silent speakers of 5.4 percentage points from 2001 to 2021. In Quebec, the mother tongue population grew during the same time period, but at a slower rate than silent speakers did; therefore, the proportion of silent speakers rose 1.2 percentage points. In British Columbia, a large decline in the number of people with an Indigenous language as their mother tongue was also matched by a decline in the number of silent speakers thus the proportion of silent speakers in British Columbia increased the least, at 1.1 percentage points.

Regionally, the proportion of silent speakers rose in every province and territory except Newfoundland and Labrador from 2001 to 2021. While the number of silent speakers increased in most provinces and territories, it declined in British Columbia, Yukon, PEI and Newfoundland and Labrador.

5. There were differences across census cycles in the number of languages allowed for write in to the mother tongue and knowledge of language questions, as such there are slight differences in comparability across census cycles. However, relatively few report multiple Indigenous languages as their mother tongue, or report knowledge of more than three non-official languages, so overall impact is expected to be small.

Table 1

Silent speakers and Indigenous-language mother-tongue population, proportion of silent speakers, and change between 2001, 2011 and 2021, by province and territory, Canada

	Year			Change		
	2001	2011	2021	2001-2011	2011-2021	2001-2021
Canada						
Silent Speakers	11,075	13,595	13,590	2,520	-5	2,515
Mother-tongue population	186,280	190,480	177,975	4,200	-12,505	-8,305
Silent speakers (%)	5.9	7.1	7.6	1.2	0.5	1.7
Newfoundland and Labrador						
Silent Speakers	100	125	85	25	-40	-15
Mother-tongue population	2,140	2,755	2,085	615	-670	-55
Silent speakers (%)	4.7	4.5	4.1	-0.1	-0.5	-0.6
Prince Edward Island						
Silent Speakers	60	15	20	-45	5	-40
Mother-tongue population	240	105	75	-135	-30	-165
Silent speakers (%)	25.0	14.3	26.7	-10.7	12.4	1.7
Nova Scotia						
Silent Speakers	215	390	315	175	-75	100
Mother-tongue population	4,185	4,800	4,145	615	-655	-40
Silent speakers (%)	5.1	8.1	7.6	3.0	-0.5	2.5
New Brunswick						
Silent Speakers	300	295	305	-5	10	5
Mother tongue	3,195	2,580	2,545	-615	-35	-650
Silent speakers (%)	9.4	11.4	12.0	2.0	0.6	2.6
Quebec						
Silent Speakers	270	535	875	265	340	605
Mother tongue	34,625	41,500	45,235	6,875	3,735	10,610
Silent speakers (%)	0.8	1.3	1.9	0.5	0.6	1.2
Ontario						
Silent Speakers	1,395	1,665	1,865	270	200	470
Mother tongue	15,070	13,865	12,690	-1,205	-1,175	-2,380
Silent speakers (%)	9.3	12.0	14.7	2.8	2.7	5.4
Manitoba						
Silent Speakers	1,595	1,755	2,490	160	735	895
Mother tongue	31,450	30,890	25,635	-560	-5,255	-5,815
Silent speakers (%)	5.1	5.7	9.7	0.6	4.0	4.6
Saskatchewan						
Silent Speakers	2,285	2,505	2,550	220	45	265
Mother tongue	33,330	32,845	26,420	-485	-6,425	-6,910
Silent speakers (%)	6.9	7.6	9.7	0.8	2.0	2.8
Alberta						
Silent Speakers	1,850	2,390	2,395	540	5	545
Mother tongue	23,940	22,350	23,095	-1,590	745	-845
Silent speakers (%)	7.7	10.7	10.4	3.0	-0.3	2.6
British Columbia						
Silent Speakers	2,390	2,615	1,650	225	-965	-740
Mother tongue	12,525	10,245	8,160	-2,280	-2,085	-4,365
Silent speakers (%)	19.1	25.5	20.2	6.4	-5.3	1.1
Yukon						
Silent Speakers	180	300	140	120	-160	-40
Mother tongue	915	995	480	80	-515	-435
Silent speakers (%)	19.7	30.2	29.2	10.5	-1.0	9.5
Northwest Territories						
Silent Speakers	315	715	520	400	-195	205
Mother tongue	5,620	5,630	4,455	10	-1,175	-1,165
Silent speakers (%)	5.6	12.7	11.7	7.1	-1.0	6.1
Nunavut						
Silent Speakers	120	290	380	170	90	260
Mother tongue	19,045	21,925	22,950	2,880	1,025	3,905
Silent speakers (%)	0.6	1.3	1.7	0.7	0.3	1.0

Notes: Changes in population counts are expressed as numeric change. Changes in the proportion of silent speakers are expressed in percentage points. Data include only communities enumerated in the 2001, 2006, 2016 and 2021 censuses, as well as the 2011 National Household Survey.

Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population, 2001 and 2021; National Household Survey, 2011.

Discussion

The silent speaker population is distinct from the active mother tongue speaker population of Indigenous languages. On average, they are more likely to be older, more likely to be a woman or girl, are more likely to live in an urban area, have higher levels of educational attainment but also a more impoverished group and they are more likely to live alone. The combination of these characteristics suggests a possible disconnection of silent speakers from culture and a lack of opportunities to use these languages at home, in school or in the workplace.

The data showed that silent speakers have increased in number and proportion of the mother tongue population from 2001 to 2021, and that recent growth in proportion has been driven by a decline in the Indigenous mother tongue population.

At the same time, it was shown that silent speakers make up a large proportion of the mother tongue population of many severely endangered Indigenous languages. Silent speakers are also important to less endangered languages where there are relatively large populations of silent speakers. Additionally, many silent speakers live in large cities such as silent speakers of Ojibway languages in Winnipeg, Cree language silent speakers in Edmonton and for Inuktitut silent speakers in Iqaluit. These findings all have implications for the creation and provision of potential revitalization efforts targeting silent speakers.

Annex

Table A.1

Active mother-tongue speakers and silent speakers of an Indigenous mother tongue, proportion of silent speakers in the mother-tongue population, and census subdivision with the largest number of silent speakers, by language, language group and language family, Canada, 2021

Indigenous languages	Active mother-tongue speakers	Silent speakers	Proportion who are silent speakers	Census Subdivision with largest number of silent speakers	Silent speakers in the census subdivision
	number		percent		number
Indigenous languages	171,490	14,020	7.6	Winnipeg	685
Algonquian languages	113,100	10,035	8.1	Winnipeg	385
Blackfoot	4,630	315	6.4	Blood 148	110
Cree-Innu languages	76,625	6,005	7.3	Edmonton	355
Atikamekw	6,225	80	1.3	Québec, La Tuque, Communauté Atikamekw de Manawan	10
Cree languages	60,440	5,770	8.7	Edmonton	355
Ililimowin (Moose Cree)	135	55	29.7	Timmins	15
Inu Ayimun (Southern East Cree)	655	45	6.4	Waskaganis, Lac Simon, Nemaska	10
Iyiyiw-Ayimiwin (Northern East Cree)	3,655	195	5.1	Wemindji	35
Nehinawewin (Swampy Cree)	2,775	360	11.5	Winnipeg	85
Nehiyawewin (Plains Cree)	5,650	1,080	16.0	Edmonton	115
Nihithawiwin (Woods Cree)	3,260	500	13.3	Edmonton	60
Cree, n.o.s.	44,300	3,555	7.4	Edmonton	160
Innu (Montagnais)	9,280	155	1.6	Maliotenam	30
Naskapi	740	0	0.0	...	0
Eastern Algonquian languages	6,250	685	9.9	Richibucto 15	120
Mi'kmaq	5,870	625	9.6	Richibucto 15	120
Wolastoqewi (Malecite)	380	65	14.6	Tobique 20	15
Ojibway-Potawatomi languages	25,810	3,080	10.7	Winnipeg	395
Anicinabemowin (Algonquin)	975	105	9.7	Kitigan Zibi	30
Oji-Cree	11,460	470	3.9	Winnipeg	60
Ojibway languages	13,380	2,510	15.8	Winnipeg	335
Anishinaabemowin (Chippewa)	640	125	16.3	Brandon	15
Daawaamwin (Odawa)	105	25	18.5	Wikwemikong Unceded	10
Saulteau (Western Ojibway)	2,065	520	20.1	Winnipeg	65
Ojibway, n.o.s.	10,660	1,845	14.8	Winnipeg	255
Algonquian languages, n.i.e.	25	0	0.0	...	0
Athabaskan languages	15,005	1,370	8.4	Yellowknife	125
Northern Athabaskan languages	14,915	1,315	8.1	Yellowknife	125
Dakelh (Carrier)	855	150	14.9	Vanderhoof	15
Dane-zaa (Beaver)	185	35	15.9	Fort Good Hope, Fort St. John, East Moberly Lake 169, West Moberly Lake 168A	10
Dene, n.o.s.	9,285	535	5.5	La Loche	55
Gwich'in	145	80	34.8	Inuvik, Fort McPherson	15
Slavey-Hare languages	1,670	180	9.7	Déline	20
Deh Gah Ghotie Zhatie (South Slavey)	420	50	10.6	Edmonton, Fort Simpson, Bushe River	10
Satuotine Yati (North Slavey)	310	35	10.3	Norman Wells	15
Slavey, n.o.s.	945	95	9.1	Déline	15
Tahltan languages	255	35	12.1	Dease Lake 9	10
Kaska (Nahani)	100	10	9.1	Watson Lake	10
Tahltan	160	25	14.3	...	0
Tlicho (Dogrib)	1,620	170	9.5	Yellowknife	110
Tse'khene (Sekani)	50	10	16.7	...	0
Tsilhqot'in (Chilcotin)	605	30	4.8	Redstone Flat 1, Stone 1	10
Tsuu T'ina (Sarsi)	80	0	0.0	...	0
Tutchone languages	100	80	45.7	Ibex Valley	40
Northern Tutchone	55	20	25.0	Carmacks	10
Southern Tutchone	30	40	61.5	Ibex Valley	35
Tutchone, n.o.s.	20	15	37.5	...	0
Wetsuwet'en-Babine	140	45	25.0	Hagwilget 1, East Saanich 2, Moricetown 1, Coryatsaqua (Moricetown) 2	10
Tlingit	45	30	40.0	Whitehorse	10
Athabaskan languages, n.i.e.	40	25	38.5	...	0

Table A.1

Active mother-tongue speakers and silent speakers of an Indigenous mother tongue, proportion of silent speakers in the mother-tongue population, and census subdivision with the largest number of silent speakers, by language, language group and language family, Canada, 2021

Indigenous languages	Active mother-tongue speakers	Silent speakers	Proportion who are silent speakers	Census Subdivision with largest number of silent speakers	Silent speakers in the census subdivision
	number		percent		number
Haida	75	30	28.6	Vancouver	10
Inuktitut (Inuit) languages	37,470	880	2.3	Iqaluit	140
Inuinnaqtun (Inuvialuktun)	655	150	18.6	Tuktoyaktuk, Inuvik	30
Inuinnaqtun	450	50	10.0	Kugluktuk	20
Inuvialuktun	205	100	32.8	Tuktoyaktuk	35
Inuktitut	36,790	730	1.9	Iqaluit	140
Inuktitut (Inuit) languages, n.i.e.	35	10	22.2	...	0
Iroquoian languages	510	185	26.6	London	25
Cayuga	100	15	12.5	...	0
Mohawk	370	130	26.0	Cornwall	15
Oneida	40	40	50.0	London	20
Iroquoian languages, n.i.e.	0	0	0.0	...	0
Ktunaxa (Kutenai)	35	25	41.7	Cranbrook	15
Michif	755	255	25.4	Winnipeg	45
Salish languages	1,340	380	22.1	Williams Lake	20
Halkomelem	335	75	18.1	North Cowichan	20
Lillooet	85	40	32.0	Slosh 1, Mount Currie	10
Ntlakapamux (Thompson)	185	40	17.8	Fraser Valley A, Nicola Mameet 1, Coldwater 1, Nooaitch 10	10
Secwepemctsin (Shuswap)	340	80	19.0	Williams Lake	15
Squamish	40	15	33.3	Capilano 5	10
Straits	120	55	31.4	Cole Bay 3, Sliammon 1	10
Syilx (Okanagan)	195	45	18.8	Penticton 1, Chopaka 7 & 8, Nicola Lake 1, Ashnola 10	10
Salish languages, n.i.e.	50	35	43.8	Bella Coola 1	10
Siouan languages	1,480	270	15.5	Sioux Valley Dakota Nation	35
Assiniboine	185	30	13.6	Regina, Mosquito 109	10
Dakota	750	165	18.0	Sioux Valley Dakota Nation	35
Stoney	490	55	10.1	Alexis 133	25
Siouan languages, n.i.e.	165	20	11.1	...	0
Tsimshian languages	1,285	315	19.8	Gitsegukla 1	55
Gitksan (Gitksan)	580	195	25.0	Gitsegukla 1	55
Nisga'a	545	65	10.7	Nisga'a	15
Tsimshian	160	50	23.8	Prince Rupert	20
Wakashan languages	785	240	23.4	Marktos 15	55
Haisla	190	25	11.9	Kitamaat 2	10
Heiltsuk	150	45	22.5	Bella Bella 1	15
Kwak'waka (Kwakiutl)	215	45	17.6	Tsulquate 4, Alert Bay	10
Nuu-chah-nulth (Nootka)	205	115	34.8	Marktos 15	55
Wakashan languages, n.i.e.	20	10	28.6	Malachan 11	10
Indigenous languages, n.i.e.	45	40	44.4	Blood 148	10
Indigenous languages, n.o.s.	270	115	29.9	Edmonton, Calgary, East Saanich 2, South Saanich 1, Bonaparte 3	10

... not applicable

Notes: N.o.s. = not otherwise specified and n.i.e. = not included elsewhere.

Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population, 2021.

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