

Some facts on the Canadian Francophonie

The Canadian Francophonie by the numbers

- ▶ Canada has a population of nearly 35 million people. French is the first official language spoken for 22.8% of the population.
- ▶ The majority of Francophones (85.4%) live in Quebec and over 1 million Francophones live in other regions.
- ▶ Almost 10.4 million Canadians can carry on a conversation in French.

The status of French

- Canada is a federal state with ten provinces and three territories. French, like English, is one of Canada's two official languages.
- Federal institutions are bilingual; they operate and provide services in both official languages. The Government of Canada also actively promotes both official languages in Canadian society (*Official Languages Act*).
- In every province and territory, French- or English-speaking minorities have a right to primary and secondary school instruction in their language (*Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*).
- Quebec, the only province that is primarily Francophone, adopted the *Charter of the French Language*, which provides for the predominant use of French within provincial government institutions and in Quebec society.
- The province of New Brunswick is, under the *Canadian Constitution*, officially bilingual.
- In all provinces and territories, except for British Columbia, French benefits from legal protections or government policies as to its use in public institutions.
- Canada, as well as the governments of Quebec, Ontario and New Brunswick, are members of the International Organisation of La Francophonie.

Education, media and culture

- Canada has more than 3,000 French-language primary and secondary schools, around 75 French-language colleges and nearly 30 French-language universities, a majority of which are located in Quebec.
- Outside Quebec, more than 160,000 Francophones study in their language at 624 primary and secondary institutions, managed by the communities.
- Francophones outside Quebec also have access to over 20 colleges and universities.
- Nearly 1.7 million young Canadians are studying French as a second language, of which around 430,000 students are in French immersion classes outside Quebec.
- Canadian French-language media include:
 - one national public broadcaster (Radio-Canada);
 - around 220 community, regional and national radio stations, of which 27% are located outside Quebec;
 - nearly 50 community, private and public television stations, of which 33% are located outside Quebec;
 - over 10 daily newspapers;
 - and around 35 newspapers outside Quebec.
- Major national institutions, present in all arts and culture sectors, are dedicated to strengthening and promoting the French language's cultural expression.
- Quebec has many creative spaces, broadcasting networks and government institutions that support cultural and artistic production in French, while providing access to these products and creations.
- Francophone minority communities also have around 100 centres for artistic and cultural creation, production and distribution.

French-Speaking Population

Provinces and Territories, Canada (2016)

