

# *Factoids, Caring Canada*

*element: A bilingual, multicultural country with Aboriginal, English and French roots (continued)*

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## *message: We Are A Bilingual Country*

82% of Quebec's population speaks French

More than one million Francophones live outside Quebec

French is spoken by 8.5 million people in Canada

In 1978 there were 40,000 French immersion students in grade schools - by 1996 there were 313,000 French immersion students in grade schools

In 1991, bilingualism rose from 16% to 23% in one decade among 15 to 25 year olds - young Canadians in this group are the most bilingual generation in Canada's history

In 1995, 2.7 million young Canadians were studying French or English as a second language, an increase of 10% over the last 25 years

Official Languages Act

- made French and English the official Canadian languages
- federal institutions must reflect the equality of the two languages by offering bilingual services

Radio-Canada programs are broadcasted all over the country

TV5 - a French television network receives government contributions of \$4 million annually to provide high quality domestic and international Francophone broadcasting for Canadians