

Recapitulation

Throughout their history, French-speaking Canadians have always been strongly determined to retain their language, despite a predominantly English environment, and at times have had to battle vigorously to defend their linguistic rights, and thus to secure a firm foundation for their culture. French-speaking Canadians have built up a fine network of social and economic organizations: schools, hospitals, co-operatives, newspapers, associations, etc. They are well-represented in Parliament; they have produced writers and artists at least equal to those of English-Canadians. French-language radio is now available across most of Canada and is often listened to by English-speaking citizens.

In recent years, a definite trend towards a wider bilingualism has been noted and, in particular, attendance at institutions for the teaching of English or French as a second language has been increasing. Most French-speaking parents desire that their children secure a working knowledge of the language of the majority. Associations for the promotion of bilingualism, like Les Visites Interprovinciales, l'Alliance Canadienne, Le Monde Bilingue, have met with a ready response. Many periodicals print articles in both languages. In 1955, a French theatrical company, "La Comedie Française" paid a visit to Toronto - which visit would have been improbable only a relatively few years ago - and met with a most enthusiastic reception. The University of British Columbia has recently established a chair of French-Canadian literature. These facts and many others reveal the growth of bilingualism in Canada.

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