

The above table shows that French-speaking Canadians are 30% of the total population. While the majority (80%) lives in Quebec, French-speaking Canadians are found in all provinces, one million living outside Quebec. In Ontario they number nearly half a million and in New Brunswick they form 38% of the population.

The 1951 census (vol. I, table 53) gives the following data about languages spoken by the population:

English only	9,387,395	67.0%
French only	2,741,812	19.5%
English & French	1,727,447	12.3%
Neither French nor English	152,775	1.2%
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	14,009,429	

The figure given for bilingual Canadians (12.3%) does not perhaps reflect the true situation. The relevant census question referred only to the ability to speak both languages; It is likely that the percentage of bilingual people would have been higher if the ability to read a second language had also been taken into account, as most Canadians who have been through high school have learned English or French as a secondary language. Moreover, many Canadians declared that they spoke only one language when they had some knowledge of, but were not fluent in a second one.

Statistics indicate also that Canadians of French origin are more bilingual (31%) than Canadians of British origin (4%). In Quebec, 25% of the French-Canadians can speak English, while in Ontario only 2% of the Canadians of British origin can speak French. Statistics show also that bilingualism is more wide spread in urban areas than in rural areas, among men than among women, and among the better educated. The percentage of bilinguals in the French-speaking population outside Quebec is larger (55%) than in Quebec (25%). It may be added that immigrants to Canada tend to adopt English rather than French.

The relatively low percentage of bilingualism in Canada is mainly due to the homogeneous grouping of the population. In most rural areas of Quebec, the population is 99% French, while in most other parts of Canada people have little opportunity to speak French.

GOVERNMENTS AND PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION:

The Treaty of Paris (1763), which confirmed the cession of New France to Great Britain, did not refer explicitly to the language of the inhabitants; however, French continued to be used. In 1774, the Quebec Act restored French civil law, which implied that French might be used before the Courts, and the retention by the inhabitants of their customs and usages. In the Legislative Council, where the members were appointed and the majority was English-speaking, both English and French could be used in the debates.