



CANADA

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## BILINGUALISM IN CANADA

(Based on a manuscript prepared by  
Charles Bilodeau LL.D., Laval University)

Canada belongs among the bilingual countries of the world, with English and French as its official languages. The following notes give data about population groups and the respective position of each of these languages in various fields.

### Population

Canada was first settled by the French in the 17th century and was a French colony from 1608 to 1759. During that period, French explorers discovered a large part of the territory now forming Canada and the United States. At the end of the French administration, some 60,000 inhabitants of French origin had settled mostly along the St. Lawrence Valley and these were the ancestors of most Canadians of French origin today.

Due to immigration and natural growth, the English-speaking population became the majority in the course of years in all provinces except Quebec. In 1961, as indicated in the census taken that year, the total population and the population of French origin in all parts of Canada were as follows:

	<u>Total Popu- lation</u>	<u>Population of French origin</u>	<u>% of population of French origin</u>
Newfoundland	457,853	17,171	3.8
Prince Edward Island	104,629	17,418	16.6
Nova Scotia	737,051	87,883	11.9
New Brunswick	597,936	232,127	38.8
Quebec	5,259,211	4,241,354	80.6
Ontario	6,236,092	647,941	10.4
Manitoba	921,686	83,936	9.1
Saskatchewan	925,181	59,824	6.5
Alberta	1,331,944	83,319	6.3
British Columbia	1,629,082	66,970	4.1
Yukon and N.W.	37,626	2,403	6.4
	<u>18,238,247</u>	<u>5,540,346</u>	<u>30.4</u>