



REFERENCE PAPERS

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No. 84 BILINGUALISM IN CANADA

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Canada ranks among the bilingual countries of the world, with English and French as her main languages. The following notes give data about population groups and the respective position of each language 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 Saint-Lawrence valley and these were the ascendants 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 1951, 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	361,416	9,841	2.7
Prince Edward Island	98,429	15,477	15.7
Nova Scotia	642,584	73,760	11.4
New Brunswick	515,697	197,631	38.
Quebec	4,055,681	3,327,128	81.9
Ontario	4,597,542	477,677	10.4
Manitoba	776,541	66,020	8.5
Saskatchewan	831,728	51,930	6.
Alberta	939,501	51,930	6.
British Columbia	1,165,210	41,919	3.5
Yukon and N.W.	<u>25,100</u>	<u>1,599</u>	<u>15.6</u>
	14,009,429	4,319,167	30.2