

# The English presence in QUEBEC



**445,575** people **can speak English, but not French**  
(3,980,280, or 47.3%, can speak French, but not English)

**5.3%** of population

**1,253,578** people **speak English as their first official language**  
(7,074,328, or 84.1%, speak French as their first official language)

**14.9%** of population<sup>1</sup>

**1,694,830** people **have English as a mother tongue or speak it at home**  
(6,712,075, or 79.8%, have French as a mother tongue or speak it at home)

**20.2%** of population<sup>2</sup>

**2,436,440** people **have English as a mother tongue, or speak it at home, or use it at work or have it as a language of instruction at school**  
(7,501,755, or 90.3%, use French in one or more of these areas)<sup>3</sup>

**29.3%** of population<sup>4</sup>

**4,344,555** people **can speak English, including 3,898,980 (46.4%) who can speak both English and French**  
(7,879,260, or 93.7%, can speak French, including 3,898,980 (46.4%) who can speak both English and French)

**51.7%** of population

## EDUCATION

For 2020–2021 in public schools from junior kindergarten to Grade 11:<sup>5</sup>

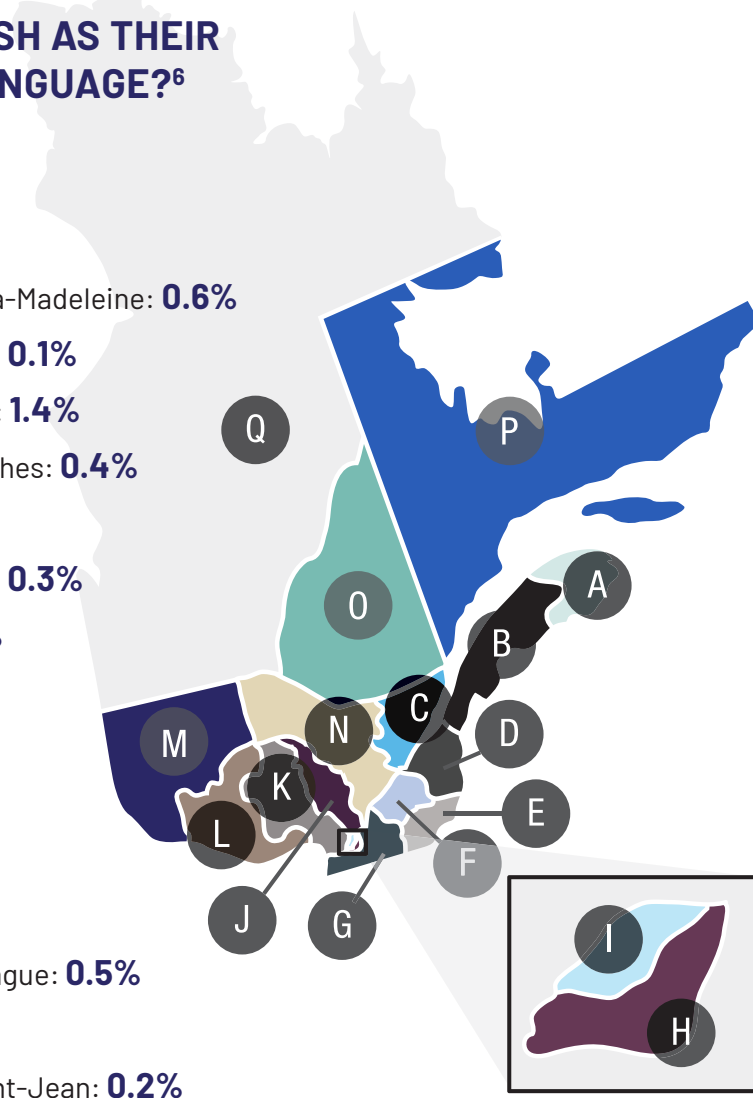
**83,076**  
**STUDENTS**

were in **education programs in the minority official language (English)**

## WHERE DO PEOPLE LIVE WHO SPEAK ENGLISH AS THEIR FIRST OFFICIAL LANGUAGE?<sup>6</sup>

Economic Regions:

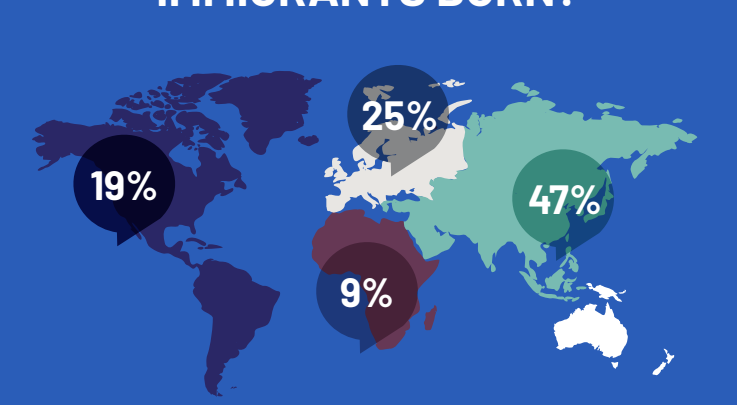
- A Gaspésie-Îles-de-la-Madeleine: **0.6%**
- B Bas-Saint-Laurent: **0.1%**
- C Capitale-Nationale: **1.4%**
- D Chaudière-Appalaches: **0.4%**
- E Estrie: **2.1%**
- F Centre-du-Québec: **0.3%**
- G Montérégie: **16.2%**
- H Montréal: **55.2%**
- I Laval: **8.3%**
- J Lanaudière: **1.4%**
- K Laurentides: **3.8%**
- L Outaouais: **6.6%**
- M Abitibi-Témiscamingue: **0.5%**
- N Mauricie: **0.3%**
- O Saguenay-Lac-Saint-Jean: **0.2%**
- P Côte-Nord: **0.4%**
- Q Nord-du-Québec: **2.2%**



## WHERE WERE THEY BORN?<sup>7</sup>



## WHERE WERE ENGLISH-SPEAKING IMMIGRANTS BORN?<sup>7</sup>



## MEDIA

### NEWSPAPER



The *Montréal Gazette* and Sherbrooke's *The Record* (dailies), as well as a variety of weekly publications and magazines, many of which are members of the Quebec Community Newspapers Association.

### RADIO



12 English-language radio stations and CBC Radio

### TELEVISION



CBC TV, CTV, Global and City (Montréal)

## CELEBRATE!

### MARCH

**St. Patrick's Day** celebrations take place in Montréal, Québec City, Richmond, Hudson and Châteauguay.

### APRIL

The **Blue Metropolis International Literary Festival** in Montréal brings people from different cultures and languages together to share the pleasures of reading and writing.

### SEPTEMBER

The Voice of English-speaking Québec holds its **Fall Fest** in Québec City each year to bring together families, community organizations and cultural groups.

### ANNUALLY

The **Townshippers' Festival** is an annual celebration of the Eastern Townships' English-speaking community and their friends and neighbours.

## HISTORY

- 🍁 **From time immemorial**, Indigenous peoples and their languages have been present in the land that we now call Quebec.
- 🍁 **1608**: The French presence in Quebec starts to take hold with the founding of Québec City by Samuel de Champlain. Over the next century and a half, it will expand along the St. Lawrence River and beyond.
- 🍁 **1763**: After the conquest of New France, the Treaty of Paris cedes the French colony to the British. The number of English-speaking settlers increases first with the arrival of merchants and Loyalists, refugees from the American War of Independence, and then with the arrival of English, Scottish, Irish, Jewish and other immigrants during the late 18th and 19th centuries.
- 🍁 **1841**: The *School Act* allows the English-speaking Protestant minority to manage their schools.
- 🍁 **1867**: The *British North America Act* recognizes the right to use English and French in the Quebec Parliament and courts and protects minority education rights.
- 🍁 **19th and 20th centuries**: The English-speaking population diversifies further, with the arrival of African-American refugees fleeing slavery, their descendants, and immigrants speaking other languages from Europe and the world.
- 🍁 **1970s**: Tensions increase over the place of French in Quebec as the language crisis comes to a head.

- 🍁 **1974**: The *Official Language Act* (Bill 22) is enacted, making French the only official language of Quebec and restricting access to school in English.
- 🍁 **1977**: The *Charter of the French Language* (Bill 101) becomes provincial law, introducing new restrictions on English, including provisions on language of work and language of education for immigrants.
- 🍁 **1970s and 1980s**: More than 300,000 English-speaking Quebecers leave the province.
- 🍁 **1982**: The *Charter of Rights and Freedoms*, which includes protections for Anglophone minority rights, is adopted.
- 🍁 **1982**: Alliance Québec, a group that advocates on behalf of English-speaking Quebecers, is created.
- 🍁 **1986**: Bill 142 guarantees access to health and social services in English.
- 🍁 **1988**: The Supreme Court recognizes the right to bilingual commercial signage in Quebec.
- 🍁 **1995**: The Quebec Community Groups Network is founded, bringing together several English-language regional and sectoral organizations.
- 🍁 **At the turn of the millennium**, community organizations important to English-speaking Quebecers, such as the Community Economic Development and Employability Corporation (1999) and the Community Health and Social Services Network (2000), were created. Another such organization, the Regional Development Network, was founded in 2019.
- 🍁 **2017**: The Quebec government creates the Secretariat for Relations with English-speaking Quebecers to better ensure that their perspectives are taken into account when government decisions are being made.

### Sources and notes:

Unless indicated otherwise, all data is from Statistics Canada, *Census Profile*, 2021 Census of Population, Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 98-316-X2021001, Ottawa.

<sup>1</sup> For additional information, please see our [Snapshots of official languages in Canada \(2021\)](#).

<sup>2</sup> [Statistics Canada, Table 98-10-0214-01](#).

<sup>3</sup> Data provided by Statistics Canada, from 2021 Census of Population (2A-L). Includes all individuals having French alone or in combination with another language as a mother tongue, or a language spoken at home, or a language used at work or, among school-aged children who could speak French, had never attended a regular English-language school.

<sup>4</sup> Data provided by Statistics Canada, from 2021 Census of Population (2A-L). Includes all individuals having English alone or in combination with another language as a mother tongue, or a language spoken at home, or a language used at work or, among school-aged children who could speak English, had attended a regular English-language school.

<sup>5</sup> [Statistics Canada, Table 37-10-0009-01](#).

<sup>6</sup> [Statistics Canada, Table 98-10-0196-01](#).

<sup>7</sup> Data provided by Statistics Canada, from 2021 Census of Population (2A-L).