The French Presence in Alberta

7% of the population (264,720 people) can speak both English and French.

French is:
- the mother tongue of 2% of the population (79,154 people)
- the first official language of 2% of the population (79,838 people)

From 2011 to 2016, there was an increase of:
- 22% of people whose mother tongue is French
- 53% of people who speak French most often at home

183,966 students from kindergarten to Grade 12 are enrolled in French-language, French immersion or French second language programs (2015–2016).

141,528 students (23%) are enrolled in core French.

42,438 students (7%) are enrolled in French immersion programs.

842 students are registered at Campus Saint-Jean, the University of Alberta’s Francophone campus. The faculty offers 9 undergraduate programs and 2 master’s programs in French (2017–2018).

Where do Francophones live?

More than half of Franco-Albertans live in and around Calgary and Edmonton.

Economic regions (percentage of the population whose first official language is French):
- Athabasca–Grande Prairie–Peace River: 8%
- Wood Buffalo–Cold Lake: 7%
- Camrose–Drumheller: 3%
- Lethbridge–Medicine Hat: 3%
- Calgary: 33%
- Red Deer: 3%
- Banff–Jasper–Rocky Mountain House: 3%
- Edmonton: 39%

Alberta has 31 Francophone communities and 4 municipalities that are officially bilingual: Beaumont, Legal, Falher and Plamondon.
WHERE WERE THEY BORN?

- Elsewhere in Canada: 50%
- In Alberta: 25%
- Abroad: 24%

WHERE WERE FRENCH-SPEAKING IMMIGRANTS BORN?

- Americas: 15%
- Africa: 23%
- Europe: 23%
- Asia: 13%

MEDIA

Le Franco

CHPL FM 92.1 (Plamondon / Lac La Biche), and Radio-Canada ICI Première and ICI Musique

ICI Radio-Canada Télé, ALTA TV and Unis TV

HISTORY

Brought by the first fur traders, French was the first European language spoken in Alberta.

In the 1890s, an influx of settlers arrived in Alberta in search of prosperity, and the proportion of Francophones decreased.

In 1892, the Legislative Assembly made English the only language of debate and instruction.

The Association canadienne-française de l’Alberta was created in 1926.

In 1964, the School Act was amended to allow for one hour of French instruction per day.

In the 1990s, Franco Albertans gained control over their schools, and the government of Alberta established a Francophone affairs secretariat.

In 2017, the Government of Alberta introduced its first French Policy and recognized the Franco-Albertan flag as a symbol of distinction under the Emblems of Alberta Act.

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