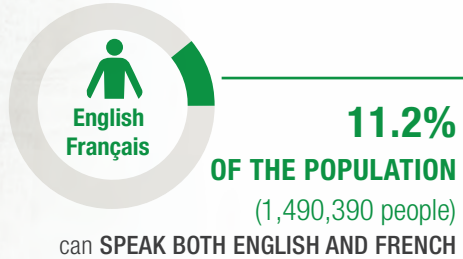




The French Presence in ONTARIO



Ontario has the
**LARGEST FRENCH-SPEAKING
MINORITY COMMUNITY** in Canada



French is:

- the **MOTHER TONGUE** of **4% OF THE POPULATION** (527,690 people)
- the **FIRST OFFICIAL LANGUAGE** of **4.1% OF THE POPULATION** (550,600 people)

†Using the Inclusive Definition of Francophone, the French-speaking population in Ontario is 622,415.



979,269 CHILDREN
ARE LEARNING FRENCH in publicly funded
English-language school boards in Ontario
(2015–2016)



**766,555
STUDENTS**
are enrolled in
CORE FRENCH
(2015–2016)



**212,714
STUDENTS**
are enrolled in
FRENCH IMMERSION
(2015–2016)

*of eligible enrolment



103,490 STUDENTS are enrolled in
FRENCH LANGUAGE SCHOOLS (Kindergarten
to Grade 12) in **12 school boards**
(2015–2016)

NUMBER OF FRENCH-LANGUAGE EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS



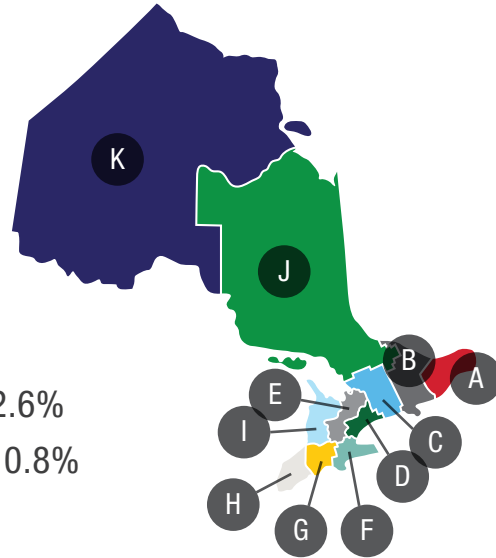
351 **ELEMENTARY
SCHOOLS**

104 **HIGH
SCHOOLS**

21,300 STUDENTS
are enrolled in French-language
post-secondary programs
(colleges, and bilingual and
French-language universities)
(2015–2016)

WHERE DO FRANCOPHONES LIVE?

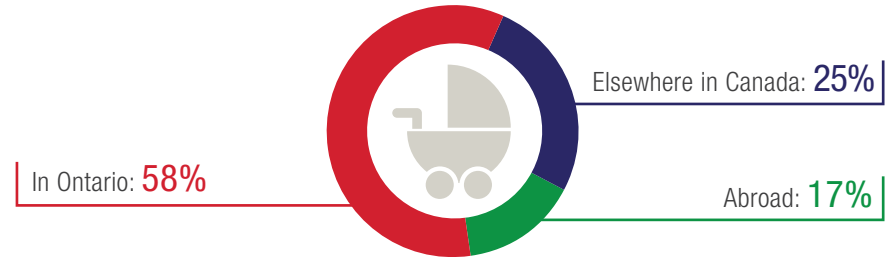
Most Franco-Ontarians live in the eastern part of the province, in and around Ottawa. Other main areas include north-eastern Ontario (Sudbury, North Bay) and central Ontario.



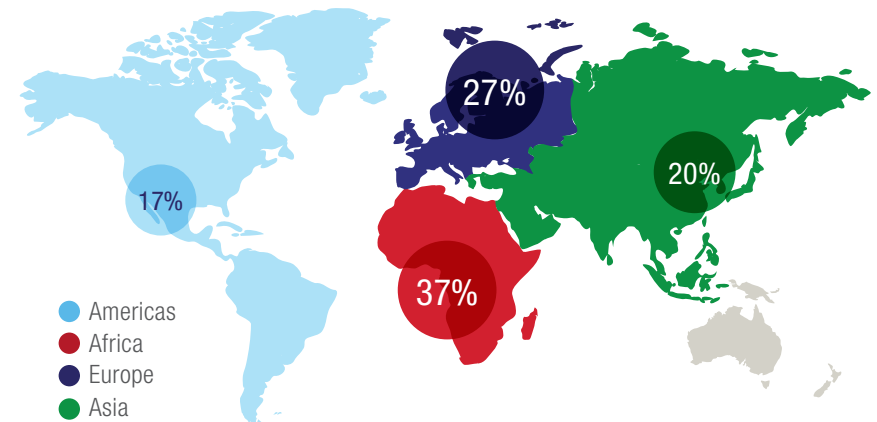
ECONOMIC REGIONS

- A Ottawa: 42.7%
- B Kingston-Pembroke: 2.6%
- C Muskoka-Kawarthas: 0.8%
- D Toronto: 19%
- E Kitchener-Waterloo-Barrie: 3.8%
- F Hamilton-Niagara Peninsula: 4.7%
- G London: 1.5%
- H Windsor-Sarnia: 2.9%
- I Stratford-Bruce Peninsula: 0.4%
- J Northeast: 20.7%
- K Northwest: 1.1%

WHERE WERE THEY BORN?



WHERE WERE FRENCH-SPEAKING IMMIGRANTS BORN?



MEDIA



Le Droit (daily) and 16 French-language newspapers published weekly or monthly



7 French-language radio stations, and Radio-Canada ICI Première and ICI Musique



3 French-language television stations, Télévision française de l'Ontario (TFO), ICI Radio-Canada Télé and Unis TV

CELEBRATE!



Spring

THÉÂTRE ACTION holds theatre festivals for young French-speaking Canadians at alternating sites in Sudbury and Ottawa.

Toronto's **CINÉFRANCO**, founded in 1997, celebrates and promotes French-language films in Ontario.

March–April

LA NUIT SUR L'ÉTANG is a popular Francophone music festival that has been held in Sudbury since 1973.

May

The **FRANCO-ONTARIAN GAMES** are held in different parts of Ontario every year and are the largest gathering of young Franco-Ontarians in the province.

June

The **FESTIVAL FRANCO-ONTARIEN** is a major festival for Francophones and Francophiles held in Ottawa that celebrates Franco-Ontarian culture and community.

August

The St-Albert **CURD FESTIVAL** has been celebrating Francophone culture in Eastern Ontario since 1994.

September

FRANCO-ONTARIAN DAY is held on September 25.

HISTORY

- The French presence in Ontario officially dates back to 1615 with the arrival of Samuel de Champlain.
- The Francophone population grew steadily in the 19th and early 20th centuries, mostly in eastern and northeastern Ontario as a result of the forestry, mining and railway industries.
- The Association canadienne-française d'Éducation de l'Ontario (now called the Assemblée de la francophonie de l'Ontario) was created in 1910 to lobby for French language education rights in the province.
- In 1913, the French newspaper *Le Droit* was founded.
- The Franco-Ontarian flag was adopted in 1975.
- TVOntario launched La Chaîne française in 1987, which became Télévision française de l'Ontario in 1995.
- The *French Language Services Act* was passed in 1986, giving French legal status in the Legislative Assembly of Ontario and guaranteeing the public the right to receive government services in French.
- The Franco-Ontarian community rallied to save Monfort hospital from closure in 2002.
- The Office of the French Language Services Commissioner was created in 2007.
- In 2015, Franco-Ontarians proudly celebrated 400 years of history.
- In 2017, the Office of Francophone Affairs became the Ministry of Francophone Affairs.
- Bill 177, passed in 2017, recognized the bilingual character of the City of Ottawa and established the Université de l'Ontario français.

Sources:

- Statistics Canada, 2016 Census of Population
- Statistics Canada, 2011 National Household Survey
- Fédération des communautés francophones et acadienne du Canada
- Profiles of the Francophone and Acadian Communities of Canada
- Canadian Parents for French
- Éducation en langue française en Ontario
- Government of Ontario: *French as a second language enrolment*
- Government of Ontario, Office of Francophone Affairs: *History of the French Presence in Ontario*