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.

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

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

979,269 CHILDREN are learning French in publicly funded English-language school boards in Ontario (2015–2016)

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

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-easterly Ontario (Sudbury, North Bay) and central Ontario.

WHERE WERE THEY BORN?

In Ontario: 58%
Elsewhere in Canada: 25%
Abroad: 17%

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 FRENCH-SPEAKING IMMIGRANTS BORN?

Europe: 27%
Africa: 20%
Asia: 37%
Americas: 17%
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.
- 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 Francophilies 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