

Some facts on the Canadian Francophonie

The Canadian Francophonie by the numbers

- ▶ Canada has a population of nearly 37 million people. French is the first official language spoken for 22.0% of the population.
- ▶ The majority of Francophones (84.1%) live in Quebec and close to 1 million live in other provinces and territories of the country.
- ▶ Almost 10.7 million Canadians can carry on a conversation in French.

The status of French

- Canada is a federal state with 10 provinces and 3 territories. French, like English, is one of Canada's two official languages.
- Federal institutions are bilingual. They operate and provide services in both official languages. The Government of Canada also actively promotes both official languages in Canadian society (*Official Languages Act*). The act was modernized in June of 2023 and is committed to protecting and promoting the French language in the country.
- In every province and territory, French- or English-speaking minorities have a right to primary and secondary school instruction in their language (*Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*).
- Quebec, the only province that is primarily Francophone, adopted the *Charter of the French Language*, which provides for the predominant use of French within provincial government institutions and in Quebec society.
- The province of New Brunswick is, under the *Canadian Constitution*, officially bilingual.
- In all provinces and territories French benefits from legal protections or government policies as to its use in public institutions, notably for the provision of services in French.
- All federal, provincial and territorial governments are members of the Minister's Council on the Canadian Francophonie.

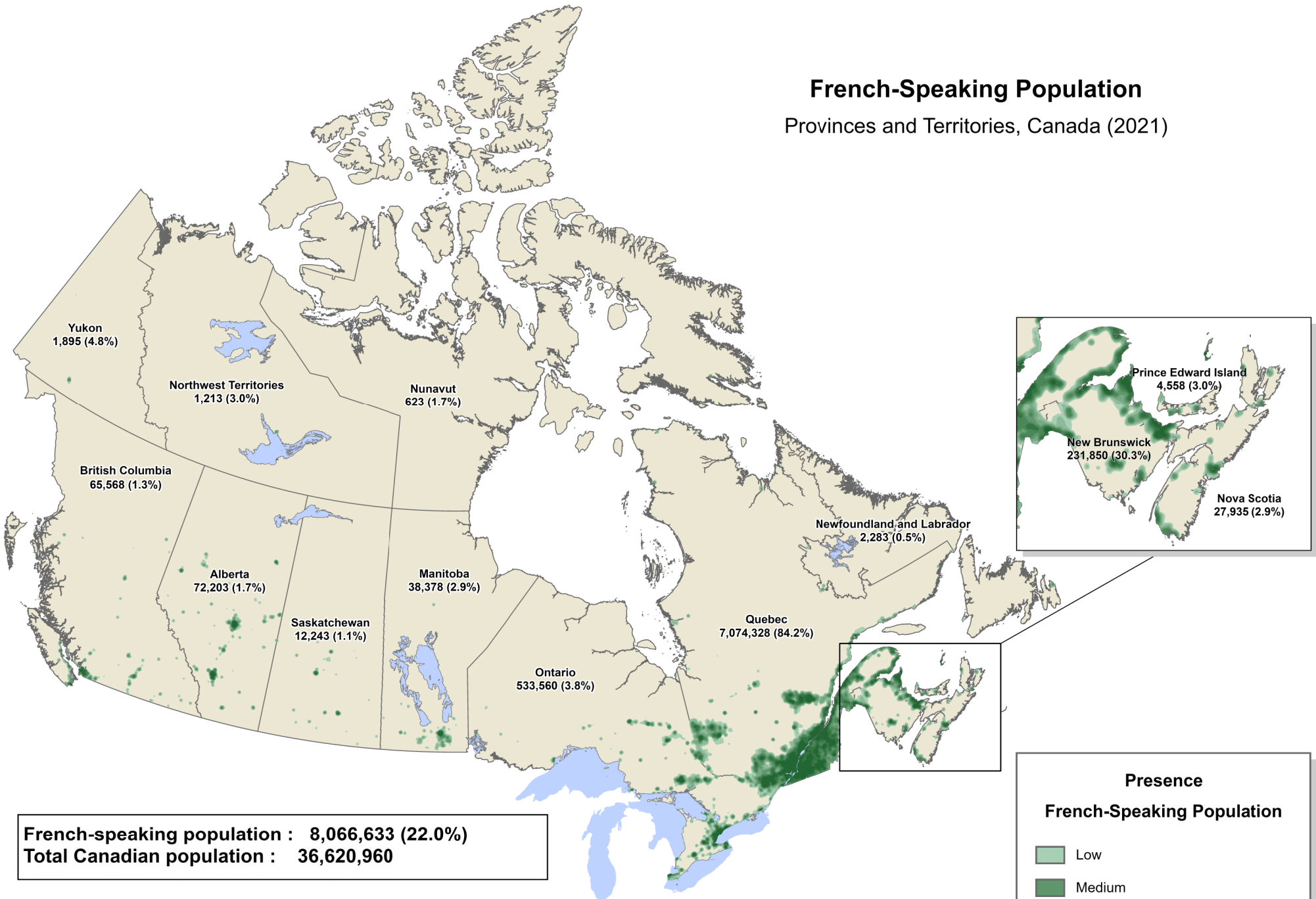
- Canada, as well as the governments of Quebec, New Brunswick and Ontario (observer member) are members of the International Organisation of *La Francophonie*.

Education, media and culture

- Canada has more than 3,000 French-language primary and secondary schools, around 75 French-language colleges and nearly 30 French-language universities, a majority of which are located in Quebec.
 - Outside Quebec, more than 170,000 Francophones study in their language at approximately 750 primary and secondary institutions, managed by the communities.
 - Francophones outside Quebec also have access to over 20 colleges and universities.
- Nearly 1.7 million young Canadians are studying French as a second language, of which 477,480 students are in French immersion classes outside Quebec.
- Canadian French-language media include:
 - one national public television and radio network broadcaster (Radio-Canada), plus:
 - 217 community, regional and national radio stations, of which 30.0% are located outside Quebec
 - 68 community, private and public television stations, of which 14.7% are located outside Quebec
 - over 32 newspapers and 10 daily newspapers outside Quebec
- Major national institutions, present in all arts and culture sectors, are dedicated to strengthening and promoting the French language's cultural expression.
- Quebec has many creative spaces, broadcasting networks and government institutions that support cultural and artistic production in French, while providing access to these products and creations.
- Francophone minority communities also have around 100 centres for artistic and cultural creation, production and distribution.

French-Speaking Population

Provinces and Territories, Canada (2021)



Note : French-speaking populations have been calculated using the definition "first official language spoken" (FOLS)

Source: Official Languages Branch, Canadian Heritage, March 2024, based on data from the 2021 Census of Canada, Statistics Canada, 100% sample. The first official language spoken is a derived variable based on the responses to language questions in the Census of Canada.