

Analytical Paper

Portrait of Official-Language Minorities in Canada: Francophones in British Columbia

by Brigitte Chavez and Camille Bouchard-Coulombe

Jean Talon Building, 7th Floor, 170 Tunney's Pasture Driveway
Social and Aboriginal Statistics Division
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0T6



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Portrait of Official-Language Minorities in Canada: Francophones in British Columbia

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- . not available for any reference period
- .. not available for a specific reference period
- ... not applicable
- 0 true zero or a value rounded to zero
- 0^S value rounded to 0 (zero) where there is a meaningful distinction between true zero and the value that was rounded
- P preliminary
- r revised
- x suppressed to meet the confidentiality requirements of the *Statistics Act*
- E use with caution
- F too unreliable to be published

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Introduction

This demolinguistic portrait of the French-speaking population in British Columbia was undertaken with the financial support of Canadian Heritage's Official Languages Secretariat, Human Resources and Skills Development Canada (HRSDC) and Justice Canada. It is the fourth in a series of demolinguistic portraits of official-language minorities in Canada, prepared by Statistics Canada's Language Statistics Section.

This study paints a general statistical portrait of the official-language minority in British Columbia based on data from the Census of Population and the Survey on the Vitality of Official-Language Minorities in Canada, conducted in 2006. The purpose of such a portrait is to present a set of characteristics, behaviours and perceptions of the official-language minority population, exploiting the analytical opportunities contained in the data.

This document is intended to be neither a mere collection of tables nor an in-depth study of the demolinguistic dynamics of the French-speaking population in British Columbia. It presents a range of information on a set of themes and issues that are of interest to official-language minorities and anyone interested in the past, present and future of official-language minority populations in Canada.

Section 1 of this demolinguistic portrait concerns the choice of criteria for defining the French-speaking population in British Columbia, to be used for the purposes of this study. It also provides a brief description of the data sources used.

Section 2 presents varied information on how the French-speaking population has evolved and its geographic distribution and concentration in British Columbia. This information is accompanied by a series of appended maps, and a detailed table on the size, relative weight and distribution of the French-speaking population in British Columbia.

Section 3 concerns the main factors that affect or are affected by changes over time in this province's French-speaking population: fertility; the transmission of mother tongue and the effect of exogamy; the age structure; intragenerational linguistic mobility; and interprovincial and international migration. It also provides information on the use of French in the public sphere and on how the ability to conduct a conversation in that language has evolved in groups with a mother tongue other than French or English.

Section 4 of this portrait looks at a few sectors essential to the vitality of official-language minority communities, as identified in the *Roadmap for Canada's Linguistic Duality 2008–2013*: health; justice; education; and the media, arts and culture. It also provides statistics on community participation, employment and income characteristics, and the use of French at work.

The last section of this portrait presents statistics on Francophones' identity, their perceptions regarding the presence of French in their community, the provision of services in French by the federal government, the respect for linguistic rights, and the importance that people work on developing the Francophone community.

Section 1 Definitions of British Columbia's French-speaking population

This statistical portrait of British Columbia's official-language minority contains information drawn from variables from the Canadian census, which until 2006 included no fewer than six questions or sub-questions that provide information on official languages, namely knowledge of official languages, language spoken most often at home, other languages spoken on a regular basis at home, mother tongue, language used most often at work, and other languages used on a regular basis at work.

What is the definition of the official-language minority group in British Columbia? How is a Francophone defined? There is actually no established definition. For historical reasons, Statistics Canada has generally used the criterion of mother tongue, that is, the first language learned at home in childhood and still understood at the time of the census. Statistics based on mother tongue have the advantage of being roughly comparable going back more than half a century.

Other criteria are also used, opening the way for either more inclusive or more restrictive definitions of French-speaking persons. Thus, does the definition of a Francophone in British Columbia apply to the roughly 59,000 persons who reported French as their mother tongue in the 2006 Census,¹ 62,000 persons with French as their first official language spoken,² or 57,000 persons³ who speak French most often (20,000) or on a regular basis (37,000) at home? Or should a broader definition be considered? Such a definition might include all of the approximately 300,000 French speakers, or indeed more if we include young children who do not speak French, but who have at least one parent whose mother tongue is French. These are just a few examples of the variables that can be used to define language groups.⁴

Also, in choosing a strategy for estimating a language group, it is important to take account of at least two main options. On the one hand, if the objective is to enumerate the population considering all language groups on an equal basis—in other words, treating them symmetrically and creating mutually exclusive categories for estimating them (e.g., English, French, Other)—then this implies an appropriate allocation of multiple responses. In such a case, the French-mother-tongue population of British Columbia would be 59,000. On the other hand, if the objective is to focus on a single language group (e.g., Francophones), the criteria for inclusion can be broadened without being concerned about the implicit overlaps between language groups. In this case, the number of persons with French as their mother tongue in British Columbia would be more than 63,000.

In this statistical portrait of British Columbia Francophones, two criteria will mainly be used: mother tongue and first official language spoken. The latter criterion is now used increasingly as a criterion for defining language groups in studies on official-language minorities. The reason for this is that shifts over the years in the composition of the Canadian population tend to call for a redefinition or broadening of the concept of Francophone group or community, since a significant number of persons whose mother tongue is neither French nor English nevertheless use French either predominantly or commonly in their daily lives.

A number of considerations lay behind the creation of the concept of "first official language spoken." Firstly, the substantial increase in immigration to Canada since the mid-1980s has had the effect of increasing the size of the population with a mother tongue other than French or English (20% in 2006). Such persons are often designated by the term "allophones."

Since an allophone cannot become a Francophone on the basis of mother tongue but can become one by adopting French as the language used most often at home or in the public sphere, the question arises as to how to designate individuals' first official language spoken, or more specifically, how to allocate allophones between English and French based on the reported knowledge of one or the other of the official languages.

1. The number is approximately 63,000 if all single and multiple responses mentioning French are included (see Table 2.1.1).

2. Includes all single responses and half of English and French responses.

3. This number includes all single and multiple responses mentioning French.

4. To cite only one example, in June 2009, the Ontario government adopted a new, inclusive definition of the Francophone population (IDF) (formerly defined according to the mother tongue criterion). This definition is fairly similar to the one based on first official language spoken, except that it also includes persons with French as a mother tongue and who understand French but can no longer conduct a conversation in that language.

Questions of this type led to the development of different variants of the concept of first official language spoken (Statistics Canada, 1989). This concept echoes the spirit of the current version of the *Official Languages Act* (1988) which specifies, in section 32(2), that the government may have regard to “the English or French linguistic minority population of the area served by an office or facility, the particular characteristics of that population and the proportion of that population to the total population of that area.”

The concept of first official language was chosen by the federal government, in December 1991, in the Official Languages Regulations (*Communications with and Services to the Public*). Section 2 of the Regulations describes the method used to determine “the first official language spoken,” namely the first of the two variants presented in Statistics Canada (1989), a method that successively takes account of the responses to the questions on knowledge of official languages, mother tongue and language spoken most often at home. The “first official language spoken” variable is thus not a census question but is instead derived from three questions in the language module of the census.

The concept of first official language spoken (FOLS) serves to allocate the Canadian population between the country’s two main language groups. Thus, in Canada, just over 97% of the population has either English or French as its first official language spoken. The residual portion is comprised, firstly, of persons who have neither French nor English as their mother tongue or main home language and cannot conduct a conversation in either of the two official languages (1.6%) and secondly, of persons who know both English and French but cannot be assigned one or the other of the two official languages on the basis of the three census variables used for this purpose (1.1%)

Unlike the population with French as a mother tongue, the Francophone population according to the FOLS criterion excludes most persons for whom French is the mother tongue but who reported being unable to conduct a conversation in French at the time of the census. Also, it includes persons with an “other” mother tongue (i.e., other than French or English) who speak French most often at home as well as those who, while having an “other” language as the main home language, can also conduct a conversation in French but not in English. It also includes half the persons who can conduct a conversation in French and English and who speak another language or both official languages most often at home.

This report will draw a statistical portrait of British Columbia Francophones, primarily using the FOLS criterion, but also, when relevant, information on mother tongue.⁵ Following the proposal of the Treasury Board Secretariat, in this report the Francophone population of British Columbia will refer to persons having only French as their first official language spoken (FOLS) and half of persons having both French and English as FOLS, that is, persons to whom it is not possible to assign only French or only English on the basis of answers to the above-mentioned three variables.

5. In this report, the terms “Francophones,” “French-speaking” and “Franco-Columbian” will be used interchangeably. Except when referring specifically to Francophones by the mother tongue criterion, this report uses the criterion of first official language spoken to designate the Francophone or French-speaking population. In this regard, the target population in this report differs slightly from the one in the report on the first results of the Survey on the Vitality of Official-Language Minorities, which were published in December 2007 (Corbeil, Grenier and Lafrenière, 2007).

Data sources

This portrait of the French-speaking population in British Columbia contains information drawn from Canadian censuses from 1951 to 2006 and the Survey on the Vitality of Official-Language Minorities (SVOLM),⁶ conducted in 2006 by Statistics Canada.

Census: The census data contained in this report are drawn from the long census questionnaire, completed by 20% of households and including 61 questions of which 7 are language-related.

Survey on the Vitality of Official-Language Minorities (SVOLM): This is a cross-sectional sample survey. SVOLM respondents were selected from the sample of persons who completed the long questionnaire in the 2006 Census.

The survey focuses on Canada's official-language minorities, namely French-speaking persons outside Quebec and English-speaking persons in Quebec. The data can be used to gain a deeper understanding of the current situation of individuals belonging to these two groups on subjects as varied as education in the minority language, access to different services in the minority language (the health care sector in particular), language practices in daily activities both in and outside the home, and matters of linguistic identity.

6. For information on the Survey on the Vitality of Official-Language Minorities, the reader is invited to visit the Statistics Canada website at <http://www.statcan.gc.ca/cgi-bin/imdb/p2SV.pl?Function=getSurvey&SDDS=5099&lang=fr&db=imdb&dbg=f&adm=8&dis=2>.

Section 2 Evolution of the population by mother tongue and first official language spoken

2.1 Evolution of the population by mother tongue

The French-mother-tongue population of British Columbia more than tripled (a 204% increase) between 1951 and 2006, going from 19,400 to 58,900 persons. The English-mother-tongue population also tripled (a 201% increase), reaching 2,900,900 in 2006, while the population with a mother tongue other than French or English increased six-fold (a 513% increase), totalling 1,114,600 in 2006 compared to 181,900 in 1951.

Table 2.1.1
Population by mother tongue, British Columbia, 1951 to 2006

Year	Mother tongue						
	Total	French		English		Other languages	
	number	number	%	number	%	number	%
1951	1,165,210	19,365	1.7	963,920	82.7	181,925	15.6
1961	1,629,085	26,180	1.6	1,318,500	80.9	284,405	17.5
1971	2,184,625	38,035	1.7	1,807,240	82.7	339,350	15.5
1981	2,713,620	43,415	1.6	2,228,185	82.1	442,025	16.3
1991	3,247,495	51,585	1.6	2,562,240	78.9	633,665	19.5
1996	3,689,755	56,755	1.5	2,809,400	76.1	823,600	22.3
2001	3,868,875	58,890	1.5	2,849,180	73.6	960,805	24.8
2006	4,074,385	58,885	1.4	2,900,890	71.2	1,114,605	27.4

Note: Except for the 1951 to 1971 censuses, multiple responses were equally redistributed among the three main linguistic groups.

Sources: Statistics Canada, censuses of population, 1951 to 2006.

Table 2.1.2 shows the average annual growth rate for the population of each mother tongue group since 1951. As may be seen, during the postwar period (1951 to 1961), the population with a mother tongue other than French or English grew at an average rate of nearly 5.6% annually because of the strong increase in international immigration, compared to an average annual growth rate of 3.5% for the French-mother-tongue population and 3.7% for the English-mother-tongue population. The table also shows that from 1961 to 1971, the average annual increase in the French-mother-tongue population, at 4.5%, was stronger than that of the other groups, respectively 3.7% for the English-mother-tongue group and 1.9% for the group with other mother tongues. Also, starting in the 1970s, the average annual increase in the French-language population remained low, barely exceeding 2%. By contrast, the average annual growth rate of the population with an "other" mother tongue has ranged between 3% and 6% annually since the early 1970s. Owing to the strong growth of international immigration in the last five-year period, the average growth rate of the "other"-mother-tongue population was 3.2%, while that of the other two language groups was nil or nearly nil.

Table 2.1.2
Yearly average population growth rate by mother tongue, British Columbia, 1951 to 2006

Period	Mother tongue		
	French	English	Other languages
	percentage		
1951 to 1961	3.52	3.68	5.63
1961 to 1971	4.53	3.71	1.93
1971 to 1981	1.41	2.33	3.03
1981 to 1991	1.88	1.50	4.34
1991 to 1996	2.00	1.93	5.99
1996 to 2001	0.75	0.28	3.33
2001 to 2006	0.00	0.36	3.20

Sources: Statistics Canada, censuses of population, 1951 to 2006.

The French-mother-tongue population outside Quebec resides mainly in two bordering provinces. The provinces of New Brunswick and Ontario alone accounted for 76% of all Francophones living outside Quebec in 2006. That same year, British Columbia Francophones accounted for 6% of the French-mother-tongue population outside Quebec, an increase compared to 1951 when the corresponding proportion was 2.7% (see Table 2.1.3). At the same time, British Columbia Francophones accounted for 1.4% of that province's population. For the English-mother-tongue and "other"-mother-tongue populations, the corresponding proportions are 71% and 27% respectively (see Table 2.1.1).

Table 2.1.3
Number and proportion of Francophones in British Columbia within the Francophone population outside Quebec, 1951 to 2006

Year	French mother tongue		Proportion of Francophones in British Columbia
	British Columbia	Canada less Quebec	
	number		percentage
1951	19,365	721,820	2.7
1961	26,180	853,460	3.1
1971	38,035	926,295	4.1
1981	43,415	923,605	4.7
1991	51,585	976,415	5.3
1996	56,755	970,205	5.8
2001	58,890	980,275	6.0
2006	58,885	975,390	6.0

Notes: The term Francophone refers to the mother tongue. Except for the 1951 to 1971 censuses, multiple responses were equally redistributed among the three main linguistic groups.

Sources: Statistics Canada, censuses of population, 1951 to 2006.

2.2 Evolution of the population by first official language spoken

As described in Section 1, the criterion of the first official language spoken (FOLS) offers a more inclusive definition of the Francophone population, since it allows the inclusion of persons with mother tongues other than English or French in the Anglophone or Francophone population. Most persons with other mother tongues usually fall into the majority FOLS group. Nevertheless, the population with French as first official language spoken is usually larger than the French-mother-tongue population in a province such as Ontario, for example, where there is a large proportion of persons with mother tongues other than French or English. In other cases, such as New Brunswick, the use of the FOLS criterion yields practically the same result as the mother tongue criterion, since persons with “other” mother tongues comprise only 2.6% of the population. In British Columbia, the use of the FOLS criterion makes little difference to the size of the Francophone population, despite a sizable allophone presence. The relative share of the French FOLS population within the overall population of British Columbia is 1.5% (61,740 persons) (see Table 2.2) while that of the French-mother-tongue population is 1.4% (58,885) (after equal redistribution of multiple responses). However, it is worth noting that the French FOLS population falls to 53,065 if the 8,675 immigrants with a double FOLS are excluded. As to the Anglophone population, its relative share is 71.2% according to the mother tongue criterion and 95.5% according to the FOLS criterion, which shows that allophones are strongly oriented toward English.

Table 2.2
Population by first official language spoken, British Columbia, 1971 to 2006

Year	First official language spoken											
	Total		French		English		English and French		Neither English nor French		Francophone minority ¹	
	number	number	%	number	%	number	%	number	%	number	%	
1971	2,184,620	38,770	1.8	2,115,130	96.8	4,000	0.2	26,725	1.2	40,770	1.9	
1981	2,713,615	36,090	1.3	2,632,280	97.0	8,005	0.3	37,240	1.4	40,095	1.5	
1991	3,247,505	45,225	1.4	3,132,795	96.5	8,635	0.3	60,850	1.9	49,545	1.5	
1996	3,689,755	50,285	1.4	3,532,485	95.7	12,040	0.3	94,945	2.6	56,310	1.5	
2001	3,868,870	51,970	1.3	3,700,385	95.6	14,790	0.4	101,725	2.6	59,365	1.5	
2006	4,074,385	53,065	1.3	3,883,215	95.3	17,350	0.4	120,760	3.0	61,740	1.5	

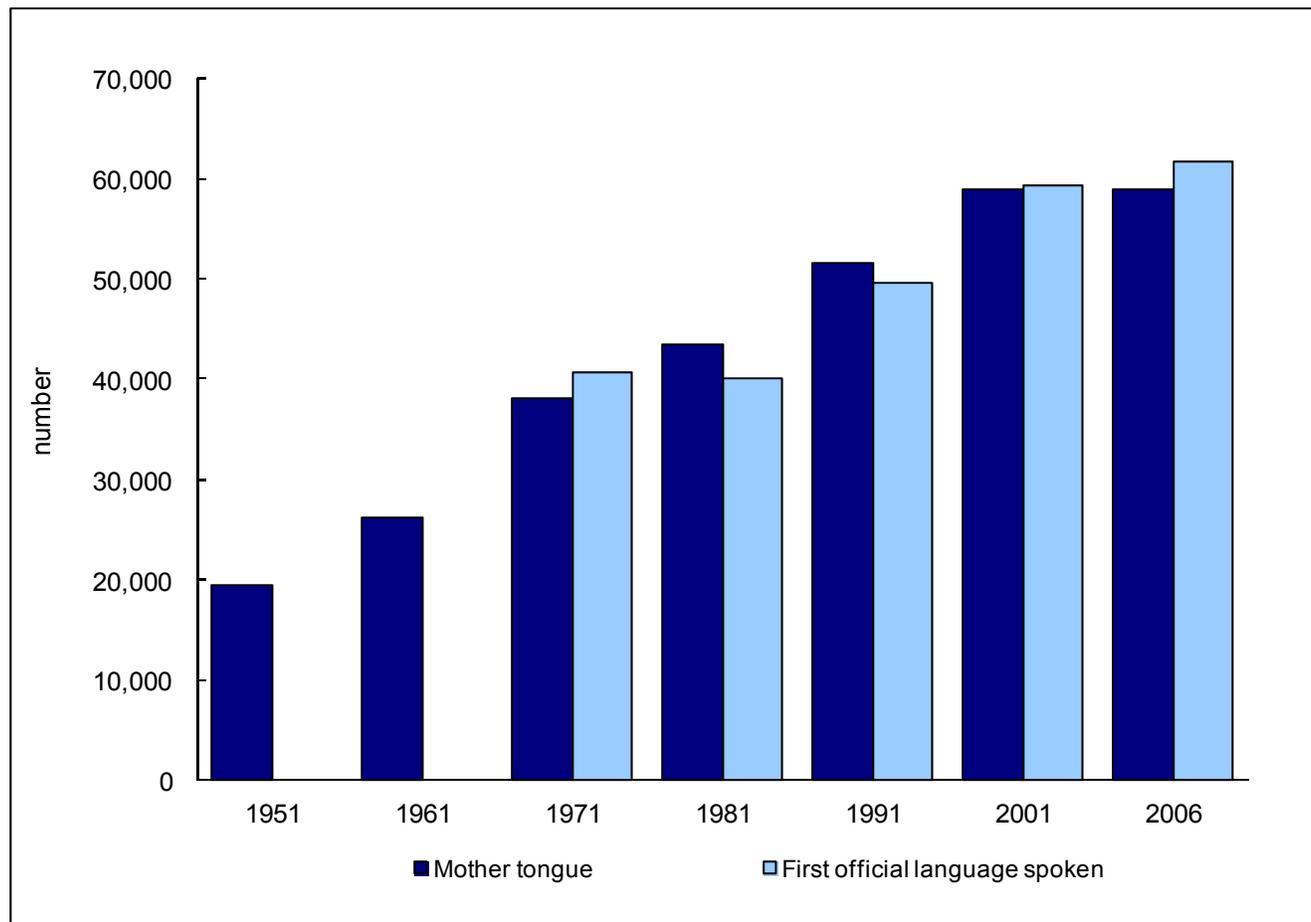
1. Total of first official language spoken French and half of first official language spoken English and French.

Sources: Statistics Canada, censuses of population, 1971 to 2006.

As seen in the results shown in Chart 2.2, the French-mother-tongue population is of about the same size as the French FOLS population. Note that when the French-mother-tongue population is equal to the French FOLS population, this means that the linguistic integration of persons with mother tongues other than English or French is not operating to the advantage of the minority language. When the French-mother-tongue population is larger than the French FOLS population, this means that not only are “other”-mother-tongue persons not being integrated, but some persons with French as their mother tongue know English but no longer know French well enough to conduct a conversation in it. For this reason, they are included in the English FOLS group.

Between 1971 and 2006, the difference between the size of the French-mother-tongue population and that of the French FOLS population shows little change. The smallest difference observed between these two populations is 475 in 2001, while the largest is 3,320 in 1981. Since 1971, the French FOLS population exceeded the French-mother-tongue population three times, in 1971, 2001 and 2006. In addition, the French FOLS population decreased slightly between 1971 and 1981, whereas between 2001 and 2006 the French-mother-tongue population scarcely changed. During the other periods, both the French FOLS and French-mother-tongue populations grew.

Chart 2.2
Number of persons with French as mother tongue and as first official language spoken, British Columbia, 1951 to 2006



Note: Since the question on language used most often at home was asked for the first time on the 1971 Census, we cannot derive the first official language spoken variable before 1971. Except for the 1951 to 1971 censuses, the multiple responses were equally redistributed.

Sources: Statistics Canada, censuses of population, 1951 to 2006.

2.3 Geographic distribution of the population with French as first official language spoken

The proportion of persons whose first official language spoken is French within the British Columbia population is 1.5%. Nearly two-thirds of the Franco-Columbian population is concentrated in four census divisions: Greater Vancouver (50.9% or 31,400 people), Capital (10.2% or 6,305), Fraser Valley (4.7% or 2,890) and Central Okanagan (4.1% or 2,518) (see Appendix A). The Greater Vancouver census division (CD) corresponds to the Vancouver census metropolitan area (CMA), while the Capital CD includes not only the Victoria CMA but also census subdivisions Capital F and Capital G.

Section 3 Factors influencing the evolution of the population with French as a mother tongue

The evolution of the language groups in a given province or region depends on the combined effect of the factors of natural increase—fertility and mortality—on the one hand and the factors of internal and international migration on the other hand. An additional factor is intergenerational linguistic continuity, that is, the mother-to-child transmission of the mother tongue.⁷ Yet another factor will also be described in this section, namely intragenerational linguistic continuity or its obverse, language substitution or transfer. The latter, while it does not directly influence how a language group evolves in the short term, can nevertheless have a major long-term influence in that the language predominantly used in the home is generally the one transmitted to the children.

In this section, much of the information provided will focus on the French-mother-tongue group in British Columbia. However, in some cases, particularly interprovincial migration and international immigration, the analysis will also cover the population with French as the first official language spoken.

3.1 Fertility

During the first half of the twentieth century, fertility differences between language groups partly accounted for the growth or maintenance of the population of some groups in relation to others. In British Columbia in the 1950s and 1960s, Francophone women exhibited a higher fertility than Anglophone or allophone women. The higher fertility of Francophones partially offset the unfavourable effects of international immigration insofar as the latter favoured the growth of the English-mother-tongue population.

Data drawn from the censuses show that the fertility rate of Francophone women declined so steeply that over a period of only 20 years (1956 to 1961 and 1971 to 1976), the average number of children per woman went from 5.00 to 1.68 (see Table 3.1). There was also a drop in fertility among women with English as their mother tongue, but it was less dramatic, going from 3.65 to 1.77 during the same period. During the succeeding five-year periods, the fertility trends of Francophone and Anglophone women in British Columbia converged, as a result, during the period from 2001 to 2006, their fertility rates were nearly identical, at 1.41 and 1.46 respectively.

Demographers have determined that in the current conditions of low mortality, the replacement level corresponds to a rate of 2.1, that is, 2,100 children per 1,000 women. As may be seen in Table 3.1, the fertility level of Francophone women fell below this replacement level in the period from 1976 to 1981, whereas for Anglophone women and those with a mother tongue other than English or French, this phenomenon occurred much later, during the periods from 1996 to 2001 and from 2001 to 2006, respectively.

Since the period from 1971 to 1976, the fertility rate of women with a mother tongue other than English or French has exceeded that of their Francophone counterparts. In this regard, however, caution is warranted when examining the effect of higher fertility for “other”-mother-tongue women. This phenomenon does not necessarily translate into an increase in the population of this group in relation to the others. As will be seen further on, the transmission of another mother tongue to children—generally the majority language of the community—is a significant phenomenon.

7. Of course, a language is also transmitted from fathers to their children, but it is usually the mother’s language that predominates.

Table 3.1
Total fertility rate by mother tongue, British Columbia, 1956 to 2006

Five-year period	Children per woman			
	All languages	French number	English	Other languages
1956 to 1961	3.65	5.00	3.65	3.69
1961 to 1966	3.29	4.02	3.23	3.43
1966 to 1971	2.40	2.85	2.30	2.75
1971 to 1976	1.83	1.68	1.77	2.02
1976 to 1981	1.64	1.42	1.60	1.90
1981 to 1986	1.68	1.47	1.66	1.81
1986 to 1991	1.63	1.47	1.63	1.63
1991 to 1996	1.58	1.38	1.58	1.60
1996 to 2001	1.46	1.23	1.44	1.50
2001 to 2006	1.47	1.41	1.46	1.46

Note: The method used to calculate the fertility rate is taken from Lachapelle (1988).

Sources: Statistics Canada, censuses of population, 1956 to 2006.

3.2 Transmission of mother tongue and the effect of exogamy

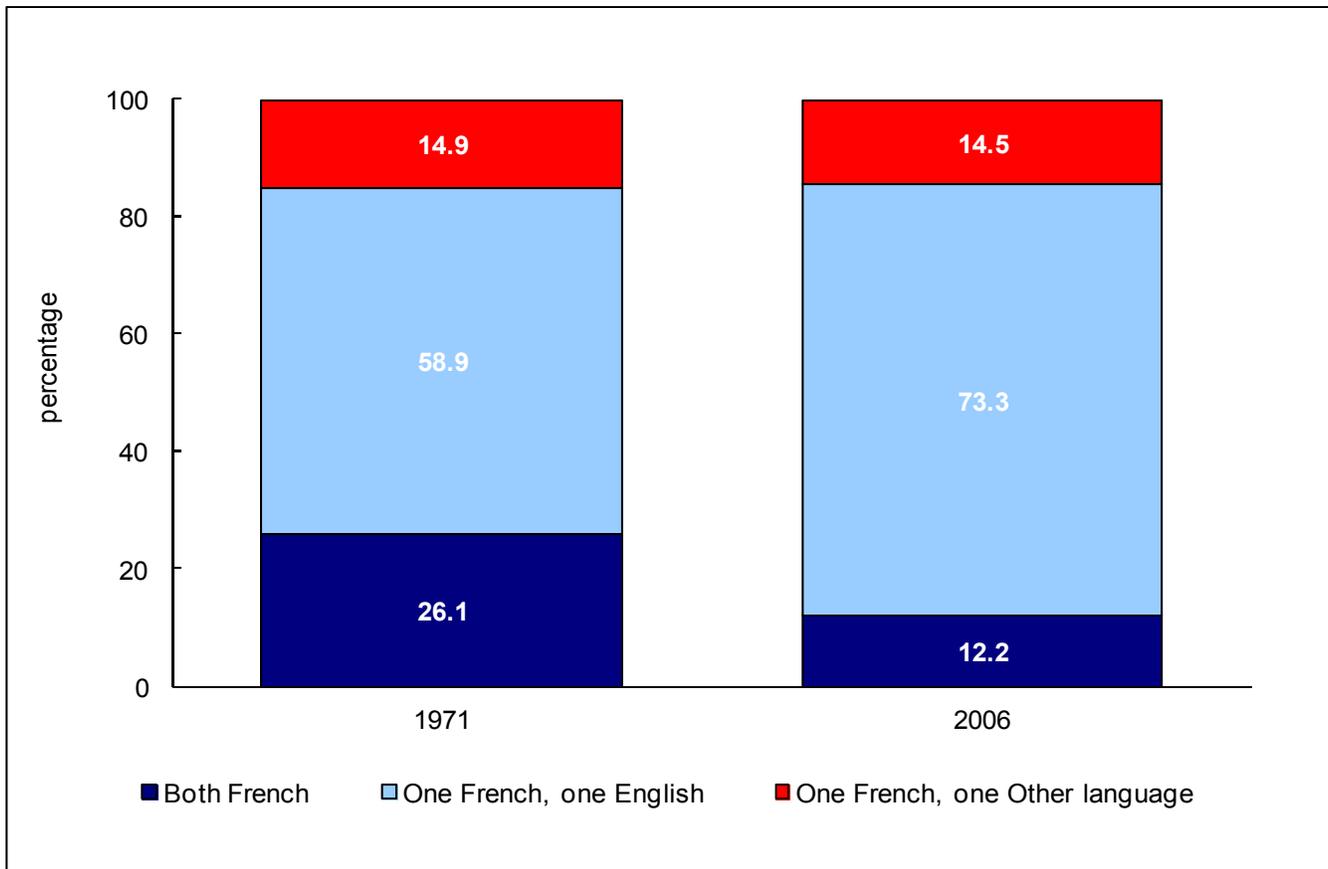
Although the total fertility rate provides useful information on the number of births within different mother-tongue groups, it does not provide any information on the mother tongue transmitted to children. The tendency to transmit a language to one's children varies according to a number of factors; one of the most important of these is the geographic concentration of the population comprising a given language group.⁸ This geographic concentration factor also influences the propensity to form an exogamous couple, that is, a couple in which the partners do not have the same mother tongue. Also, the lower the geographic concentration or the relative weight of a language group in a given community, the lower the propensity of parents to transmit the minority language. In British Columbia, at the time of the 2006 Census, French had been passed on as a mother tongue to 26% of children from couples in which at least one partner had French as a mother tongue.

Between 1971 and 2006, the proportion of children from a French-English exogamous family among all families with at least one French-mother-tongue parent increased in British Columbia, going from 59% to 73% (see Chart 3.2.1). Conversely, the share of children living in an endogamous family with both parents having French as their mother tongue declined substantially, going from 26% in 1971 to 12% in 2006. The formation of French-"other"-mother-tongue exogamous families remained stable during this period, with a proportion of approximately 15%.

8. In general, the concentration of a language group over a given geographic area, like its relative weight, is likely to influence the language practices of its members as well as the vitality of this language community. Nearly all Franco-Columbians (99.9%), who constitute 1.5% of the province's population, live in a municipality where they form less than 10% of the population. As for the concentration of these French-speaking persons, 98% of them are weakly concentrated (within their municipality of residence), while 2% are averagely concentrated (see Appendix D for a description of the concentration index and the concept of dissemination area).

Chart 3.2.1

Proportion of children under 18 years of age living in a family where at least one parent is of French-mother tongue, by mother tongue of parents, British Columbia, 1971 and 2006



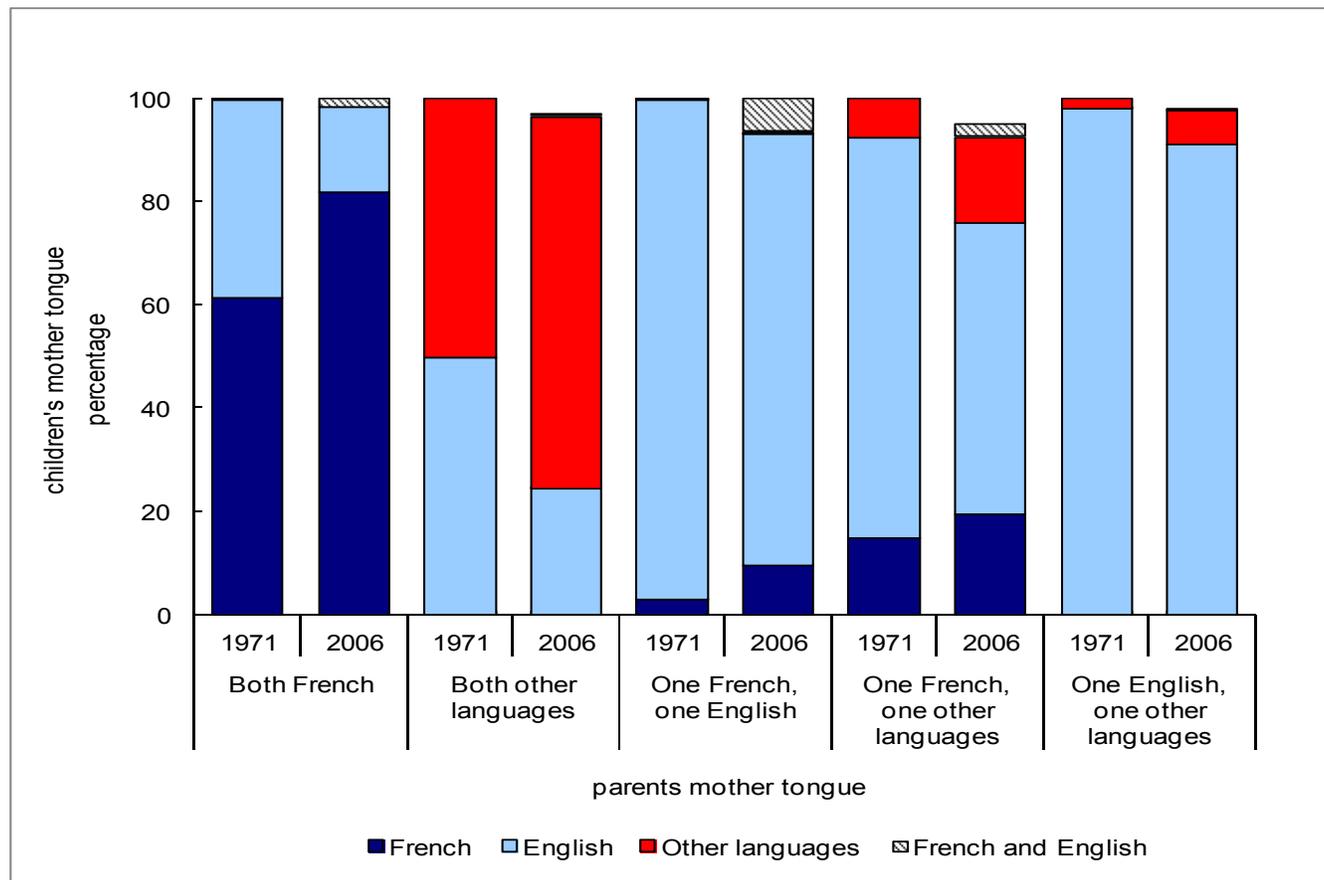
Note: For 2006, multiple responses were equally redistributed among language groups. The 1971 Census database does not include multiple responses.

Sources: Statistics Canada, censuses of population, 1971 and 2006.

Because of the strong increase in the proportion of French-English exogamous couples between 1971 and 2006, one might expect to see a decrease in the rate of transmission of the minority language (in this case, French) to children. But whereas French had been passed on to 3% of the children under 18 years of age of French-English exogamous couples in 1971, the corresponding proportion was 9% in 2006 (see Chart 3.2.2). There was also an increase in the transmission of French to the children of French-“other”-language exogamous couples, from 15% to 19% during the same period.

Chart 3.2.2 shows something else that is noteworthy. Among Francophone endogamous couples, the transmission of French to children under 18 years of age went from 61% in 1971 to 82% in 2006. This rise would seem to be due in particular to the increased number of children attending French-language schools and an increase in the migration of French-mother-tongue parents, mainly from Quebec.

Chart 3.2.2
Mother tongue of children under 18 years of age by mother tongue of parents, British Columbia, 1971 and 2006



Note: For 2006, only single responses were used for the parents, whereas in the case of children, among the multiple responses, only the English and French category was taken into account. The 1971 Census database does not include multiple responses.

Sources: Statistics Canada, censuses of population, 1971 and 2006.

Between 1971 and 2006, an increase is observed in the rate of transmission of French to the children of French-English exogamous couples. This increase is larger among families in which the mother, rather than the father, is the French-mother-tongue parent. Thus, census data show that the rate of transmission of French by French-mother-tongue mothers to their children rose sharply, from 3% in 1971 to 22% in 2006, whereas the rate for French-mother-tongue fathers went from 3% to 10% over the same period.

Table 3.2 shows that between 1971 and 2006, among couples with a French-mother-tongue spouse, there was an increase in the proportion of spouses with a mother tongue other than French who could conduct a conversation in French and English. Thus, the increased transmission of French to children living in French-English exogamous families goes hand in hand with an increase in the French-English bilingualism of non-Francophone spouses. This increase is especially notable among female spouses with English as their mother tongue; they register a French-English bilingualism rate of 19% in 2006 compared to 8% in 1971, whereas for female spouses with an “other” mother tongue, the corresponding proportions were 27% and 12% respectively. In 2006, “other”-mother-tongue spouses registered the highest French-English bilingualism rate (30%) of all non-Francophone spouses who were partners in an exogamous couple.

Table 3.2
Proportion of partners with a mother tongue other than French who can conduct a conversation in both English and French, by the couple's language combination, British Columbia, 1971 and 2006

Couple's language combination	1971	2006
	percentage	
English male partner and French female partner	11.4	17.2
French male partner and English female partner	7.6	18.5
Other language male partner and French female partner	17.8	30.3
French male partner and other language female partner	12.2	27.0

Note: Only single responses were used.

Sources: Statistics Canada, censuses of population, 1971 and 2006.

It is also worth noting that in 1971, 3.4% of French-mother-tongue females living with an English-speaking male partner spoke French most often at home, compared to 1.7% of French-mother-tongue males living with a French-speaking female partner. Thirty-five years later, in 2006, the corresponding proportions were 9.6% and 5.6% respectively.

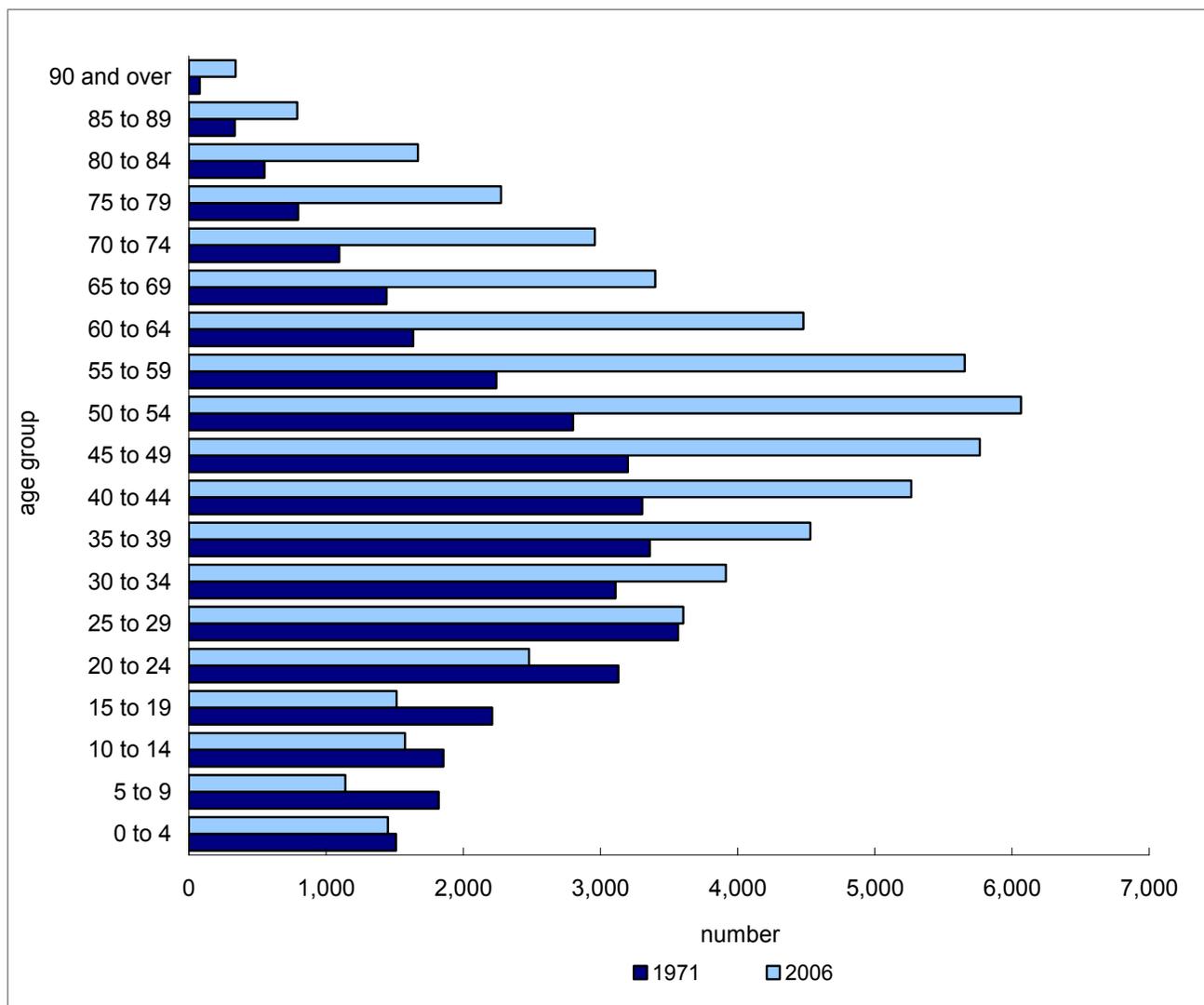
3.3 Age structure

It is instructive to examine how the age structure of British Columbia's Francophone population has evolved, so as to be able to reveal part of the demographic history of that population while getting an indication of its future course. Between 1971 and 2006, this evolution is essentially the result of the decrease in the fertility rate of Francophone women, a positive net interprovincial migration of the French-mother-tongue population and an increase in international immigration. Added to all these phenomena is a weak or moderate transmission of French as a mother tongue to children. As noted above, at the time of the 2006 Census, French was passed on as a mother tongue to slightly more than one child in four under 18 years of age from a couple with at least one French-mother-tongue spouse.

Chart 3.3.1 shows how the age structure of the French-mother-tongue population in British Columbia has changed over time. As already noted, between 1971 and 2006 this language group saw its number grow by 55%, from 38,035 to 58,885. However, not all cohorts registered an increase; the cohorts under 25 years of age decreased in size, owing to a drop in the fertility of Francophone women, due in part to a fertility rate below the replacement level. To be sure, the French-mother-tongue population was augmented by interprovincial migration. However, this phenomenon was insufficient to offset the low fertility of French-mother-tongue women. At the same time, there was a major increase in the number of persons aged 30 and over because sizable numbers of French-mother-tongue persons migrated from another province or territory or from outside Canada. However, part of the increase in the number of seniors is explained by the aging of the population and increased life expectancy.

In 2006, the number of children under 5 years of age (1,450) was smaller than the number of adults aged 30 to 34 (3,915), the average age of childbearing, with a ratio of 0.37. By comparison, in 1971 the corresponding ratio was 0.49 (1,510/3,110). Also, as Chart 3.3.1 shows, the baby boom generation (born between 1946 and 1966), which corresponded to the age cohorts 5 to 9 years to 20 to 24 years (9,015) in 1971, is much smaller than the 40 to 44 years to 55 to 59 years age cohorts (22,750) 35 years later. These findings are explained in part by the migration of Francophones from other provinces, territories or outside Canada.

Chart 3.3.1
Age structure of the French mother tongue population, British Columbia, 1971 and 2006



Note: Multiples responses were equally redistributed.
Sources: Statistics Canada, censuses of population, 1971 and 2006.

All things being otherwise equal, the small size of the youngest cohorts in 2006—combined with the fact that in the coming decades a number of cohorts will move into the over-65 age group—will in the future produce an especially older age structure for the population with French as its mother tongue.

While the aging of the French-mother-tongue population is mainly due to a low fertility rate and a steady increase in life expectancy, it can be assumed that it also results from non-transmission of French as a mother tongue to children. As noted above, the rate of intergenerational transmission of French, in families composed of French-English exogamous couples, is low although it increased between 1971 and 2006: 3% of children under 18 years of age living in such families were transmitted French as a mother tongue in 1971 compared to 9% in 2006 (see Chart 3.2.2). It was instead predominantly English (84%) that was transmitted to the children of these exogamous couples in 2006.

Overall during this period, the Francophone population was not favoured by intergenerational linguistic continuity. This phenomenon is measured by determining the ratio of the number of French-mother-tongue children under 5 years of age to the number of children whose mother has French as her mother tongue.⁹ In British Columbia, this index, stood at 0.52 in 2006, up from 0.37 in 1971. “A language group emerges at the top of the mother tongue transmission process when the index is higher than 1. [...] Conversely, transfers are unfavourable to a mother tongue when the index is less than 1.” (Lachapelle and Lepage, 2011, page 86). In the case of British Columbia, although this index rose, intergenerational transmission remained unfavourable to the French-mother-tongue population in that this intergenerational continuity index was less than 1.¹⁰

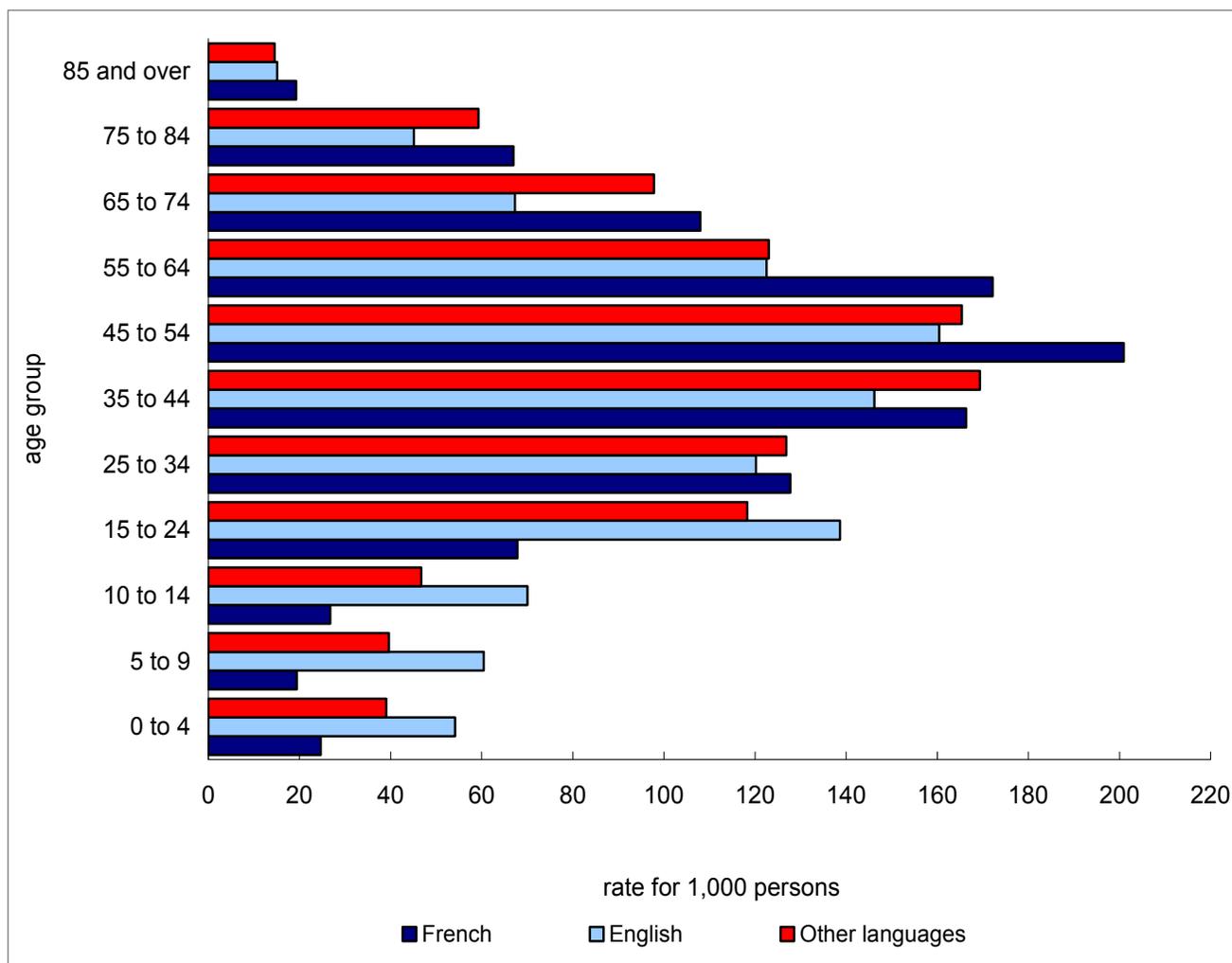
The steep drop in births exhibited by the French-mother-tongue group in the past 35 years is not unique to this language group. Chart 3.3.2 shows the age structure of the main mother-tongue groups in 2006. As may be seen, while the relative share of cohorts under 25 years of age within the English-mother-tongue group is greater than in the other two groups, the consequences of a fertility rate below the replacement level are also apparent among persons under 15 years of age in this language group. But unlike the French-mother-tongue and “other”-mother-tongue groups, the Anglophone group benefited from the contribution of intergenerational linguistic mobility from the other two groups.

It should also be noted that the over-representation of the French-mother-tongue group within the cohorts aged 45 and over reflects the aging of the population, which is more pronounced in this language group than in the other two.

9. To establish this ratio, demographers generally look at children living in a two-parent family or a one-parent family headed by a woman, which together account for more than 97% of children in this age group.

10. For an in-depth examination of this approach, see Lachapelle and Lepage (2011).

Chart 3.3.2
Age structure of French, English and Other mother tongue populations, British Columbia, 2006 (rate per 1,000)



Note: The multiple responses were equally redistributed among the groups.

Source: Statistics Canada, 2006 Census of population.

3.4 Language transfers or intragenerational linguistic mobility

Language transfers, also sometimes called language shifts, refer to the phenomenon where the main language used at home differs from the individual’s mother tongue. This language mobility phenomenon has no direct bearing on the evolution of language groups defined according to mother tongue. However, since the language that dominates in the home is generally the one that is passed on to the children, it influences the long-term future of language groups. Also, when the criterion used to define language groups is the first official language spoken, the language spoken most often at home has a direct influence on the size of the Francophone group. For example, according to this criterion, persons who have knowledge of both official languages and who have either French and English or an “other” language as a mother tongue are part of the French-speaking group if they speak French most often at home.¹¹

11. As noted earlier, persons with an “other” mother tongue who know only French are assigned French as their first official language spoken, regardless of whether they speak that language most often at home.

From one census to the next, the language transfer rate of persons with French as their mother tongue in British Columbia remained almost unchanged. Thus, in 1971, approximately 74% of British Columbians with French as a mother tongue reported using another language, usually English, most often at home. Thirty-five years later, 73% of French-mother-tongue persons reported speaking another language than French most often at home. Almost nil, the proportion of language transfers among persons with English as their mother tongue remained stable, at 0.6% in both 1971 and 2006. For persons with an “other” mother tongue, language transfers declined during the 35 years, going from 60% in 1971 to 39% in 2006. This sizable decrease is primarily the result of a strong increase in the immigrant population.

Table 3.4.1
Rate of language transfer by mother tongue, British Columbia, 1971 to 2006

Year	Mother tongue		
	French	English	Other languages
percentage			
1971	73.6	0.6	60.2
1981	67.9	0.4	51.4
1991	73.3	0.3	47.4
2001	73.4	0.5	39.6
2006	72.9	0.6	38.5

Note: With the exception of 1971, only single responses were used for mother tongue, whereas all responses were considered for the main language used at home.

Sources: Statistics Canada, censuses of population, 1971 to 2006.

A linguistic continuity index can also be used as a corollary of the language transfer rate. This index is the ratio of the number of persons with a given home language to the number of persons with the corresponding mother tongue. When the index is greater than 1, this means that the group comes out ahead in exchanges with other language groups, while an index lower than 1 indicates an unfavourable situation for the group in question.

As may be seen from the statistics shown in Table 3.4.2, the English-mother-tongue group saw its linguistic continuity index go from 1.12 to 1.17 between 1971 and 2006 while that of the Francophone group remained unchanged at 0.30 and that of the “other”-mother-tongue group went from 0.43 to 0.61 during the same period. The sizeable increase in the continuity index for persons with a mother tongue other than French or English is clearly due to the strong increase in their numbers between 1971 and 2006.

Table 3.4.2
Population by mother tongue, language spoken most often at home and linguistic continuity index, British Columbia, 1971 and 2006

Linguistic characteristics	1971			2006		
	French	English	Other languages	French	English	Other languages
number						
Language spoken most often at home	11,505	2,027,120	145,995	17,560	3,380,155	676,675
Mother tongue	38,035	1,807,240	339,350	58,885	2,900,890	1,114,605
Linguistic continuity index	0.30	1.12	0.43	0.30	1.17	0.61

Note: For 2006, multiple responses were equally redistributed among language groups. The 1971 Census database does not include multiple responses.

Sources: Statistics Canada, censuses of population, 1971 and 2006.

The continuity index of 0.30 for the French-mother-tongue group takes account of the fact that in British Columbia, 1,305 persons have an “other” mother tongue and speak French most often at home (see Table 3.4.3). It also takes into account that more than 1,230 persons with English as their mother tongue have French as their main home language.

Table 3.4.3
Population by mother tongue and language spoken most often at home, British Columbia, 2006

Mother tongue		Language spoken most often at home			
		French	English	Other languages	Total
French	number	14,035	40,260	445	54,745
	percentage	25.6	73.5	0.8	100.0
English	number	1,230	2,856,540	18,005	2,875,775
	percentage	0.0	99.3	0.6	100.0
Other languages	number	1,305	446,625	643,605	1,091,530
	percentage	0.1	40.9	59.0	100.0
Total	number	16,570	3,343,425	662,050	4,022,045

Note: With equal redistribution of multiple responses to the language spoken most often at home question and single responses to the mother tongue question.

Source: Statistics Canada, 2006 Census of population.

Because individuals' main home language may differ from their mother tongue, the concept of language transfer has often been seen as a phenomenon indicating abandonment of one's mother tongue. But since 2001, the Canadian census has included a question on languages, other than the main language, that are spoken on a regular basis at home. Although it may be difficult to judge how respondents interpret this new question, qualitative tests conducted on respondents as well as the results from the SVOLM have shown that respondents usually consider it to refer to daily use of that language.

Based on the census results for this question, a distinction can be made between partial and complete language transfer. As a corollary to this distinction, there is a need to nuance the concept of linguistic continuity, since using one's mother tongue on a regular basis at home cannot be interpreted as linguistic discontinuity.

In 2006, more than 15,320 British Columbians spoke French as the only main language at home, while more than 4,665 persons reported speaking this language most often in combination with English or another language (see Table 3.4.4). Thus, 0.5% of British Columbians reported having French as their main home language. Data from the 2006 Census also show that 37,110 reported speaking French on a regular basis at home, although it was not their main home language (see Table 3.4.5). In short, French was spoken most often or on a regular basis at home by 1.4% of the population, or approximately 57,000 persons.

Table 3.4.4
Population by mother tongue, language spoken most often at home and other languages spoken regularly at home, British Columbia, 2006

Type of answer	Mother tongue		Language spoken most often at home		Other languages spoken most often at home	
	number	%	number	%	number	%
Single responses	4,022,045	98.7	3,995,995	98.1	496,455	12.2
French	54,745	1.3	15,320	0.4	31,935	0.8
English	2,875,770	70.6	3,341,285	82.0	235,455	5.8
Other languages	1,091,530	26.8	639,380	15.7	229,060	5.6
Multiple responses	52,335	1.3	78,390	1.9	8,090	0.2
English and French	5,925	0.1	3,615	0.1	800	0.0
English and other	43,785	1.1	73,735	1.8	2,920	0.1
French and other	1,840	0.0	465	0.0	4,340	0.1
English French and other	795	0.0	585	0.0	35	0.0
Total	4,074,385	100.0	4,074,385	100.0

Source: Statistics Canada, 2006 Census of population.

Table 3.4.5
Number and proportion of persons with French as mother tongue, first official language spoken, language spoken most often at home and language spoken regularly at home, British Columbia, 2006

French language	number	percentage
Mother tongue	63,295	1.6
First official language spoken	70,410	1.7
Language spoken at least regularly at home	57,095	1.4
Language spoken most often at home	19,985	0.5
Language spoken regularly at home	37,110	0.9

Note: Single and multiple responses combined.

Source: Statistics Canada, 2006 Census of population.

Information on the regular use of French as a second language in the home serves to distinguish complete language transfers from partial language transfers. Thus, based on single responses to the question on the first language learned and still understood at the time of the 2006 Census (usually called the mother tongue), figures show that for British Columbia as a whole, 50% of persons with French as their mother tongue do not use that language at least regularly at home (complete transfer), whereas 23% use it on a regular basis (partial transfer) (see Table 3.4.6). Consequently, French is the main home language for only 27% of Francophones.

Table 3.4.6
Rate of complete and partial language transfers of Francophones by age group, British Columbia, 2006

Age group	Language transfers		Total
	Complete	Partial	
	percentage		
0 to 14	10.2	18.2	28.4
15 to 24	29.7	28.2	57.9
25 to 34	35.8	29.9	65.7
35 to 54	49.1	26.2	75.3
55 to 64	62.8	19.8	82.6
65 and over	68.4	14.5	82.9
Total	50.0	22.9	72.9

Note: The term Francophone refers to the mother tongue. Only single responses were used for mother tongue, whereas all responses were considered for the main language used at home.

Source: Statistics Canada, 2006 Census of population.

The rates for complete and partial language transfers are known to vary by age group (see Table 3.4.6). In British Columbia, statistics from the 2006 Census show that the older Francophones are, the more likely they are to have made a complete language transfer. Francophones aged 65 and over are more inclined to use a language other than French at home (68%) than those in other age groups, whereas those under 15 years of age are less likely to do so (10%). For partial language transfers, Francophones aged 15 to 54 have the highest rates (26% and 28%). As for the complete transfer rate for this group of Francophones, it varies between 30% and 50% according to age group. The table shows that among Francophones aged 15 to 54, French is the main home language for 25% to 42% of them, depending on the age group.

Exogamy is often associated with language transfer for Francophones outside Quebec. Indeed, 91% of British Columbia Francophones who live in an exogamous union with an English-mother-tongue partner speak English most often at home. However, data drawn from the 2006 SVOLM serve to better document the link between exogamy and language transfer among Francophones. Those data show that for more than half of Francophones, language transfer took place well before a union was formed with an Anglophone partner: approximately 54% of Francophones who live in an exogamous situation began to speak English most often at home before age 21 and 38% before age 15. Among Francophones between 25 and 44 years of age—those likely to have young children—the corresponding proportions were 49% and 27% respectively. Thus, it is not only exogamy that has a direct bearing on the fact that a Francophone speaks English most often at home. In fact, these results suggest that living in a highly minority situation increases the use of the majority language in daily activities and influences the main language of Francophones in the medium term and ultimately affects the propensity to choose an English-speaking spouse. In any event, the relationship between exogamy and home language definitely operates in both directions.

The Survey on the Vitality of Official-Language Minorities (SVOLM) data shed light on the association that tends to be established between language transfer and anglicization. The survey includes a question on respondents' main language, that is, the language in which they are most at ease in speaking. The data show that 55% of the population for whom French is the first official language spoken have either French (34%) or both official languages (21%) as main languages.

Overall in British Columbia, a larger proportion of Francophones report speaking English most often at home (complete and partial language transfers) than report being more at ease in English than in French.¹² Thus, 74% of Franco-Columbians report speaking English most often at home, while 45% report being more at ease in English than in French.

12. This finding applies to both the French-mother-tongue population and the population with French as first official language spoken.

3.5 Use of French in the public sphere

Statistics from the Census of Population shed light on the use of languages in the private sphere (at home) and, as will be seen in the section dealing with the labour force, the use of languages in the workplace. But what do we know about the use of English and French by Franco-Columbians in domains of interaction other than in the home?

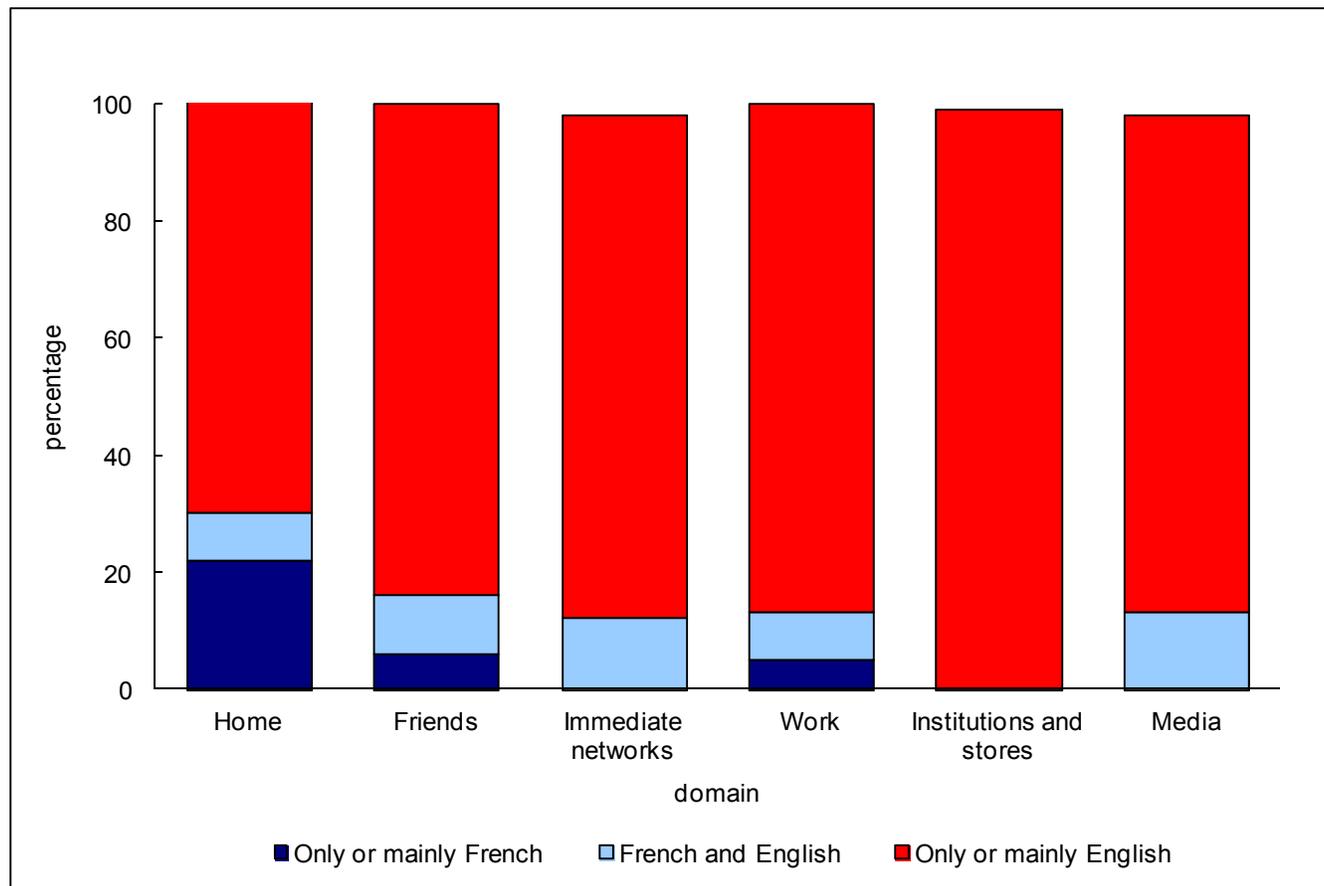
The Survey on the Vitality of Official-Language Minorities includes a number of questions on the use of languages in various domains in the public sphere such as stores, health care institutions (which will be examined in detail in the next section), volunteer activities, social support, community or sports activities, etc. Some questions in the survey also deal with domains on the borderline between the private and public spheres, such as the language spoken with friends outside the home or the language in which various media are “consumed.”

An examination of language practices in various domains in the public and private spheres reveals that in British Columbia, the population whose first official language spoken is French mainly uses English in both spheres (see Chart 3.5). Within that population, 71% report using English predominantly (mainly or only) in the home, while 22% speak mainly or only French. The use of English is most widespread in oral interactions that take place in institutions and stores. There, 99% of the French FOLS population use English predominantly (mainly or only), while 77% use it exclusively.

Beyond the language choices at home and in institutions and stores, the extent to which English is used predominantly (mainly or only) within immediate networks, in the consumption of media and with friends is roughly the same, ranging from 84% to 86% depending on the domain. At work, the Survey of the Vitality of Official-Language Minority (SVOLM) data show that nearly 87% of persons for whom French is the first official language spoken use mainly or only English. Finally, it is noteworthy that the general index on use of languages in the public sphere reveals that 94% of the population for whom French is the only first official language spoken use English mainly or only in the various domains in the public sphere (media, institutions and stores, work, immediate network and friends outside the home).¹³ Thus, in the public sphere, 59% of Francophones use English exclusively while 35% mainly use English.

13. See appendix C for a description of the general index of use of languages in the public sphere.

Chart 3.5
Proportion of Francophones by language use in various domains of the public and private spheres, British Columbia, 2006



Note: The term Francophone refers to the first official language spoken. Please refer to Appendix B to obtain quality indicators (coefficient of variation (CV)) for the estimates used to produce this chart. A note on the construction of the indices for use of language in daily activities is found in appendix C.

Source: Statistics Canada, Survey on the Vitality of Official-Language Minorities, 2006.

3.6 Knowledge of French

For persons whose main language is French, the opportunities to use that language may increase if they are in contact with persons who can conduct a conversation in French even though that language is not their first official language spoken.

The proportion of persons who reported being able to conduct a conversation in French (7.0%) within the overall population of British Columbia in 2006 is larger than the proportion who reported French alone or with another language as their mother tongue (1.6%) or the proportion for whom French is the first official language spoken (1.5%). The relative share of British Columbians who are able to conduct a conversation in French is highly polarized by language group. Whereas 88% of persons with French as a mother tongue reported knowing both official languages, the corresponding proportion was only 7% for persons with English as a mother tongue and 5% for persons with an “other” mother tongue (see Table 3.6.1). Among the latter, 11%, most of them recent immigrants, reported that they were unable to conduct a conversation in either French or English.

Table 3.6.1
Knowledge of official languages by mother tongue, British Columbia, 2001 and 2006

Mother tongue	Knowledge of official languages									
	2001					2006				
	French	English		English nor French	Total	French	English		English nor French	Total
English and French		and French	English and French				and French			
percentage										
French	1.7	10.6	87.5	0.1	100.0	2.3	9.7	87.9	0.1	100.0
English	0.0	93.8	6.1	0.1	100.0	0.0	93.3	6.6	0.1	100.0
Other languages	0.1	84.8	4.5	10.7	100.0	0.1	84.4	4.6	10.9	100.0
Total	0.0	90.3	7.0	2.7	100.0	0.1	89.7	7.3	3.0	100.0

Note: The multiple responses regarding mother tongue were equally redistributed among the groups.

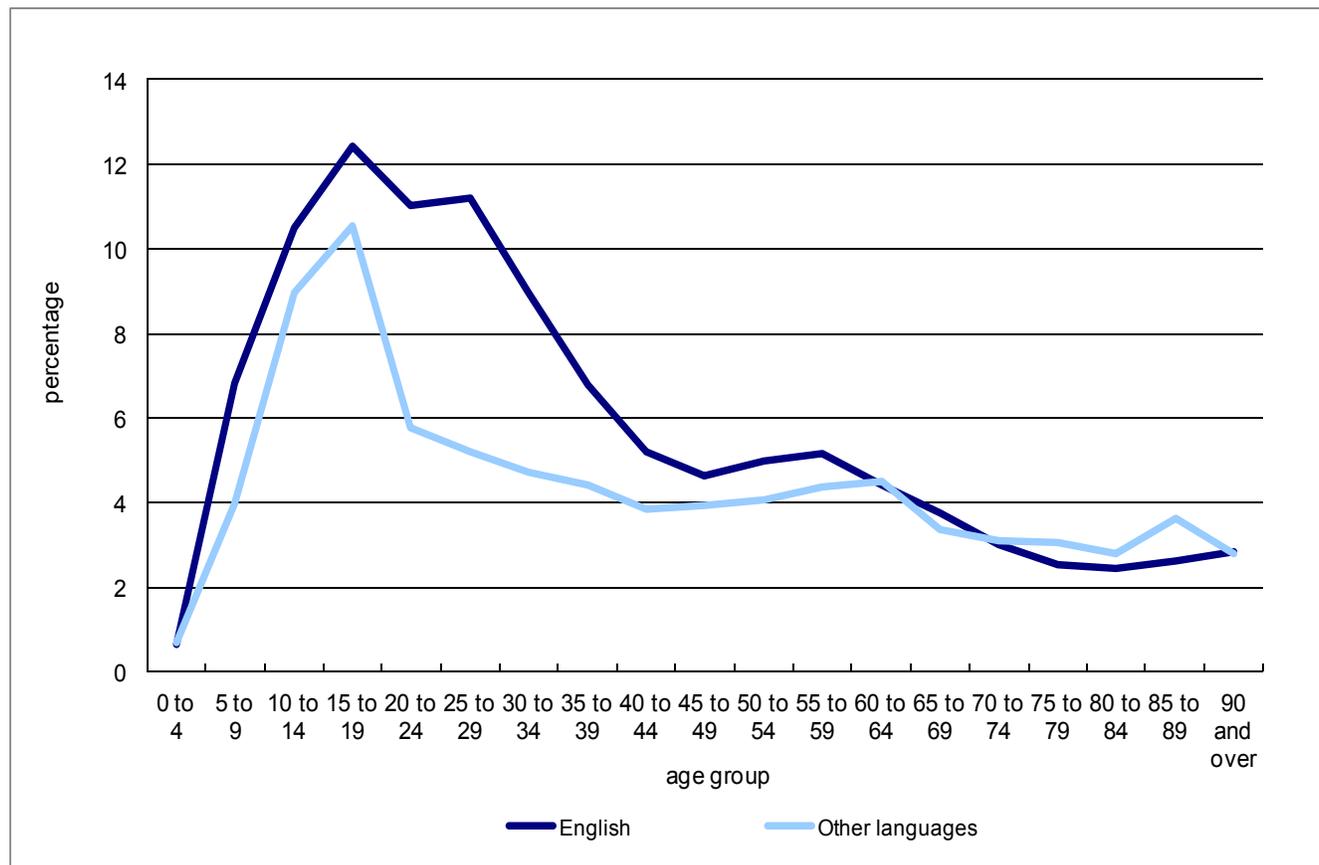
Sources: Statistics Canada, censuses of population, 2001 and 2006.

The proportion of persons able to conduct a conversation in French in a given place may affect how frequently French is used. Hence, one fact that can favour the use of French is its use in various settings, especially at work and in the home, by persons for whom English is the first official language spoken. Such a factor has the effect of increasing Francophones' opportunities to use their mother tongue. In British Columbia, 9% of English FOLS persons¹⁴ who knew French spoke that language at least on a regular basis at home and 10% used it at work at least regularly in 2006.

The statistics in Chart 3.6.1 show that within the population aged 5 to 59, French-English bilingualism among non-Francophones is more widespread among English-mother-tongue persons than among those with another mother tongue. In the other age groups, the bilingualism rates of the two groups are roughly the same. With some variations, the bilingualism rates of persons with English as their mother tongue and those with an "other" mother tongue follow a fairly similar pattern from one age group to the next. For young Anglophones and allophones, English-French bilingualism rates increase from one age group to the next, peaking at ages 15 to 19, the age that corresponds to the completion of secondary and college education. Then bilingualism rates gradually decline, falling to 2.8% for both Anglophones and allophones aged 90 and over. The gap observed between the two groups in the ages from 20 to 39 is mainly due to the strong growth of the immigrant population in this age range, a population not exposed to French immersion programs.

14. Without redistribution of multiple responses.

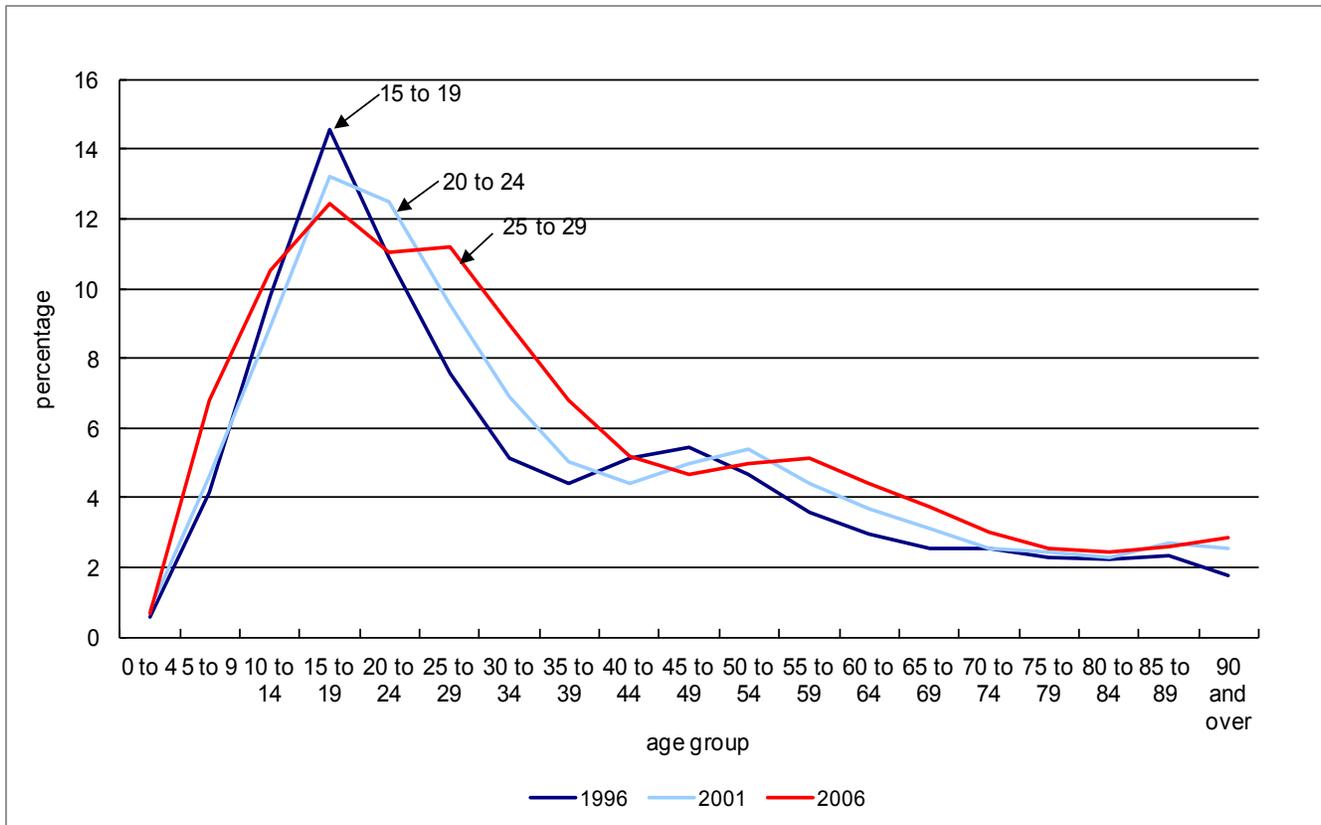
Chart 3.6.1
Proportion of persons with a mother tongue other than French who can conduct a conversation in English and in French by age group, British Columbia, 2006



Source: Statistics Canada, 2006 Census of population.

Furthermore, the ability of young Anglophones to maintain their knowledge of French as a second language diminishes over time. As may be seen in Chart 3.6.2, when we consider youths aged 15 to 19 in 1996, we observe that their bilingualism rate as reported in that census (14.6%) falls to 12.5% in 2001, when this cohort is aged 20 to 24 years, and to 11.2% in 2006 when the same cohort is aged 25 to 29 years. A similar trend is observed among youths who were 15 to 19 years of age in 2001 and who are between 20 and 24 years of age five years later.

Chart 3.6.2
Proportion of persons with English as their mother tongue who can conduct a conversation in English and in French by age group, British Columbia, 1996, 2001 and 2006



Sources: Statistics Canada, censuses of population, 1996, 2001 and 2006.

It is difficult to identify the exact causes of this decline in the ability to conduct a conversation in French among young, English-mother-tongue British Columbians aged 15 to 19. As Table 3.6.2 shows, the numbers attending immersion programs grew between 2000 and 2006, going from 30,420 to 39,510. Furthermore, statistics on the years 2004/2005 and 2006/2007 stand out markedly from the others, in that the increase in enrolments in immersion programs for these two years reached 6% and 7%, respectively.

Table 3.6.2
Number of children registered in French immersion and in regular French programmes at the primary and secondary levels in public schools, British Columbia, 2000/2001 to 2006/2007

Year	French immersion program		Regular French language program	
	number	variation in %	number	variation in %
2000 to 2001	30,421	1.5	2,771	-3.4
2001 to 2002	31,136	2.4	2,873	3.7
2002 to 2003	31,990	2.7	2,930	2.0
2003 to 2004	33,407	4.4	3,146	7.4
2004 to 2005	35,519	6.3	3,455	9.8
2005 to 2006	38,001	7.0	3,632	5.1
2006 to 2007	39,509	4.0	3,816	5.1

Source: Brockington (2009).

3.7 Migration (interprovincial and international migratory movements)

The mobility of Francophones within Canada and the contribution of international immigration are factors that greatly influence the evolution of the French-speaking population of British Columbia.

3.7.1 Place of birth

Table 3.7.1 shows the place of birth of British Columbia Francophones. As may be seen, in 2006, scarcely more than 10% of French-speaking persons had been born in British Columbia. The proportion is the same for persons for whom French is the first official language spoken. Depending on the criterion used, the proportion of British Columbia Francophones born in another province or a territory of Canada differs slightly; it is 64% for French FOLS persons compared to nearly 75% for persons with French as their mother tongue. More than one-third of both French-mother-tongue persons and French FOLS persons were born in Quebec. In fact, one Franco-Columbian in two was born in Quebec or Ontario. As for foreign-born persons, most of whom were immigrants,¹⁵ they comprised nearly 15% of the French-mother-tongue population and 25% of the population with French as its first official language spoken.

15. Foreign-born persons include immigrants, non-permanent residents and Canadians by birth who were born abroad.

Table 3.7.1
Place of birth of Francophones by mother tongue and first official language spoken, British Columbia, 2006

Place of birth	French mother tongue		French first official language spoken	
	number	%	number	%
Born in British Columbia	7,130	12.1	6,910	11.2
Born in another Canadian province	43,020	73.1	39,170	63.6
Born in Quebec	22,350	38.0	21,495	34.9
Born in Ontario	7,075	12.0	6,335	10.3
Born outside Canada	8,740	14.8	15,545	25.2
Total	58,885	100.0	61,630	100.0

Note: The multiple responses were equally redistributed.

Source: Statistics Canada, 2006 Census of population.

3.7.2 International immigration

In the past 35 years, the relative weight of Canada's immigrant population residing in British Columbia edged up, going from 15.1% in 1971 to 18.1% in 2006 (see Table 3.7.2.1). During this period, this province's share of the French-speaking immigrant population living outside Quebec increased slightly, going from 12.7% in 1971 to 14.7% in 2006.

Francophone immigration to British Columbia is not a recent phenomenon. However, because of the strong growth of international immigration that Canada has experienced since the mid-1980s, the French-speaking immigrant population of the province grew by 87% between 1981 and 2006. Many of these immigrants have a mother tongue other than French or English and have either French or both of Canada's official languages as their first official language spoken.

The immigrant population with French as its first official language spoken accounts for a very small proportion of the province's immigrant population. In 2006, its relative share was 1.3%. Viewed from another angle, whereas in 1971, the French-speaking immigrant population's share of the Francophone population was 17%, it stood at nearly 24% in 2006, a share roughly equivalent to that of the English-speaking immigrant population within the Anglophone population (26%) (see Table 3.7.2.1).

Table 3.7.2.1
Number and proportion of French and English immigrants, British Columbia, 1971 to 2006

Immigrants	1971	1981	1991	2001	2006
	number				
Number of French immigrants	6,855	7,735	8,635	13,500	14,495
	proportion (in %)				
French-speaking immigrants within the immigrant population	1.4	1.2	1.2	1.3	1.3
French-speaking immigrants in British Columbia within all French-speaking immigrants outside Quebec	12.7	13.8	14.4	15.4	14.7
French-speaking immigrants within the Francophone population	16.8	19.2	17.4	22.8	23.5
English-speaking immigrants within the Anglophone population	22.2	22.4	21.2	24.5	25.8
Immigrants in British Columbia within all of Canada	15.1	16.3	16.7	18.5	18.1

Note: Populations are defined according to the first official language spoken criterium.

Sources: Statistics Canada, censuses of population, 1971 to 2006.

The Francophone immigrant population in British Columbia comes from various countries. However, a large proportion of these immigrants come from a small number of countries. Table 3.7.2.2 shows the main countries of origin of immigrants residing in British Columbia. The twelve countries shown in this table are the source countries of 60% of the province's French-language immigration. The table also shows that a large proportion (40%) of Francophone immigrants come from five European countries: France, Switzerland, Belgium, Romania and Germany.

Table 3.7.2.2
Main countries of origin of French-speaking immigrants, British Columbia, 2006

Country	French-speaking immigrants	
	number	%
France	4,050	26.1
China, People's Republic of	695	4.5
Switzerland	625	4.0
Belgium	600	3.9
Romania	535	3.4
Iran	495	3.2
Hong-Kong, special administrative region	470	3.0
Viet Nam	435	2.8
Mauritius	365	2.3
Korea, South	340	2.2
Germany	340	2.2
Morocco	330	2.1

Note: Populations are defined according to the first official language spoken criterium.

Source: Statistics Canada, 2006 Census of population.

3.7.3 Interprovincial migration

Between 1981 and 2006, net migration between British Columbia and the other provinces and territories was positive, ranging from 420 to 3,360, except for the period from 1991 to 1996, when it reached 6,655 (see Table 3.7.3). Departures of Francophones for other provinces and territories ranged between 5,060 and 7,685 during a given period. As for migration to British Columbia, it peaked during the period from 1991 to 1996, when 11,715 Francophones settled in the province. The lowest numbers of migrants to British Columbia were recorded in the periods from 1981 to 1986 (7,695) and from 2001 to 2006 (7,385).

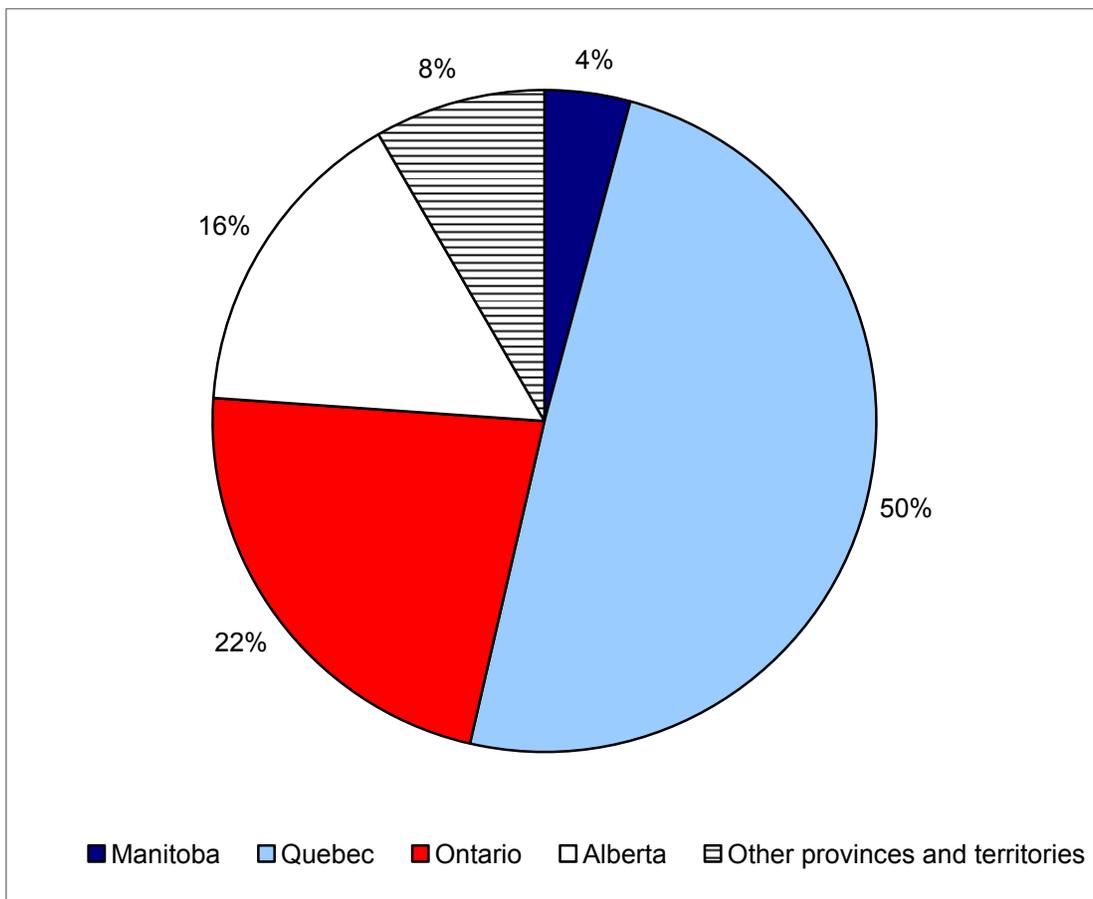
Table 3.7.3
Interprovincial migration of Francophones between British Columbia and other provinces and territories by first official language spoken, 1981 to 1986, 1986 to 1991, 1991 to 1996, 1996 to 2001 and 2001 to 2006

Period	First official language spoken		
	Total	French	English
number			
From British Columbia to other provinces and territories			
1981 to 1986	142,175	5,860	135,865
1986 to 1991	112,295	5,745	106,055
1991 to 1996	102,675	5,060	97,230
1996 to 2001	175,330	7,685	166,520
2001 to 2006	142,575	6,965	134,410
From other provinces and territories to British Columbia			
1981 to 1986	151,675	7,695	143,500
1986 to 1991	238,170	9,105	227,905
1991 to 1996	252,625	11,715	238,770
1996 to 2001	151,715	9,090	141,165
2001 to 2006	164,715	7,385	156,120
Net migration (arrivals minus departures)			
1981 to 1986	9,500	1,835	7,635
1986 to 1991	125,875	3,360	121,850
1991 to 1996	149,950	6,655	141,540
1996 to 2001	-23,615	1,405	-25,355
2001 to 2006	22,140	420	21,710

Sources: Statistics Canada, censuses of population, 1981 to 2006.

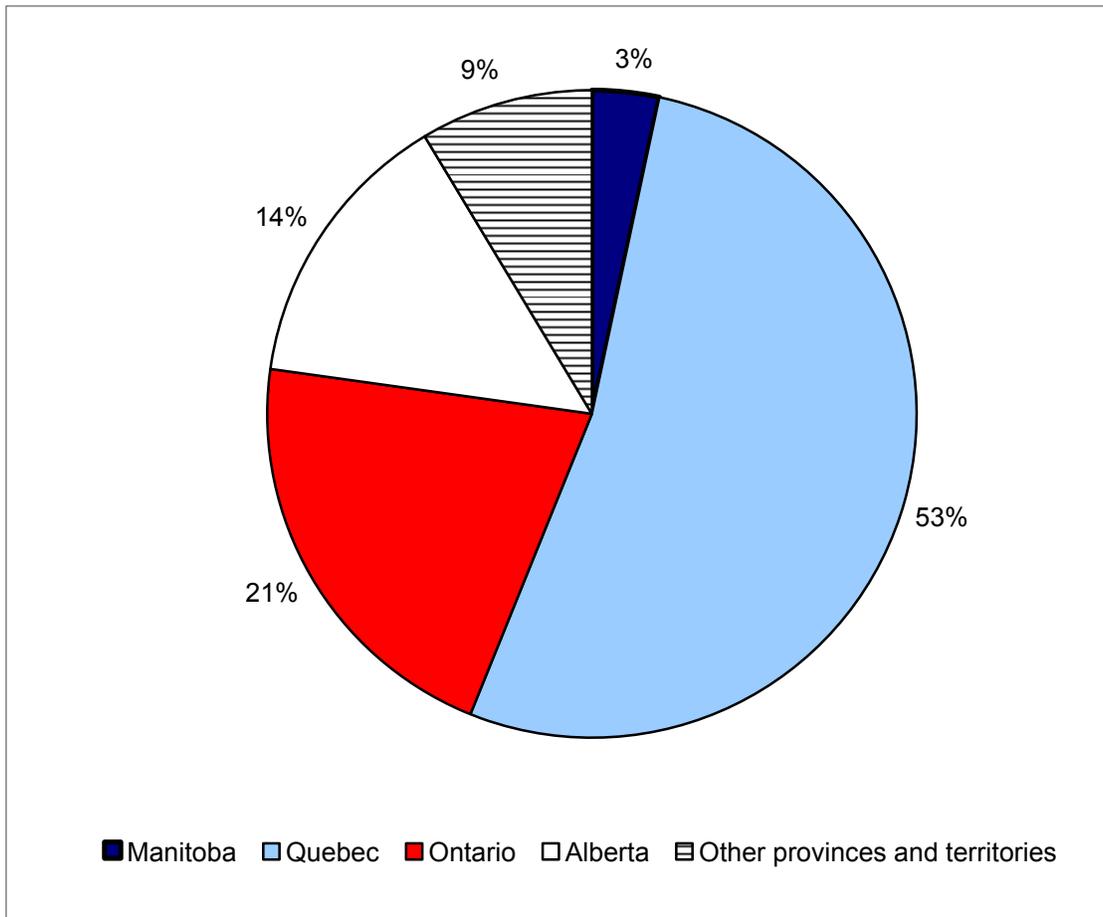
Charts 3.7.3.1 and 3.7.3.2 show migratory movements between British Columbia and the other provinces and territories between 2001 and 2006. As may be seen, of the roughly 7,400 Francophones who came from other provinces and territories to settle in British Columbia, half (50%) were living in Quebec in 2001. Of these 3,625 Francophones who came from Quebec, 80% were between 20 and 49 years of age. The rest of the Francophones came mainly from Ontario (22%) and Alberta (16%). Of the approximately 7,000 Francophones who were living in British Columbia in 2001 and subsequently migrated to other provinces, more than half settled in Quebec, while the rest settled mainly in Ontario (21%) and Alberta (14%). Additionally, census data show that 55% of the Francophones who left British Columbia between 2001 and 2006 returned to their province of birth. Nearly two-thirds of Quebec-born Francophones who left British Columbia between 2001 and 2006 to settle in their province of birth were between 20 and 49 years of age.

Chart 3.7.3.1
Province or territory of origin of Francophones who settled in British Columbia between 2001 and 2006



Note: The term Francophone refers to the first official language spoken.
Source: Statistics Canada, 2006 Census of population.

Chart 3.7.3.2
Destination of Francophones who left British Columbia for another province or territory between 2001 and 2006



Note: The term Francophone refers to the first official language spoken.

Source: Statistics Canada, 2006 Census of population.

Section 4 A few key sectors for the vitality of official-language minority communities

The *Roadmap for Canada's Linguistic Duality 2008–2013* invests in key sectors, including the following five: health, justice, arts and culture, economic development and immigration. The last of these sectors was briefly discussed in a previous section and was dealt with in an analytical report released by Statistics Canada in April 2010 (Houle and Corbeil, 2010). This section will present statistics on the other four key sectors identified in the Roadmap. Also, the Roadmap includes financial support for education in the minority language. This sector was identified as being of great importance for the future of official-language minorities in Canada (Lord, 2008); therefore, a section will be devoted to it.

Drawing on data from the Survey on the Vitality of Official-Language Minorities (SVOLM) and the census, we will provide general information on the presence of French and the situation of Francophones in each of these sectors.

4.1 Health

A common language between patients and health care professionals is one of the key elements of access to health care services and the effectiveness of the services provided. Language barriers can mean that some members of minority Francophone communities are less well served by health care services. From this perspective, it is important to examine the situation of British Columbia's Francophone communities regarding various aspects of access to health care services.

In the 2006 Census, 19% of doctors working in British Columbia, or 1,055 out of a total of 5,460, reported that they were able to conduct a conversation in French, while 2.6% reported using French at least regularly¹⁶ in their work.¹⁷ For nurses, numbering 34,815, the corresponding proportions were 7% and 0.7% respectively.

The proportion of doctors and, to a lesser extent, nurses able to conduct a conversation in French is much higher than the relative share of the Franco-Columbian population. Nevertheless, the SVOLM results show that the vast majority of British Columbia Francophones (99%) report using English in their contacts with the different health care professionals about whom information was collected in that survey, namely family doctors, nurses, telephone health line or telehealth service professionals and professionals in other places that people go to in order to obtain care. Table 4.1 shows the languages used with health care professionals.

The Survey on the Vitality of Official-Language Minorities reveals that 30% of Franco-Columbians report that it is important or very important for them to obtain health services in French.

16. In other words, most often or on a regular basis.

17. On this subject, see Table 2.1 of *Health Care Professionals and Official-Language Minorities in Canada: 2001 and 2006* (Blaser, 2009: p. 20).

Table 4.1
Proportion of Francophones by languages used with different health professionals, British Columbia, 2006

Health professionals	Languages used		
	French	English and French	English
Family doctor	x	x	97
Nurse	0	x	99
Telephone health line	x	x	84
Other place or specialist	x	x	97

Note: The term Francophone refers to the first official language spoken.

Source: Statistics Canada, Survey on the Vitality of Official-Language Minorities, 2006.

As Table 4.1 shows, English is used almost exclusively with nurses (99%), with family doctors (97%), and in other places and with other specialists (97%). However, the use of English is somewhat less widespread on the telephone health line (84%). Lack of knowledge of French by health care professionals, as perceived by the respondents, is the main reason cited by Francophones to explain why they are not served in that language during their visits/consultations. This reason thus greatly influences the main language used in interpersonal communications.

Overall, the results of the SVOLM and the census show that the weak concentration of Francophones in a municipality of residence, the availability of professionals with knowledge of French and the main language of those requesting service are three important factors that affect the extent of use of one language or the other with health care professionals.

The presence of French-speaking professionals as well as professionals able to conduct a conversation in the minority language is likely to increase access to health care services in that language. It may also be conducive to a stronger presence and more widespread use of the language in this key sector of the public sphere. However, the gap observed between the proportion of these professionals able to conduct a conversation in French and the population of Francophones using French to obtain health services suggests that the active offer of services in the minority language is possibly an issue that should be examined more closely.

It is also important to examine whether Francophones who report having French as their main language were more likely to use French in their interactions with health care professionals than those with English as their main language. It seems clear that the lack of use of the minority official language by Francophones for whom French is the main language—that is, the language in which they are most at ease—does not depend on the same factors as in the case of Francophones who have made a language shift with the result that English is now the language in which they feel most at ease. The results of the Survey on the Vitality of Official-Language Minorities reflect the fact that whatever their main language, the vast majority of Francophones (99%) use English in their contacts with different health professionals. In fact, in their interactions with their family doctor, Francophones who have French as their main language are proportionally as likely to use English as those with English as their main language.

However, information drawn from the SVOLM clearly shows that for Francophones, obtaining health care services in the language of their choice does not necessarily mean obtaining services in French. Since 45% of British Columbia Francophones have English as their main language, it is not surprising that their "language of choice" for obtaining health care services is not French.

4.2 Justice

An examination of the Survey on the Vitality of Official-Language Minorities (SVOLM) results concerning the justice field also sheds light on the extent to which the French language is present in institutions that ensure its use by British Columbia Francophones. By accordingly measuring access to justice practitioners who are able to converse in French, it is possible to document a phenomenon that is perceived by British Columbia Francophones as being very important for the status of that language and the future of French-speaking minority communities. With regard to this, the Canadian government, in the *Roadmap for Canada's Linguistic Duality 2008–2013*, undertook to ensure that Canadians will have better access to justice services in the minority official language. Also, with respect to criminal law, as stipulated by the Criminal Code of Canada, Franco-Columbians are entitled to a trial and a preliminary inquiry in French (Fédération canadienne des communautés francophones et acadiennes du Canada, 2009). As regards civil law, an individual can choose the language that will be used before a federal court. However, when the trial is held in a provincial court, English is the only language used.

In British Columbia, the SVOLM results reveal that access to these services in French does not appear to be highly valued by a majority of Francophones, since 61% feel that if they had to use the services of a lawyer, it would be not important or not very important that the lawyer could speak French. Also, approximately one-third of adult Francophones reported that they would not feel comfortable speaking French if they were to come into contact with the police.

It should be noted that interactions with the justice system and its representatives, including lawyers and the police, are not widespread in the population. Of British Columbia's 52,250 adult Francophones, 27% reported that they had used the services of a lawyer in the two years preceding the survey, while 14% had come into contact with the municipal police and 21% with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP).¹⁸

Because the language barrier can hinder access to justice, the Canadian government has made it a priority to train professionals who can provide service in the minority official language. According to the 2006 Census, British Columbia had 1,935 lawyers able to conduct a conversation in French, which represents 18% of the lawyers in the province (see Table 4.2.1). As regards police officers, 16% reported that they could conduct a conversation in French (see Table 4.2.2).

In addition to these statistics on availability or the potential pool of justice system professionals who are able to use French when interacting with British Columbia Francophones, tables 4.2.1 and 4.2.2 show the knowledge of French by these professionals and the use of this language in their work. According to the 2006 Census, 4% of British Columbia police officers reported using French at least regularly at work (see Table 4.2.2). This rate is much lower than the proportion who can conduct a conversation in French, namely 16%. The same applies to lawyers: their rate of use of French at least regularly at work (2%) is also much lower than the proportion of lawyers who are able to conduct a conversation in French, namely 18%¹⁹ (see Table 4.2.1).

18. Because of the very small number of members of the official language minority that came into contact with the provincial police, data obtained in the Survey on the Vitality of Official-Language Minorities remain confidential under the provisions of the Statistics Act.

19. Just as in the case of health care professionals, the use of French by lawyers and police officers depends on various factors, including the proportion of Francophones in a given community. However, an analysis of these factors is beyond the scope of this statistical portrait.

Table 4.2.1
Knowledge and use of minority language by lawyers, British Columbia, 2006

Knowledge and use of French language	Lawyers	
	number	%
First official language spoken	110	1
Language used most often at work	0	0
Language used regularly at work	175	2
Language used at least regularly at work	175	2
Knowledge of French	1,935	18
Total population	10,685	100

Source: Statistics Canada, 2006 Census of population.

Note that 2006 Census data show that the number of police officers who use French in their work in British Columbia is lower than the number of Francophone police officers. Thus, whereas nearly 300 of the provinces' police officers reported using French at least regularly in their work, 385 had this language as their first official language spoken (FOLS) (see Table 4.2.2). By contrast, the number of lawyers who communicate at least regularly in French in their work, namely 175, exceeds the number of Francophone lawyers, which is 110 (see Table 4.2.1). A certain number of non-Francophones reported using French as a language of work, which adds to the existing pool of professionals who are likely or able to provide services in French.

Table 4.2.2
Knowledge and use of minority language by police officers (excludes senior management), British Columbia, 2006

Knowledge and use of French language	Police officers	
	number	%
First official language spoken	385	5
Language used most often at work	50	1
Language used regularly at work	245	3
Language used at least regularly at work	300	4
Knowledge of French	1,330	16
Total population	8,370	100

Source: Statistics Canada, 2006 Census of population.

The results of the Survey on the Vitality of Official-Language Minorities indicate that the interactions of British Columbia Francophones with municipal police and the RCMP²⁰ are generally in English. Thus, approximately three Francophones in four used only English in their interactions with the RCMP and municipal police. When using the services of a lawyer, a larger proportion of Francophones, 86%, used only English.

20. Because of the very small number of members of the official-language minority who had contact with the provincial police, no conclusions regarding them can be drawn from the data obtained in the Survey on the Vitality of Official-Language Minorities.

4.3 Education

4.3.1 Children

Access to French-language schools and management of the educational systems of the Francophone minority have long been burning issues for Francophones outside Quebec. In many provinces, the education of Francophones in their own language was greatly limited by the fact that most French schools received no government funding until the early 1970s (Corbeil, 2003).

In British Columbia, various actors, including individuals, associations, committees, boards and the Fédération des parents Francophones, joined forces to demand and work for the establishment of a French-language education system, for which the Conseil scolaire francophone de la Colombie-Britannique would ultimately be responsible. In 1977, the provincial government granted Francophones the right to education in French. Two years later, in 1979, the Programme cadre de français (PCDF) was created with programs of instruction in French, which were managed by Anglophone school districts. In 1989, the province's School Act was amended: it contained a clause that defined the rights of children of Francophone parents to education in French as provided for in section 23 of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms. In 1999, le Conseil scolaire francophone de la Colombie-Britannique (CSF) finally obtained responsibility for the Francophone education program throughout the province. Ten years later, in 2009, the CSF had 38 schools with an enrolment of some 4,500 students, who were provided education programs from kindergarten through to grade 12, online courses and an international baccalaureate program.²¹

In a minority situation, French schools are granted a special status because of their role as an agent of socialization to French culture, transmission of the French language to children and maintenance of skills in that language. School is a public Francophone environment which, along with the family, can contribute to the development and blossoming of Francophone community life.

It is therefore important to be able to measure the extent to which French-language schools are attended by children eligible to attend them, along with the factors that influence decisions concerning children's language of instruction. Data from the Survey on the Vitality of Official-Language Minorities (SVOLM) shed light on this particular aspect of the school situation of children of Francophone parents in British Columbia, since these data lend themselves to estimating the number of children eligible for education in French who attend a French-language school or who are enrolled in an immersion program. Additionally, these data can be used to examine the link between attending a French-language school and the use of languages, in particular at home and with friends.

In British Columbia, 15,400 children of Francophone parents were enrolled in elementary or secondary school at the time of the survey. Of those children, approximately 40% were receiving instruction in French, including 22% in French schools but also in French immersion programs at English schools. For the rest of the children who were enrolled in elementary or secondary school, 58% were attending an English-language school (regular program). The results obtained suggest that there may be a link between the language in which children are educated and the proportion of exogamous couples, and between the existence of language transfer toward English for many Francophones under 21 years of age and the fact that a sizeable proportion of Francophones feel more at ease in English than in French. As an example, of the 13,130 Francophone children living in two-parent families, the majority (68%) were from French-English exogamous families. Of the children living in this type of family, 58% were attending the regular program of an English-language school.

21. At the Conseil scolaire francophone de la Colombie-Britannique (CSF) website (http://www.csf.bc.ca/english/history_csf.php), readers will find a summary of the history of French education in British Columbia from 1793 to 2010. Also see Martel (1991) and Fédération canadienne des communautés francophones et acadiennes du Canada (2009) for more information on French education in the province.

The Survey on the Vitality of Official-Language Minorities also shows that attending a French-language school or being enrolled in a French immersion program in an English school seems to be a more popular choice for the parents of the youngest children. The results suggest that there may be some abandonment of French school and French immersion programs in favour of English school in the transition between elementary school and secondary school. The SVOLM results show that approximately one child in two was enrolled in a French-language school or a French immersion program at the elementary level. These proportions are higher than for children enrolled in the same types of schools at the secondary level (see Appendix B2). As for the proportion of children enrolled in the regular program in English, it is 48% at the elementary level and 71% at the secondary level.

Apart from the environmental characteristics mentioned above, other factors influence the choice of the language of the school attended by the child. In particular, the linguistic path of the parents in their own educational trajectory appears to have some influence on the choice of their children's language of instruction or school system. Thus, of the 9,500 children with at least one parent who had been educated at the elementary and secondary levels in French, approximately 57% were attending a French-language school or a French immersion program and approximately 71% spoke French at home.

Data from the Survey on the Vitality of Official-Language Minorities do not yield statistically significant results as to the link between children's attendance of a French school and the sole or predominant use of French at home or with friends, or to the link between school attendance in French and the ability to use that language to conduct a conversation. However, a link can be established between attendance of a French school and use of French in various contexts. Thus, the majority of children who attend a French-language school use French, alone or with English, when speaking with their friends (54%) and are able to use it to conduct a conversation in almost all cases (96%). By contrast, the majority of children who attend an English-language school use English at home, in a proportion of 60%.

4.3.2 Adults

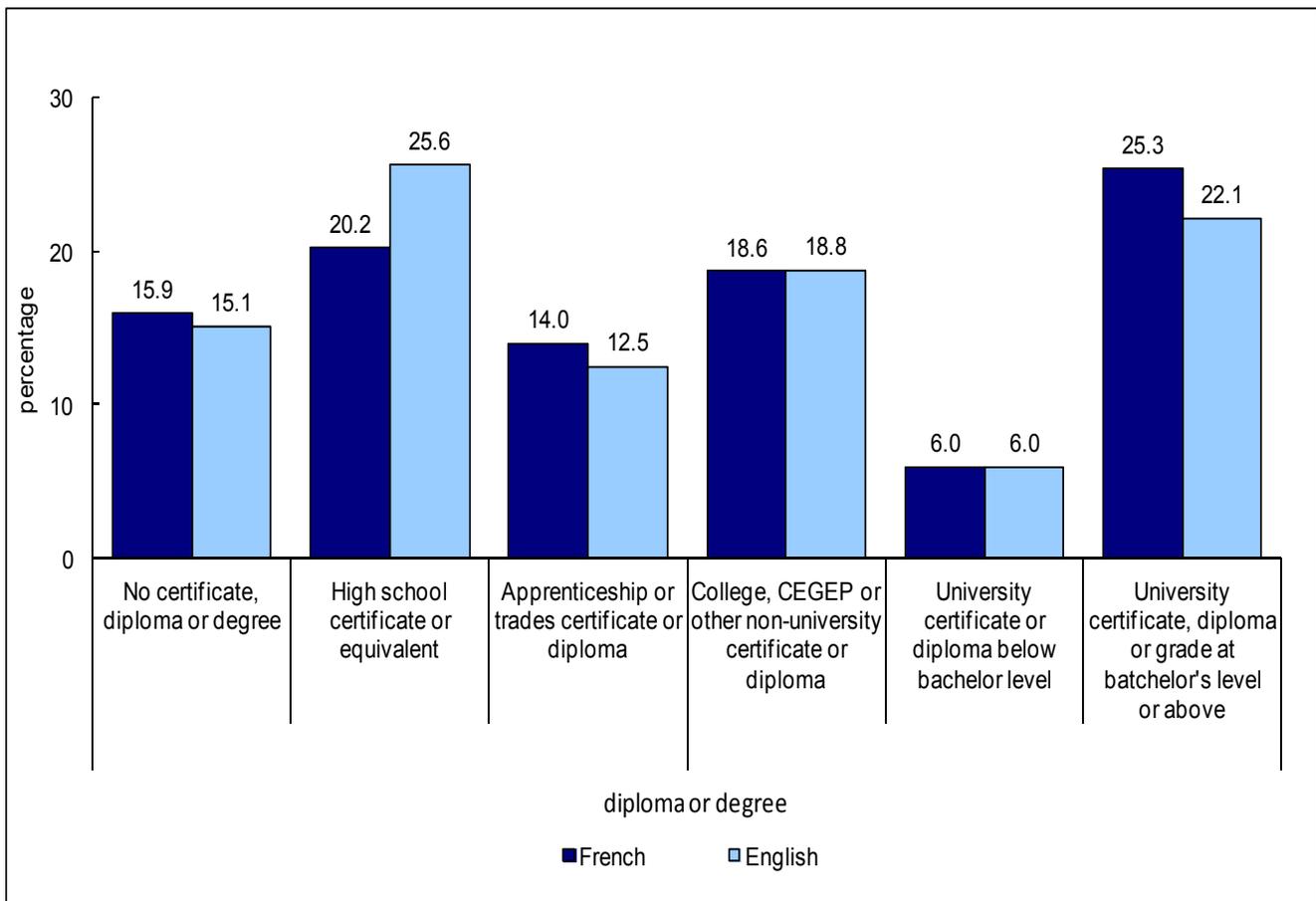
4.3.2.1 Highest level of schooling

The highest level of schooling of British Columbia Francophones in 2006 is an important indicator of the progress made since the 1971 Census, which was conducted shortly after the Dunton–Laurendeau Commission completed its work. Based on statistics from the 1961 Census, the Commission's work described the very large disparities observed between Francophones and Anglophones in Canada, with respect to education as well as to labour market status and various spheres of economic activity. Notably because of compulsory education to age 16 and the growing importance assigned to education by governments, employers and the general public, the disparities between Francophones and Anglophones in Canada have greatly diminished over time.

To illustrate the phenomenon, we will first examine the results shown in Chart 4.3.2.1.1, which concerns the situation observed in 2006. As may be seen, 26% of Anglophones had a high school diploma, compared to 20% of Francophones. Also, Francophones were proportionally more likely (25%) to have a university degree equivalent to or higher than a bachelor's than Anglophones (22%). In the other categories, the statistics show that gaps between these two language groups are now very small.

Chart 4.3.2.1.1

Highest certificate, diploma or degree obtained by first official language spoken, persons aged 25 years or over, British Columbia, 2006



Source: Statistics Canada, 2006 Census of population.

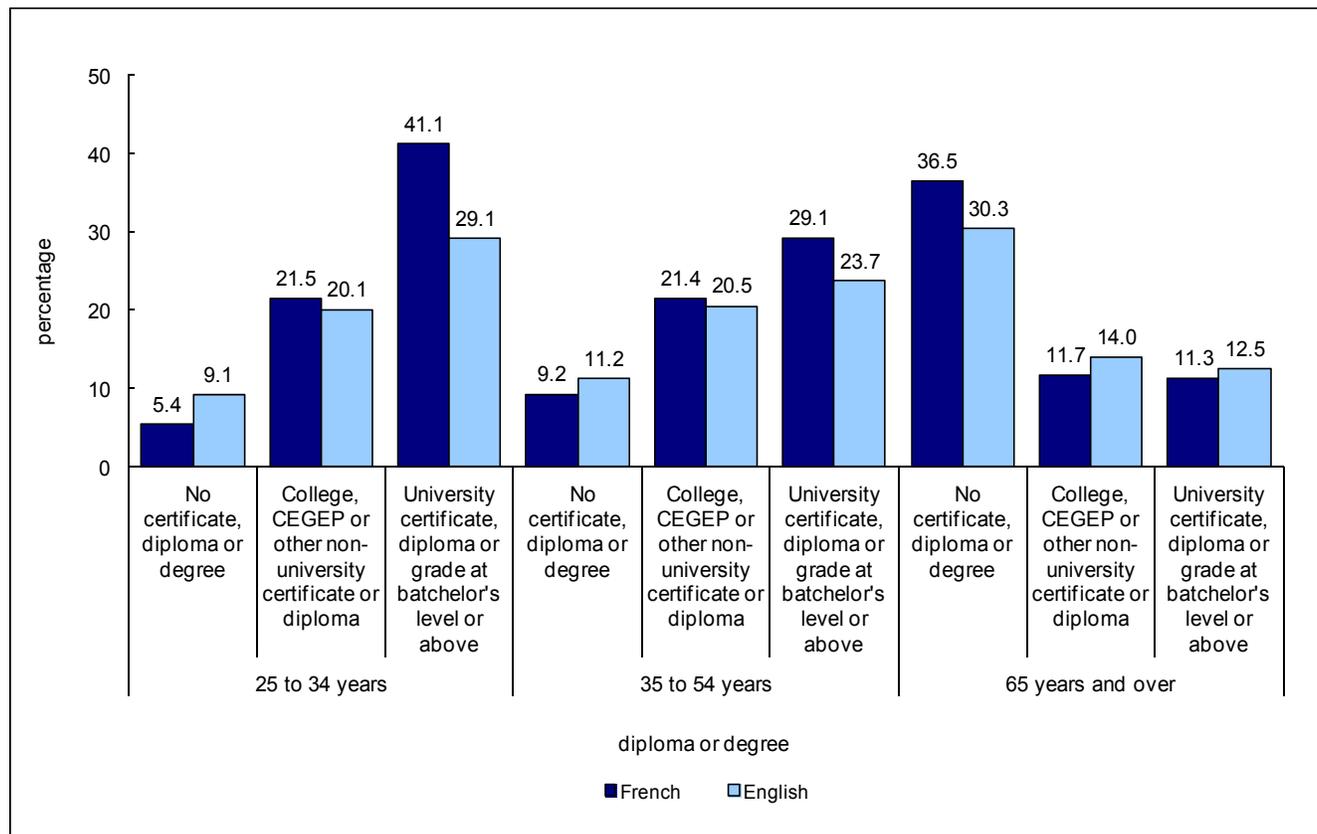
The findings that emerge from a reading of the above chart cover the overall population aged 25 and over, and they therefore reflect both the present and the past educational situation of the language groups.

Chart 4.3.2.1.2 clearly illustrates this point when we look at selected sub-populations defined according to their age group. When we focus on the 65 and over group, we can see that a lower proportion of Anglophones than of Francophones have no certificate, diploma or degree. By the same token, Anglophones are proportionally slightly more likely than Francophones to have a college or university diploma.

It is a sign of evolving trends in education that the situation of persons aged 25 to 34 and those aged 35 to 54 shows a reversal: in these age groups, Francophones are more likely to have a college or university diploma, while Anglophones are proportionally more likely to have no certificate, diploma or degree.

Chart 4.3.2.1.2

Highest certificate, diploma or degree obtained by first official language spoken and age group, British Columbia, 2006



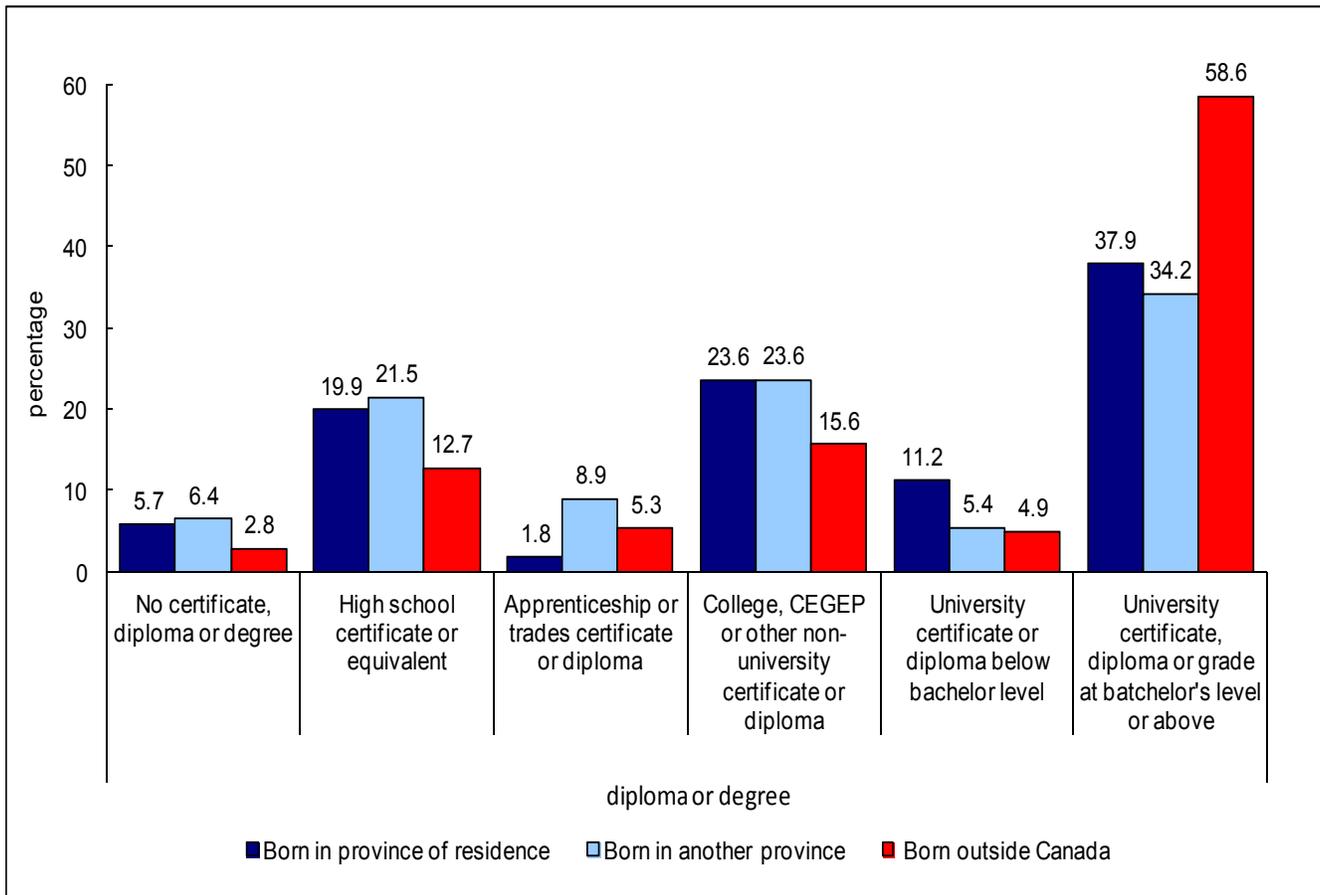
Source: Statistics Canada, 2006 Census of population.

As just noted, an examination of the educational status of young adults must take account of an important factor: Francophones' place of birth. For example, among both Anglophones and Francophones, immigrants are generally more likely to have a university diploma, one reason being that education level is one of the selection criteria for immigrants to Canada. In 2006, among Francophones aged 25 to 34, 59% of those born outside Canada had a university diploma, compared to 38% of those born in British Columbia and 34% born in another province (in most cases, in Quebec) (see chart 4.3.2.1.3). At the lowest education levels, the corollary to this situation is observed, with Francophones born outside Canada being less likely than Franco-Columbians to have a high school diploma as their highest level of schooling or to have no certificate, diploma or degree.

The sizeable gap between the proportion of Francophones aged 25 to 34 with a university degree or diploma (41%) and the corresponding proportion of Anglophones (29%) is also due to the fact that Anglophones are proportionally much more likely to have been born in British Columbia than their Francophone counterparts. In fact, only 9% of Franco-Columbians with a university diploma were born in their province, compared to nearly 51% of their Anglophone counterparts. Also, 52% of these Francophones were born in another province, in most cases Quebec or Ontario, and they generally obtained such a degree or diploma before migrating to British Columbia. It is well known that young adults have a greater tendency to migrate than others for job-related purposes and there is a strong correlation between a higher education level and a propensity to migrate to another province. Note that among the province's Anglophones and Francophones, the relative share of foreign-born university graduates in this age group is the same at approximately 40%.

Chart 4.3.2.1.3

Highest certificate, diploma or degree obtained by Francophones aged 25 to 34 years, by place of birth, British Columbia, 2006



Note: The term Francophone refers to the first official language spoken.

Source: Statistics Canada, 2006 Census of population.

One of the greatest changes resulting from the profound social transformations and educational reforms of the 1960s is undeniably the entry of large numbers of women into post-secondary educational institutions, especially universities. In 1971, the proportion of women holding a university degree was two to three times smaller than the proportion of men, depending on the age group (Corbeil, 2003). In 2006, among British Columbia Francophones, the data show that for persons aged 65 and over, that is, those who were at least 30 years of age in 1971, the proportion of women holding a university diploma is 10%, compared to 13% for men in this age group (see table 4.3.2.1). By contrast, among 20 to 24 year-olds, the situation is reversed: the proportion holding such a diploma is 14% for men, whereas it is 18% for women. Also, in this age group, 10% of men have no certificate, diploma or degree compared to 3% of women. In short, women under 65 years of age are proportionally more likely to have a university diploma or degree than their male counterparts, whereas the latter are proportionally more likely to have no certificate, diploma or degree or to have a vocational or trade school diploma.

Table 4.3.2.1
Highest certificate, diploma or degree obtained by Francophones, by age group and sex, British Columbia, 2006

Certificate, diploma or degree	20 to 24		25 to 34		35 to 44		45 to 54		55 to 64		65 and over	
	Female	Male										
	percentage											
No certificate, diploma or degree	2.9	9.9	3.2	7.6	5.2	9.6	8.5	13.1	16.8	17.9	37.3	35.5
High school certificate or equivalent	49.9	45.2	17.0	20.9	16.4	19.8	24.7	22.4	23.2	16.9	23.9	14.0
Apprenticeship or trades certificate or diploma	3.3	8.5	5.7	8.8	8.6	14.5	9.8	19.2	11.6	25.1	10.6	24.2
College, CEGEP or other non-university certificate or diploma	17.5	14.9	21.8	21.2	24.2	19.5	23.8	18.3	19.0	16.3	13.3	9.8
University certificate or diploma below bachelor level	8.5	7.7	6.3	5.4	7.0	4.1	8.2	4.8	8.5	6.9	5.2	3.3
University certificate, diploma or grade at bachelor's level or above	17.9	13.9	46.1	36.2	38.6	32.5	25.1	22.3	20.9	17.0	9.6	13.2

Note: The term Francophone refers to the first official language spoken.

Source: Statistics Canada, 2006 Census of population.

4.3.2.2 Adults' language of instruction

As was seen above, in British Columbia as a whole, approximately half of children with at least one French-speaking parent are enrolled in the regular program of a French-language elementary school or a French immersion program. At the secondary level, the proportion is lower. What about the language of instruction of adults who responded to the SVOLM? In responses to the various survey questions concerning the language in which respondents pursued part or all of their education, a decrease in the presence of French is observed from one age group to the next and from one education level to the next.

Table 4.3.2.2 shows that a large proportion (77%) of Francophones pursued all or part of their education in French at the elementary level. This proportion declines as young people continue on their educational path, then rebounds in academic programs at the university level. Thus, while 66% of Francophones pursued all or part of their secondary education in French, the corresponding proportion is 50% for those who completed non-university postsecondary education and 60% for those who pursued a university education.

The Survey on the Vitality of Official-Language Minorities (SVOLM) results reveal a sizable gap between adults under age 25 and those aged 25 and over as regards attending elementary and secondary school in French. Thus, while approximately 55% of Francophones under age 25 attended French school at the elementary and secondary levels, this proportion approaches 75% among Francophones aged 25 and over. This difference is notably attributable to the fact that many Francophones aged 25 and over residing in British Columbia were educated in French in Quebec.

Table 4.3.2.2**Proportion of Francophones who did all or part of their studies in French by age group and level of schooling, British Columbia, 2006**

Age group	Level of schooling			
	Primary	Secondary	Non-university post-secondary	University
	percentage			
18 to 24	56	55	x	F
25 to 44	77	72	63	65
45 to 64	80	66	47	67
65 and over	77	60	F	F
Total	77	66	51	60

Note: The term Francophone refers to the first official language spoken.

Source: Statistics Canada, Survey on the Vitality of Official-Language Minorities, 2006.

4.4 Media, arts and culture

Support for the arts and culture is one of the key elements targeted by the *Roadmap for Canada's Linguistic Duality*, which recognizes the essential role that the arts and culture play in the development of minority official-language communities.

The Survey on the Vitality of Official-Language Minorities (SVOLM) targets six media for measuring access to cultural products in the minority language: television; the Internet; radio; newspapers; books; and live performances and arts events. These days, the Internet and cable television facilitate access to these media in various languages and from many countries, thereby increasing the availability of these various French-language cultural products throughout Canada.

The results of the SVOLM reveal that Franco-Columbians, like their Anglophone counterparts, are heavy consumers of media, led by television (92%) and books (88%) (see Table 4.4).

Table 4.4**Proportion of Francophones by use of certain media (all languages included), British Columbia, 2006**

Use of medium	Francophones
	percentage
Watch television	92
Listen to the radio	82
Read books	88
Read newspapers	83
Use Internet	79

Note: The term Francophone refers to the first official language spoken.

Source: Statistics Canada, Survey on the Vitality of Official-Language Minorities, 2006.

Access to French-language media is not the only factor that influences consumption in the minority language. The Survey on the Vitality of Official-Language Minorities results show that despite advanced technologies facilitating access to various French-language media, English predominates in media use. Thus, a majority of British Columbia Francophones are inclined to report that they watch television, listen to the radio, read books and newspapers and access the Internet mainly or only in English. Newspaper reading (95%), Internet use (80%) and television viewing (79%) are the activities for which the predominance of English is the strongest.

4.5 Community life

Individuals' civic engagement and their participation in community activities are generally recognized as dimensions of civic life that contribute to the creation and maintenance of social support networks. Also, "*social capital (broadly defined as participation in social networks) is increasingly being understood as a key component of community development or a key aspect of the 'capacity' of a community to develop.*" Rothwell and Turcotte, 2006, p. 1).

The Survey on the Vitality of Official-Language Minorities (SVOLM) data lend themselves to measuring several dimensions of Francophones' participation in community life. The statistics on participation in volunteer activities, membership in community organizations and informal caregiving can be used to examine the extent to which Francophones are engaged, through such forms of involvement, in the life of their community.

A number of sociodemographic and economic factors influence community participation, including age, education level, residential environment, socioeconomic status, etc. However, an analysis of these factors goes beyond the objective of this report.

The results of the SVOLM show that between one-quarter and one-third of British Columbia Francophones participate in one or another of the activities for which data were collected in this survey. Thus, 32% of Francophone adults reported that they had been a member of an organization, network or association in the 12 months preceding the survey, while 34% reported doing volunteer work and 26% had provided unpaid assistance with everyday activities to someone not living in their household. Approximately 6% of Francophones reported having participated in all three types of activities.

For the community activities engaged in by Franco-Columbians, the language of interaction varies depending on the type of activity. However, English is the language that Francophones favour in all these activities. English is used mainly or only by 75% of Francophones when they do volunteer work, 64% when they provide social support for daily activities to persons not living in the household, and 61% when they are involved in organizations, networks or associations. It is worth noting that friends (46%) are more often the beneficiaries of assistance with daily activities. Consequently, family and friends seem to be an important element in the networks of British Columbia Francophones. For example, in case of illness, 36% report that they would turn to other members of their family for support, while 20% would turn to their children and 21% to their friends. The use of French in social support activities thus seems to be associated mainly with the private sphere.

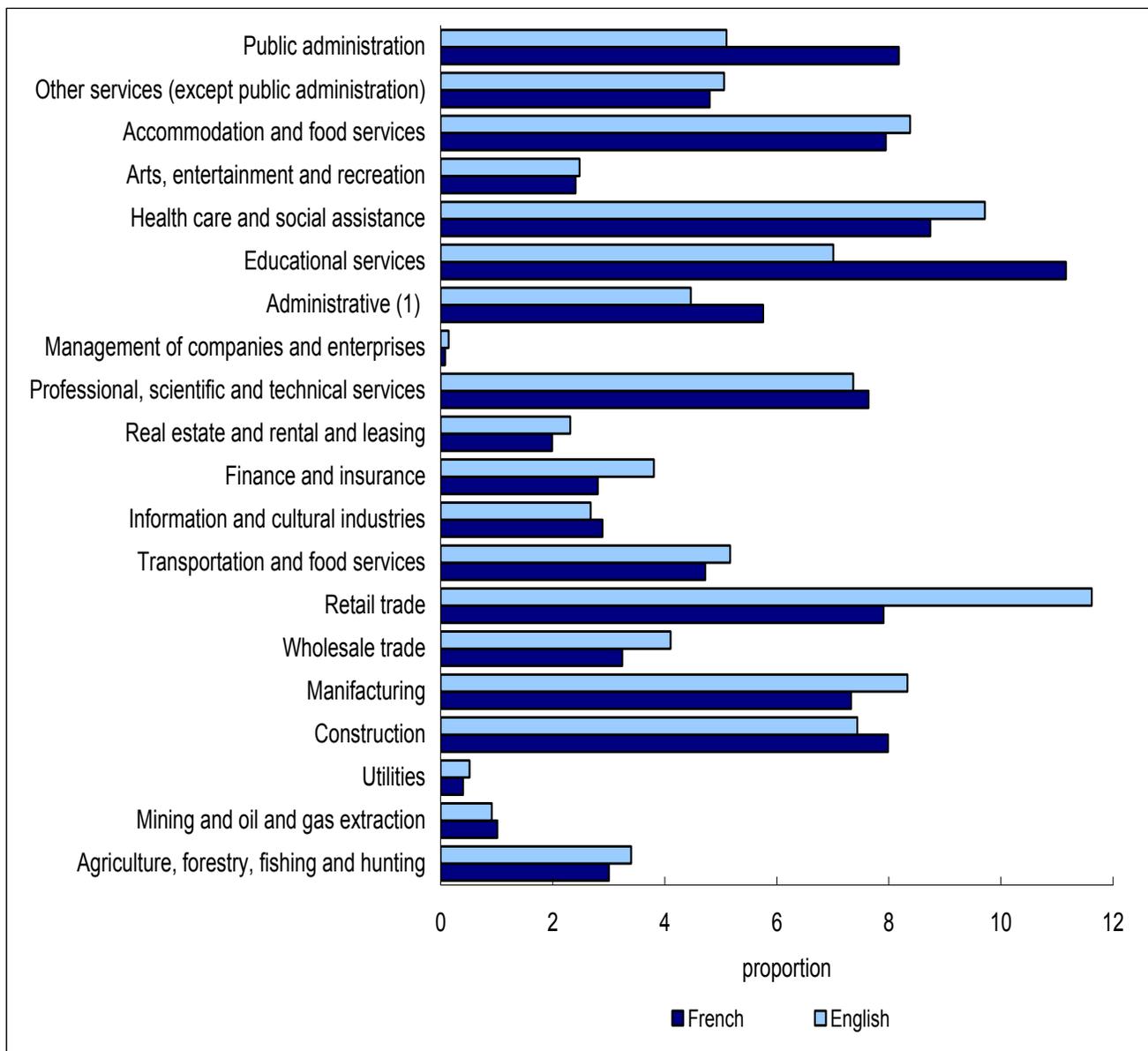
The Survey on the Vitality of Official-Language Minorities shows that nearly two-thirds of British Columbia Francophones report that it is "important" or "very important" to them that individuals or organizations work at the development of the Francophone community. Also, 29% of those who join organizations, networks or associations do so in order to promote the Francophone community.

4.6 Employment and income characteristics

Thus far, we have examined the size of differences in education level between the main language groups in British Columbia. Data from both the census and the SVOLM can be used to examine the extent to which British Columbia Francophones work in different industry sectors than Anglophones. It is accordingly possible to identify similarities and differences in how the language groups are distributed among the various industry sectors.

A brief analysis of 2006 Census statistics reveals that British Columbia Francophones are proportionally more likely than their Anglophone counterparts to work in particular sectors such as education services and public administration. These two sectors employ respectively 11% and 8% of the province's Francophones, compared to 7% and 5% of Anglophones. For their part, Anglophones are proportionally more likely to have jobs in retail trade at 12%, compared to 8% of the province's Francophones. In the other major industry sectors, there are few differences between the two groups.

Chart 4.6
Proportion of workers by industry sector and first official language spoken, British Columbia, 2006



1. Administrative and support, waste management and remediation services.

Source: Statistics Canada, 2006 Census of population.

Table 4.6
Distribution of Francophone workers by the industry sector, British Columbia, 2006

Industry sector (NAICS)	Francophone workers	
	number	%
Public administration	3,240	8.2
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting	1,220	3.1
Arts, entertainment and recreation	945	2.4
Other services (except public administration)	1,845	4.7
Retail trade	3,135	7.9
Wholesale trade	1,275	3.2
Construction	3,155	8.0
Mining and oil and gas extraction	390	1.0
Manufacturing	2,950	7.4
Finance and insurance	1,155	2.9
Management of companies and enterprises	35	0.1
Accommodation and food services	3,105	7.8
Information and cultural industries	1,100	2.8
Administrative and support, waste management and remediation services	2,290	5.8
Educational services	4,385	11.1
Real estate and rental and leasing	815	2.1
Professional, scientific and technical services	3,025	7.6
Utilities	170	0.4
Health care and social assistance	3,520	8.9
Transportation and warehousing	1,880	4.7
Total	39,620	100.0

Note: NAICS = North American Industry Classification System. The term Francophone refers to the first official language spoken.

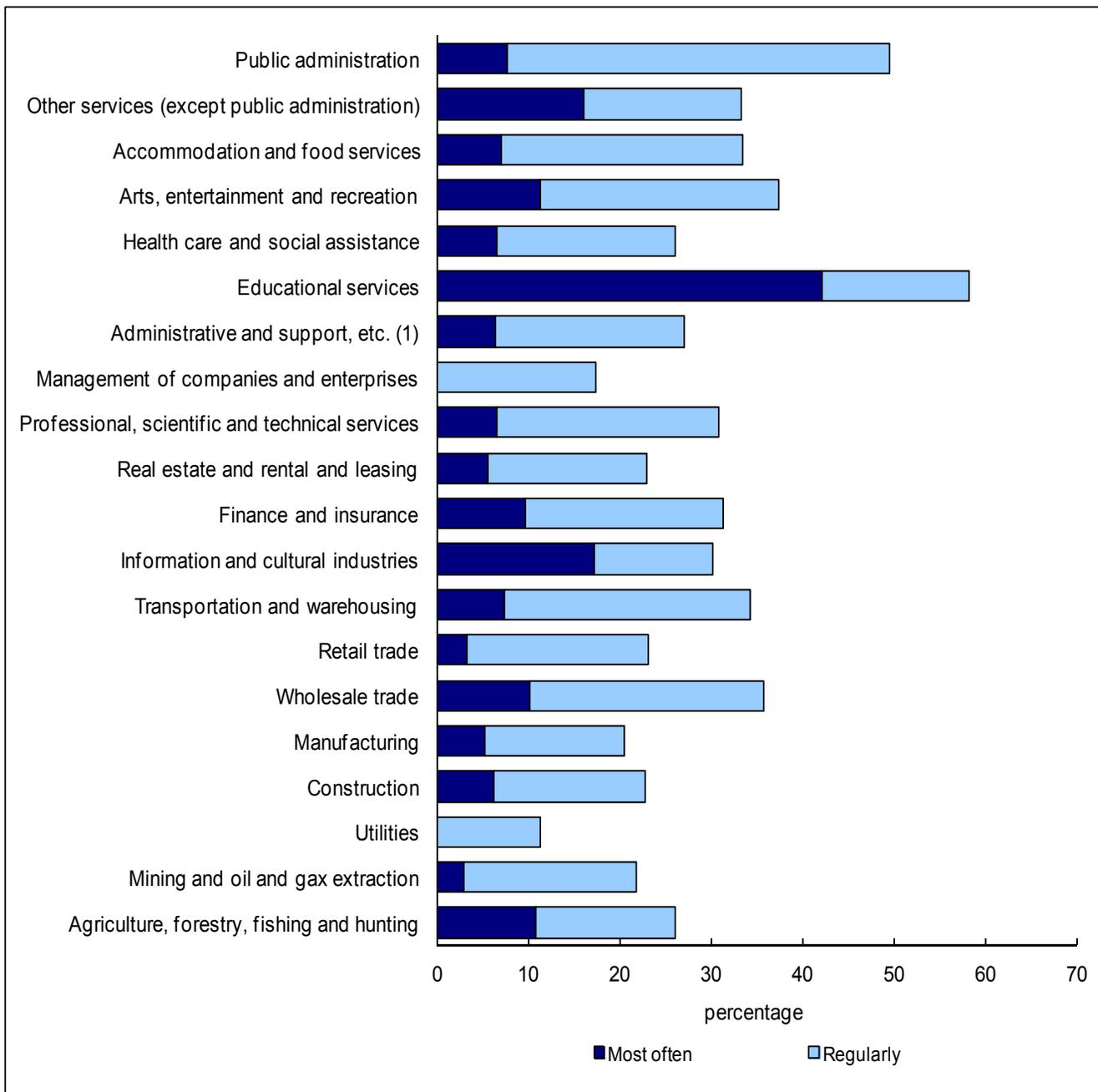
Source: Statistics Canada, 2006 Census of population.

4.6.1 Use of French at work by industry sector

Of all British Columbia workers aged 15 and over, 1.5% use French most often or on a regular basis in their work. Among those with French as their first official language spoken, this proportion is 4.3%, with 1.4% most often and 2.9% regularly (that is, less often than the predominant language).

Francophones who work in the education, health care and social assistance, public administration, and construction sectors account for more than one-third (36%) of the province's Francophones. What about the use of French by the Francophones in these sectors? It is hardly surprising that Francophones in the education sector are proportionally more likely to have French as their main language of work; 42% use it most often while 16% report using it on a regular basis. Francophones in the information industry and cultural industry sectors, which account for only 3% of the province's Francophone workers, are solidly in second place as regards the use of French most often at work (17%). However, in the public administration sector, a larger proportion of Francophones report using French at least regularly at work, 8% most often and 42% on a regular basis.

Chart 4.6.1
Use of French most often and regularly at work by Francophones by industry sector, British Columbia, 2006



1. Administrative and support, waste management and remediation services.

Note: The term Francophone refers to the first official language spoken.

Source: Statistics Canada, 2006 Census of population.

4.6.2 Income differentials

Historically, Francophones in Canada have been economically disadvantaged. Franco-Columbians are no exception. Since individuals' income level is highly dependent on their education level, their occupation and the industry sector in which they work (to name only these factors), it would appear that the substantial changes that British Columbia's Francophone communities have undergone over the past 40 years have had major effects on their income level.

It is beyond the purpose and scope of this report to analyze the factors that have influenced how income differentials between the language groups have evolved. However, statistics from the 2006 Census suggest that the status of Franco-Columbians has greatly improved over time.

The 2006 Census statistics reveal that the average and median incomes of persons with French as their first official language spoken are slightly higher than those of Anglophones. Men with French as their only first official language spoken (FOLS) have an average income \$1,600 higher than men with English as their only FOLS. The results for median income are quite similar; that of Francophone men is \$1,200 higher than that of their Anglophone counterparts. Among women, the average and median incomes of Francophones are respectively \$2,400 and \$1,800 higher than those of Anglophones (see Table 4.6.2). As for the average and median incomes of persons with French and English as first official languages spoken, they are much lower than those of Francophones and Anglophones. For the population with a dual FOLS, the lower incomes would seem to be explained by the fact that these people are mainly immigrants. A number of studies have shown that despite a higher education level, immigrants have a higher unemployment rate and lower income levels than their Canadian-born counterparts (Frenette and Morissette, 2003; Picot and Hou, 2003; Zietsma, 2010).

Table 4.6.2
Average and median income for males and females by first official language spoken, British Columbia, 2006

First official language spoken	Males		Females	
	Average income	Median income	Average income	Median income
	dollar			
French	44,740	33,595	29,801	22,352
English	43,100	32,364	27,387	20,596
English and French	33,245	21,193	21,361	13,481
Total	42,469	31,598	26,905	19,997

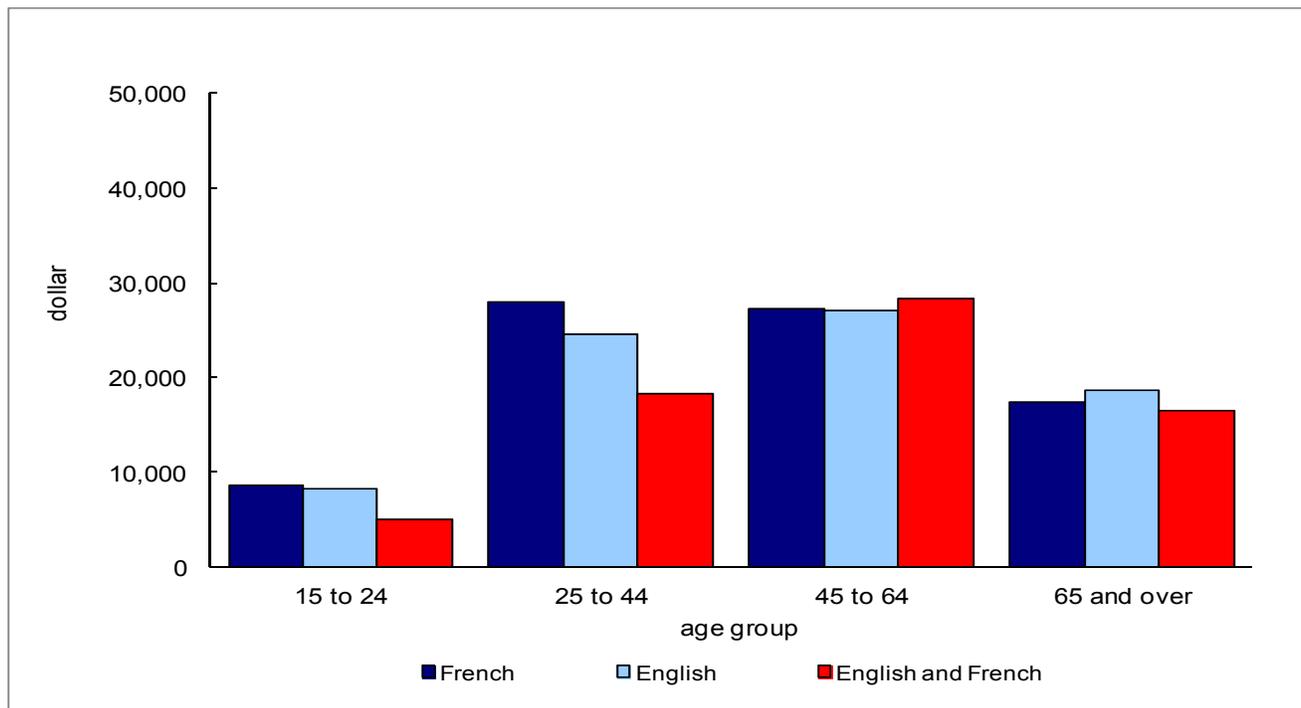
Source: Statistics Canada, 2006 Census of population.

In light of the historical context described above, it is clear that the median income of the two language groups is age-related, with older Francophones having a lower median income than their Anglophone counterparts. The statistics shown in charts 4.6.2-a and 4.6.2-b reflect the fact that among persons aged 65 and over, the median income of Anglophones is higher than that of Francophones, for both men and women, although the income gaps are smaller for women. On the other hand, among 25-to-44-year-olds, the median incomes of both women and men who speak French are higher than those of their Anglophone counterparts, by \$3,500 and \$2,500 respectively. As for men and women for whom both French and English is their first official language spoken, their median incomes are mostly lower than those of Francophones and Anglophones. However, the income gaps are greater for men than for women.

Several factors may explain the income differential between Francophones and Anglophones. Although the results on the general population reveal that for both men and women, Francophones' mean incomes exceed those of Anglophones, these differences are due in part to a number of characteristics that distinguish these two populations. For example, as previously noted, British Columbia's Francophone population under 65 of age is more educated than the Anglophone population. The age structure of the population is also a factor affecting the mean and median incomes of this population.

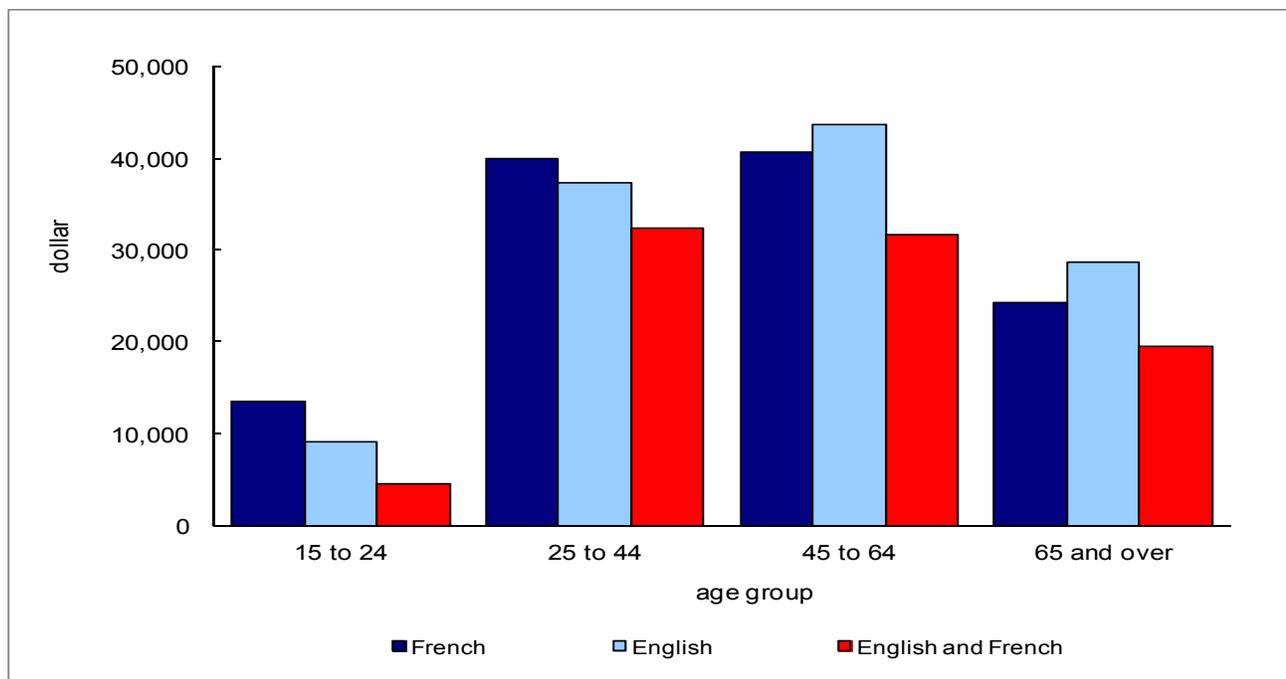
A deeper analysis of the census results, in particular using the technique of multivariate statistical analysis, reveals that education, type of place of residence, industry sector and immigrant status play an important role, and help to explain these differences. Thus, when we control for these characteristics, it emerges that the average income of Francophone men aged 65 and over is \$2,900 lower than that of Anglophones. For men under 65 years of age, the gap in average incomes is almost non-existent. For women, the results of the multivariate analysis show that the incomes of Francophones aged 65 and over are \$4,000 lower than those of Anglophones. As for women under 65 years of age, the gap between the average incomes of Francophones and Anglophones is very small.

Chart 4.6.2-a
Median income for females by age group and first official language spoken, British Columbia, 2006



Source: Statistics Canada, 2006 Census of population.

Chart 4.6.2-b
Median income for males by age group and first official language spoken, British Columbia, 2006



Source: Statistics Canada, 2006 Census of population.

Section 5 Subjective vitality

In this portrait of British Columbia Francophones, we have drawn a general profile of the different demolinguistic and socioeconomic characteristics of this population. But what do we know about various key aspects of subjective vitality, perceptions and the value assigned to French in their living environment?

The results of the Survey on the Vitality of Official-Language Minorities highlight at least two key elements shared by most Francophones: a strong sense of dual identification with the Francophone and Anglophone groups, and the value that they assign to the French language.

As regards the phenomenon of identity, the SVOLM results suggest that Francophones have a double ethnolinguistic identity: 51% of them report that they identify with both the Francophone and Anglophone groups, compared to 20% who report identifying mainly or only with the Francophone group.

Identity and the sense of belonging are highly complex concepts. Depending on the circumstances, people may identify with their country, their language, their culture, etc. The sense of double identification with the Francophone and Anglophone groups that is observed among British Columbia Francophones suggests that in many cases, immersion in the primarily Anglophone culture may have contributed to the emergence of a phenomenon in which the Francophone cultural and linguistic heritage is valued and respected while linguistic practices are influenced by living within the dominant and pervasive Anglophone culture. However, to verify and analyze this hypothesis would go beyond the scope of this analytical report and the limitations of the SVOLM in this regard.

Nevertheless, a number of factors indicate that British Columbia Francophones assign a definite value to the French language. Just over 50% of them reported that it is important for them to be able to use French in their daily life. Also, they consider it important or very important for individuals or organizations to work at the development of the French-speaking community (63%), for government services to be provided in French (69%) and for linguistic rights to be respected in their province (83%).

It is worth noting that in examining the extent to which French is used in the various domains about which SVOLM asks questions, notably regarding interactions with health care and justice system professionals as well as access to the main mechanisms for transmitting culture, we observe a phenomenon that may, on the face of it, seem contradictory: valuing a language does not necessarily translate into using it a great deal. For example, among British Columbia Francophones who report that it is either important or very important to be able to use French in their daily life, 79% watch television only or mainly in English, while nine Francophones in 10 read newspapers only or mainly in English. Even though French is valued and assigned a great importance, the demolinguistic reality and the dynamics of the environment in which Francophones live may work against the use of that language.

The Survey on the Vitality of Official- Language Minorities collected data on subjective perceptions with regard to the past and future evolution of the presence of the minority language in the municipality of residence as well as the perceived vitality of the official-language community. On this score, half of Francophones feel that the vitality of the French-speaking community in their municipality is weak or very weak while 28% feel that it is neither strong nor weak. Also, when asked what would happen to the presence of French in their municipality in the next 10 years, 57% of Franco-Columbians said that this presence would decrease. These results suggest that Francophones in British Columbia feel some concern about the presence of French in their municipality or indeed their province.

Conclusion

This demolinguistic portrait of British Columbia Francophones contains considerable and varied information on the characteristics, practices and perceptions of this language group. What stands out from all this information? While the following items are not a complete list of the key points contained in this report, they provide a general picture.

1. The French-mother-tongue population of British Columbia more than tripled between 1951 and 2006, going from 19,400 to 58,900. The English-mother-tongue population also tripled, reaching 2,900,900 in 2006, while the population with an “other” mother tongue increased six-fold, totalling 1,114,600 in 2006, compared to 181,900 in 1951.
2. The criterion of first official language spoken (FOLS) is a more inclusive definition of the Francophone population, since it includes “other”-mother-tongue persons in the Francophone or Anglophone population. Thus, the relative share of the French FOLS population within the British Columbia population is 1.5% (61,700), while the relative share of French-mother-tongue population is 1.4% (58,890) (after equal redistribution of multiple responses). Conversely, the relative share of the Anglophone population is 71.2%, based on mother tongue, and 95.5% according to FOLS, which shows allophones’ strong orientation toward English.
3. The proportion of persons whose first official language spoken is French within the overall population of British Columbia is 1.5%. Nearly two-thirds of the Franco-Columbian population resides in four census divisions: Greater Vancouver (50.9% or 31,400 people), Capital (10.2% or 6,305), Fraser Valley (4.7% or 2,890) and Central Okanagan (4.1% or 2,518) (see Appendix A). The Greater Vancouver census division (CD) corresponds to the Vancouver census metropolitan area (CMA), and the Capital CD includes not only the Victoria CMA, but also census subdivisions Capital F and Capital G.
4. Between 1971 and 2006, the proportion of children from a French-English exogamous family within the population of families with at least one French-mother-tongue parent increased in British Columbia, from 59% to 73%. Conversely, the share of children living in an endogamous family with both parents having French as their mother tongue declined substantially, from 26% in 1971 to 12% in 2006. The formation of French–“other”-language exogamous families remained stable during this period, with a proportion of approximately 15%.
5. Because of the increase in the proportion of French-English exogamous couples between 1971 and 2006, one might expect to see a decrease in the rate of transmission of the minority language (in this case, French) to children. While French had been passed on to 3% of the children under 18 of French-English exogamous couples in 1971, the corresponding proportion was 9% in 2006. There was also an increase in the transmission of French to the children of French–“other”-language exogamous couples, from 15% to 19% during the same period.
6. Between 1971 and 2006, the number of French-mother-tongue persons under 25 years of age declined, owing to a drop in the fertility of Francophone women. Also during this period there was a sizeable increase in the number of persons aged 30 and over, owing to substantial migration of French-mother-tongue persons coming from another province or a territory or from outside Canada. However, part of the increase in the number of seniors is explained by the aging of the population and the increase in life expectancy.

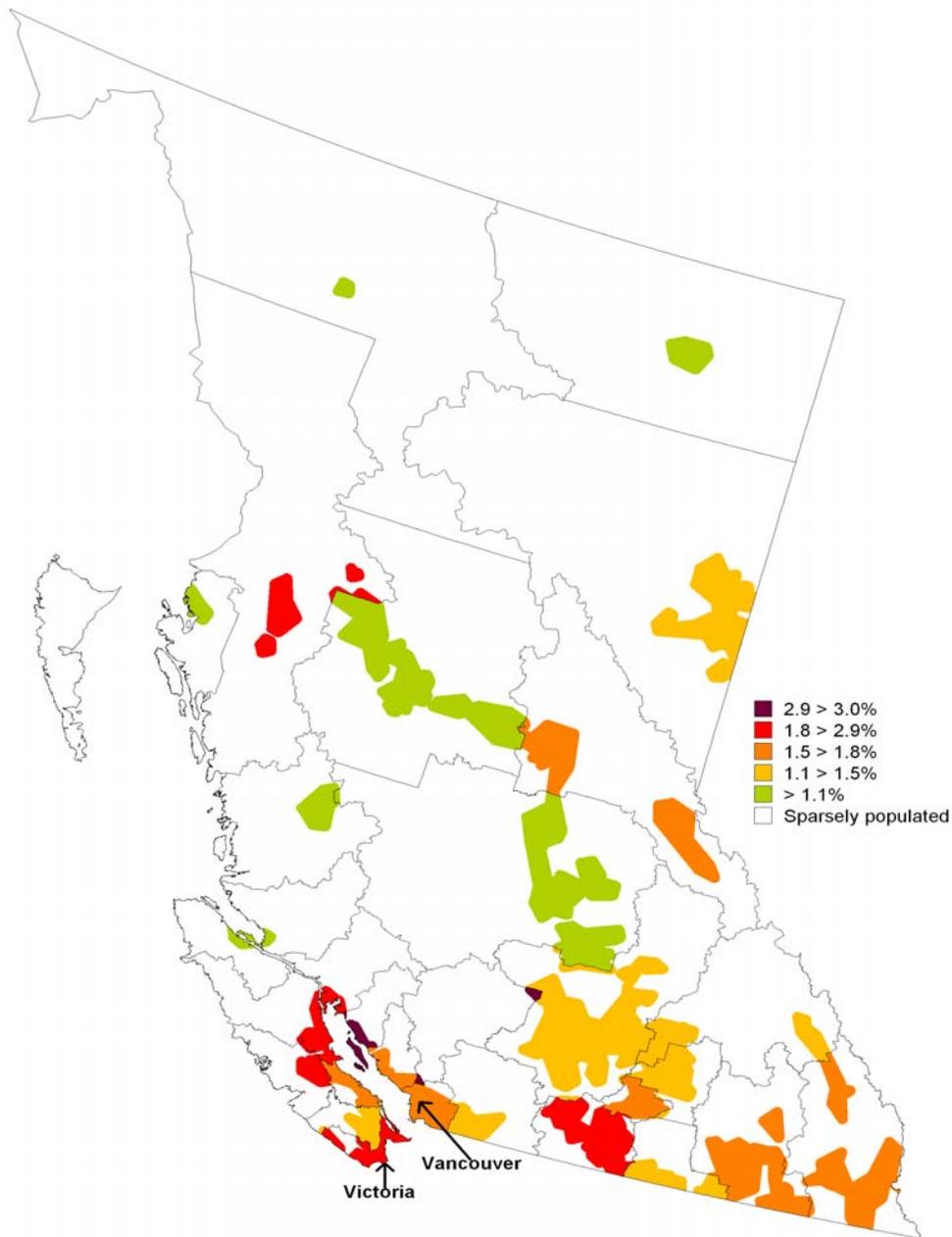
7. Across the censuses, the language transfer rates among French-mother-tongue persons in British Columbia remained nearly stable. Thus, in 1971, approximately 74% of Franco-Columbians with French as a mother tongue reported using another language, usually English, most often at home. Thirty-five years later, 73% of French-mother-tongue persons reported speaking a language other than French most often at home. The proportion of language transfers among English-mother-tongue persons, which was almost nil, also remained stable at 0.6% in both 1971 and 2006. Among “other”-mother-tongue persons, language transfers declined over the past 35 years, going from 60% in 1971 to 39% in 2006. This major decrease is essentially the result of a strong increase in the immigrant population.
8. Overall in British Columbia, the proportion of Francophones who report speaking English most often at home (complete and partial language transfers) is larger than the proportion of francophones who report being more at ease in English than in French. Thus, 74% of Franco-Columbians report speaking English most often at home while 45% report being more at ease in English than in French.
9. In British Columbia, the population whose first official language spoken is French mainly uses English in both spheres. Within that population, 71% report using English predominantly (mainly or only) in the home, while 22% speak mainly or only French. The use of English is most widespread in oral interactions that take place in institutions and stores. There, 99% of the French FOLS population use English predominantly (mainly or only), while 77% use it exclusively.
10. The proportion of persons within the population of British Columbia who in 2006 reported being able to conduct a conversation in French (7.0%) is greater than the proportion who reported French only or with another language as their mother tongue (1.6%) or for whom French is the first official language spoken (1.5%).
11. The relative share of British Columbians who can conduct a conversation in French is highly polarized according to language group. Whereas 87.9% of persons with French as a mother tongue reported knowing both official languages, the corresponding proportion was only 7% for persons with English as a mother tongue and 5% for persons with an “other” mother tongue. Among the latter, 11%, most of them recent immigrants, reported that they were unable to conduct a conversation in either French or English.
12. In 2006, scarcely more than 10% of persons with French as a mother tongue were born in British Columbia, whereas nearly 75% were born in another province or a territory of Canada. More than one-third of French-mother-tongue persons were born in Quebec. As to foreign-born persons, most of whom were immigrants, they comprised nearly 15% of the French-mother-tongue population.
13. The immigrant population with French as its first official language spoken accounts for a very small proportion of the province’s immigrant population. In 2006, its relative share was 1.3%. Whereas in 1971, immigrants accounted for 17% of the Francophone population, they accounted for nearly 24% in 2006, which was nearly equivalent to their share of the Anglophone population (26%).
14. Between 1981 and 2006, net migration between British Columbia and the other provinces and the territories was positive, ranging from 420 to 3,360, except for the period from 1991 to 1996, when it reached 6,655. Departures of Francophones for other provinces or the territories ranged between 5,060 and 7,685 during a given period. As for migration to British Columbia, it was highest in the period from 1991 to 1996, with 11,715 Francophones settling in the province. The periods of lowest migration to British Columbia were from 1981 to 1986 (7,695 arrivals) and 2001 to 2006 (7,385 arrivals).
15. In the 2006 Census, 19% of doctors working in British Columbia, or 1,055 out of a total of 5,460, reported that they were able to conduct a conversation in French, while 2.6% reported using French at least regularly in their work. For nurses, who numbered 34,815, these proportions are 7% and 0.7% respectively.

16. The results of the SVOLM show that the vast majority of British Columbia Francophones (99%) report using English in their contacts with the different health care professionals about whom information was collected in that survey, namely family doctors, nurses, telephone health line or telehealth service professionals and professionals in other places that people go to obtain care.
17. According to the 2006 Census, 4% of British Columbia police officers reported using French at least regularly at work. This rate is much lower than the rate for police officers' ability to conduct a conversation in French, which is 16%. The same applies to lawyers: their rate of use of French at least regularly at work (2%) is also much lower than the proportion of them who can conduct a conversation in French, which is 18%.
18. In British Columbia, 15,400 children of Francophone parents were enrolled in primary or secondary school at the time of the SVOLM. Of those students, approximately 40% were receiving an education in French, either in a French school (22%) or in a French immersion program in an English school. Of the rest of such children who were enrolled in elementary or secondary school, 58% were attending an English-language school (regular program).
19. In 2006, 26% of Anglophones had a high school diploma, compared to 20% of Francophones. Also, Francophones were proportionally more likely to have a university degree equivalent or higher than the bachelor's (25%) than Anglophones (22%). In the other categories, the statistics show that the differences between the two language groups are now quite small.
20. Because of Francophones closing the gap in education, the average and median incomes of persons with French as a first official language spoken (FOLS) are slightly higher than those of Anglophones. Thus, men with French as their only FOLS have an average income \$1,600 higher than English FOLS men. The results for median income are quite similar; that of Francophone men is \$1,200 higher than that of their Anglophone counterparts. For women, the average and median incomes of Francophones exceed those of Anglophones by respectively \$2,400 and \$1,800 respectively.
21. For persons with French and English as first official languages spoken, the average and median incomes are much lower than those of Francophones and Anglophones. For the population with a dual first official language spoken, the lower incomes would seem to be explained by the fact that these people are mainly immigrants. A number of studies have shown that despite a higher education level, immigrants have a higher unemployment rate and lower income levels than their Canadian-born counterparts.
22. A large proportion of British Columbia Francophones report that they identify with both the Francophone and Anglophone groups. Also, while a large proportion of Francophones report using English as their main language outside the home, a number of SVOLM findings indicate that Francophones assign a definite value to the French language. Slightly more than 50% of them reported that it is important for them to be able to use French in their daily life. Also, they consider it important or very important for individuals or organizations to work at the development of the French-speaking community (63%), for government services to be provided in French (69%) and for linguistic rights to be respected in their province (83%).

Maps

Map 1.1

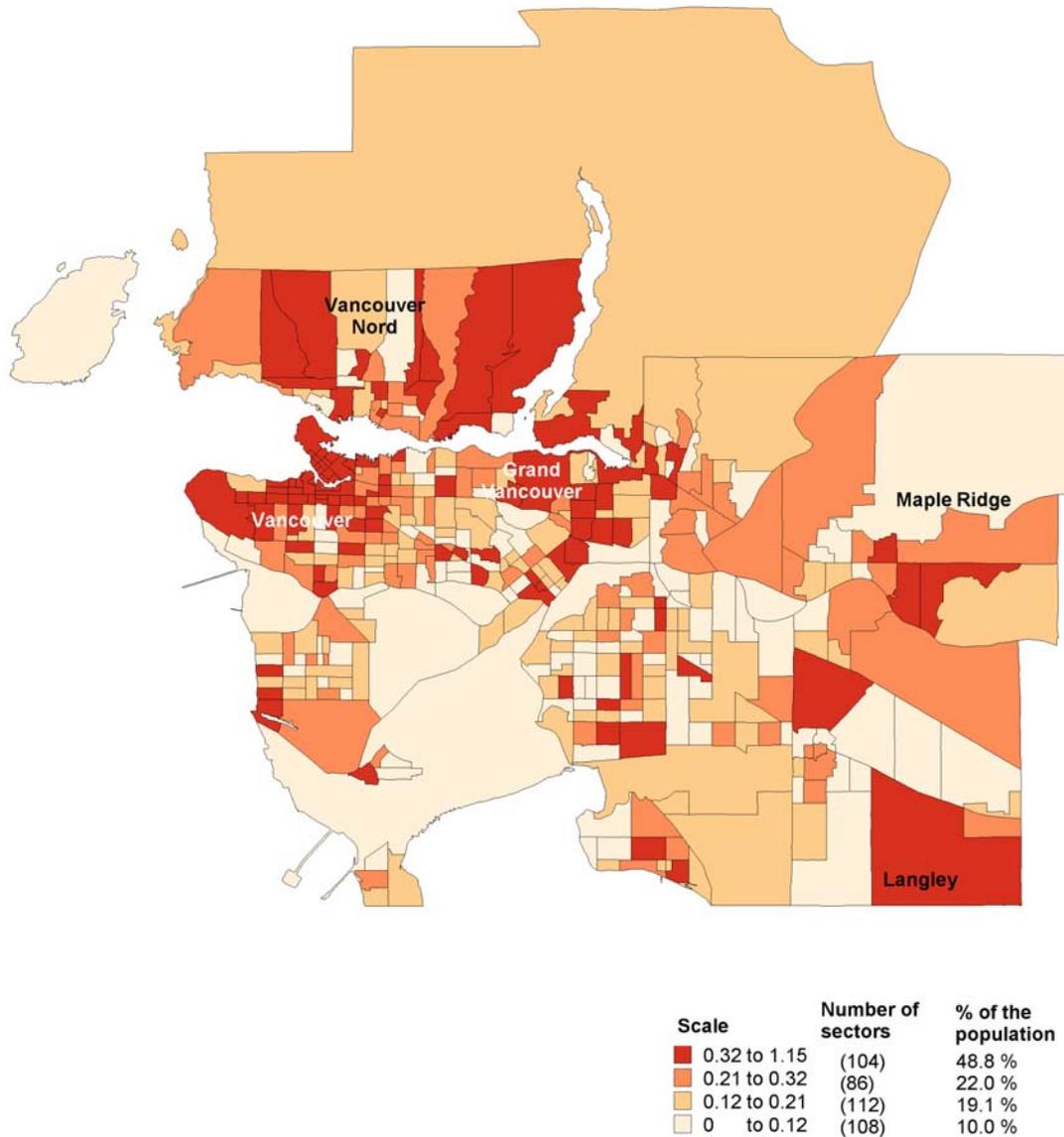
Percentage of the population with French as first official language spoken (with random distribution of the English French category)²² by census divisions, British Columbia, 2006



Source: Statistics Canada, 2006 Census of Population.

22. The random distribution of the "English French" category was implemented with the help of SAS (RANUNI command) to attribute half of this category to the French group.

Map 1.2
Distribution of Francophones (first official language spoken) within the census metropolitan area of Vancouver by census tract, 2006²³

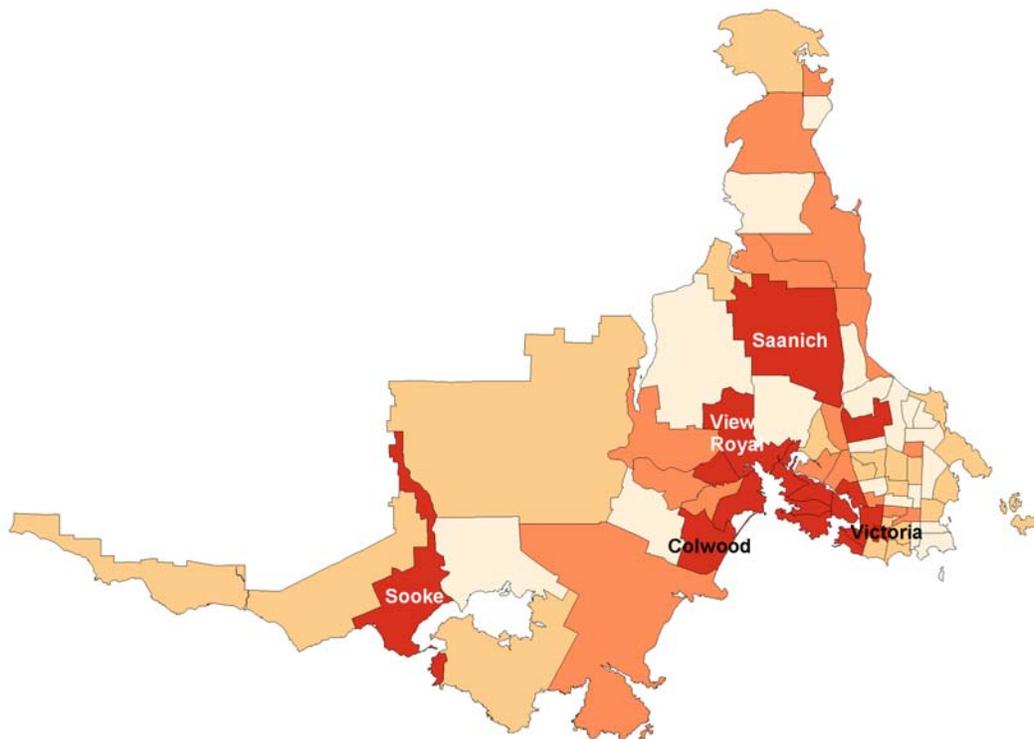


Source: Statistics Canada, 2006 Census of Population.

23. The scale refers to the proportion of the Francophone population of a given census tract within the overall Francophone population of the census metropolitan area.

Map 1.3

Distribution of Francophones (first official language spoken) within the census metropolitan area of Victoria by census tract, 2006²⁴



Scale	Number of sectors	% of the population
1.95 to 3.46	(17)	46.8 %
1.51 to 1.95	(16)	24.7 %
0.83 to 1.51	(16)	16.7 %
0.14 to 0.83	(20)	11.8 %

Source: Statistics Canada, 2006 Census of Population.

24. The scale refers to the proportion of the Francophone population of a given census tract within the overall Francophone population of the census metropolitan area.

Appendix A

Francophone population of British Columbia by census division and census subdivision, 2006

Census division and census subdivision ¹	Francophone population	
	percentage	number
East Kootenay	1.5	818
Elkford	2.0	50
Sparwood	2.3	85
Fernie	1.7	70
East Kootenay A	3.2	60
East Kootenay B	2.7	50
Cranbrook	0.9	165
Kimberley	1.8	110
East Kootenay C	0.9	55
East Kootenay E	1.1	20
Invermere	1.4	40
Radium Hot Springs	3.4	25
Canal Flats	7.9	55
East Kootenay F	0.5	15
East Kootenay G	0.6	10
Central Kootenay	1.5	843
Creston	1.7	80
Central Kootenay A	2.7	55
Salmo	1.0	10
Central Kootenay B	1.6	73
Nelson	1.7	153
Central Kootenay C	1.2	15
Slocan	4.8	15
Kaslo	1.9	20
Central Kootenay D	3.0	45
Central Kootenay E	0.9	35
Central Kootenay F	1.0	38
Castlegar	0.8	55
Central Kootenay G	1.2	20
Nakusp	3.0	45
Central Kootenay H	2.0	85
Central Kootenay I	1.4	35
Central Kootenay J	1.6	45
Central Kootenay K	1.4	25

Appendix A

Francophone population of British Columbia by census division and census subdivision, 2006 (continued)

Census division and census subdivision ¹	Francophone population	
	percentage	number
Kootenay Boundary	1.1	335
Fruitvale	0.5	10
Trail	0.4	28
Warfield	1.5	25
Rossland	1.5	50
Kootenay Boundary A	1.5	30
Kootenay Boundary B	1.1	15
Grand Forks	1.3	50
Midway	1.7	10
Kootenay Boundary C	0.7	10
Kootenay Boundary D	2.0	65
Kootenay Boundary E	1.3	30
Okanagan-Similkameen	1.8	1450
Osoyoos	1.9	90
Keremeos	1.2	15
Oliver	2.6	110
Okanagan-Similkameen A	2.1	40
Princeton	1.3	35
Okanagan-Similkameen B	5.8	63
Okanagan-Similkameen C	4.1	160
Summerland	1.9	203
Penticton	1.6	513
Okanagan-Similkameen D	1.6	95
Okanagan-Similkameen E	1.2	25
Okanagan-Similkameen F	1.0	20
Okanagan-Similkameen G	0.4	10
Okanagan-Similkameen H	2.9	65
Osoyoos 1	1.7	10
Penticton 1	1.0	15

Appendix A

Francophone population of British Columbia by census division and census subdivision, 2006 (continued)

Census division and census subdivision ¹	Francophone population	
	percentage	number
Fraser Valley	1.1	2888
Hope	1.6	95
Chilliwack	1.2	833
Harrison Hot Springs	1.6	25
Kent	1.2	55
Fraser Valley D	1.9	25
Fraser Valley E	1.0	35
Abbotsford	1.1	1318
Mission	1.2	423
Fraser Valley F	1.9	25
Fraser Valley G	1.2	23
Kwawkwawapilt 6	2.9	10
Tzeachten 13	1.3	15
Holachten 8	3.8	10
Greater Vancouver	1.5	31403
Langley	1.0	973
Langley	1.6	373
Surrey	1.1	4218
White Rock	1.7	300
Delta	1.0	975
Richmond	1.0	1778
Greater Vancouver A	2.2	235
Vancouver	2.1	11843
Burnaby	1.2	2488
New Westminster	1.8	1063
Coquitlam	1.9	2160
Belcarra	1.5	10
Anmore	1.4	25
Port Coquitlam	1.2	645
Port Moody	1.5	403
North Vancouver	1.6	1280
North Vancouver	1.6	725
West Vancouver	1.8	768
Bowen Island	0.4	15
Lions Bay	1.3	18
Pitt Meadows	1.6	253
Maple Ridge	1.1	773
Mission 1	1.8	10

Appendix A

Francophone population of British Columbia by census division and census subdivision, 2006 (continued)

Census division and census subdivision ¹	Francophone population	
	percentage	number
Capital	1.9	6308
North Saanich	1.3	135
Sidney	1.4	150
Central Saanich	1.3	203
Saanich	1.5	1588
Capital F	1.8	170
Capital G	2.4	120
Oak Bay	1.4	250
Victoria	2.2	1635
Esquimalt	3.3	555
Colwood	2.6	383
Metchosin	2.0	93
Langford	1.8	393
View Royal	2.3	203
Highlands	0.5	10
Sooke	2.6	248
Capital H (Part 1)	1.5	65
East Saanich 2	1.5	25
Cowichan Valley	1.1	875
North Cowichan	1.2	340
Duncan	1.2	60
Cowichan Valley D	1.3	35
Cowichan Valley G	1.1	25
Lake Cowichan	1.9	55
Ladysmith	0.7	50
Cowichan Valley F	0.6	10
Cowichan Valley I	3.4	40
Cowichan Valley A	2.3	95
Cowichan Valley B	0.9	65
Cowichan Valley C	1.1	50
Cowichan Valley E	0.8	30
Chemainus 13	1.5	10

Appendix A**Francophone population of British Columbia by census division and census subdivision, 2006** (continued)

Census division and census subdivision ¹	Francophone population	
	percentage	number
Nanaimo	1.5	2073
Nanaimo	1.7	1328
Lantzville	0.7	25
Nanaimo A	1.5	100
Nanaimo B	1.5	60
Nanaimo C	0.4	10
Parksville	1.5	165
Qualicum Beach	1.0	88
Nanaimo E	1.3	73
Nanaimo F	0.8	55
Nanaimo G	1.6	115
Nanaimo H	1.5	50
Alberni-Clayoquot	2.2	675
Port Alberni	2.5	430
Ucluelet	2.4	35
Tofino	3.0	50
Alberni-Clayoquot B	2.1	10
Alberni-Clayoquot D	0.5	10
Alberni-Clayoquot E	2.3	65
Alberni-Clayoquot F	2.9	55
Alberni-Clayoquot A	3.3	10
Comox-Strathcona	2.1	2095
Comox	2.9	350
Courtenay	2.6	573
Cumberland	1.7	45
Comox-Strathcona A	2.3	110
Comox-Strathcona K	6.5	140
Comox-Strathcona B	1.7	120
Comox-Strathcona C	1.8	135
Gold River	1.8	25
Tahsis	4.1	15
Campbell River	1.4	408
Sayward	2.9	10
Comox-Strathcona D	1.0	50
Comox-Strathcona H	4.6	35
Comox-Strathcona I	2.6	28
Comox-Strathcona J	2.2	55

Appendix A

Francophone population of British Columbia by census division and census subdivision, 2006 (continued)

Census division and census subdivision ¹	Francophone population	
	percentage	number
Powell River	3.0	573
Powell River	2.9	373
Powell River A	8.2	75
Powell River B	2.7	40
Powell River C	3.1	65
Powell River D	2.7	30
Sunshine Coast	1.7	455
Gibsons	1.8	75
Sechelt	1.4	113
Sunshine Coast A	1.9	50
Sunshine Coast B	1.0	25
Sunshine Coast D	2.4	80
Sunshine Coast E	1.7	60
Sunshine Coast F	2.2	50
Squamish-Lillooet	2.9	1023
Squamish	1.8	265
Pemberton	8.1	178
Squamish-Lillooet C	2.1	40
Whistler	5.3	490
Squamish-Lillooet D	1.2	10
Lillooet	1.3	30
Thompson-Nicola	1.2	1410
Merritt	1.2	80
Thompson-Nicola M	1.4	25
Thompson-Nicola N	1.2	10
Ashcroft	1.8	30
Cache Creek	3.4	35
Thompson-Nicola E (Bonaparte Plateau)	1.6	23
Logan Lake	1.8	40
Thompson-Nicola J (Copper Desert Country)	0.6	10
Kamloops	1.1	840
Thompson-Nicola P (Rivers and the Peaks)	1.3	55
Chase	0.6	15
Thompson-Nicola L	1.2	35
Thompson-Nicola A (Wells Gray Country)	3.6	140
Thompson-Nicola B (Thompson Headwaters)	4.1	10
Thompson-Nicola O (Lower North Thompson)	1.3	40
Nicola Mameet 1	2.2	10
Kamloops 1	0.6	10

Appendix A

Francophone population of British Columbia by census division and census subdivision, 2006 (continued)

Census division and census subdivision ¹	Francophone population	
	percentage	number
Central Okanagan	1.6	2518
Kelowna	1.5	1553
Central Okanagan	1.8	70
Lake Country	1.3	128
Peachland	1.9	95
Central Okanagan J	1.8	525
Duck Lake 7	3.6	70
Tsinstikeptum 9	1.2	60
Tsinstikeptum 10	1.4	15
North Okanagan	1.3	1000
Coldstream	1.4	133
Vernon	1.4	478
North Okanagan B	0.3	10
North Okanagan C	1.4	55
North Okanagan D	1.7	50
North Okanagan E	1.1	10
Spallumcheen	0.5	25
Armstrong	1.4	60
Enderby	2.0	55
North Okanagan F	1.6	65
Okanagan (Part) 1	2.1	45
Enderby 2	2.9	10
Priest's Valley 6	2.3	15
Columbia-Shuswap	1.2	608
Golden	2.9	110
Columbia-Shuswap A	3.4	105
Revelstoke	1.6	115
Salmon Arm	0.7	110
Columbia-Shuswap C	0.6	45
Columbia-Shuswap D	0.7	25
Columbia-Shuswap E	1.0	15
Sicamous	1.3	35
Quaaout 1	5.1	10

Appendix A

Francophone population of British Columbia by census division and census subdivision, 2006 (continued)

Census division and census subdivision ¹	Francophone population	
	percentage	number
Cariboo	1.0	618
One Hundred Mile House	1.1	20
Williams Lake	1.0	110
Cariboo D	1.1	35
Cariboo E	1.4	60
Quesnel	1.1	98
Cariboo F	1.4	63
Cariboo G	0.5	25
Cariboo L	0.6	25
Cariboo A	1.4	80
Cariboo B	0.6	25
Cariboo C	1.7	20
Cariboo I	1.5	25
Cariboo J	1.9	15
Mount Waddington	0.9	100
Port McNeill	0.4	10
Port Hardy	1.7	65
Mount Waddington D	3.3	10
Mount Waddington A	1.0	10
Central Coast	0.8	25
Central Coast C	1.8	10
Central Coast D	2.4	10
Skeena-Queen Charlotte	0.9	180
Port Edward	1.9	10
Prince Rupert	1.0	123
Queen Charlotte	1.6	15
Skeena-Queen Charlotte D	1.7	10
Port Clements	3.4	15
Kitimat-Stikine	2.0	763
Kitimat	3.4	303
Terrace	1.7	185
Kitimat-Stikine C (Part 1)	2.3	65
Kitimat-Stikine E	4.0	160
Hazelton	2.9	10
New Hazelton	1.6	10
Kitimat-Stikine B	0.6	10
Stewart	2.0	10

Appendix A

Francophone population of British Columbia by census division and census subdivision, 2006 (continued)

Census division and census subdivision ¹	Francophone population	
	percentage	number
Bulkley-Nechako	1.0	375
Vanderhoof	0.6	25
Fraser Lake	0.9	10
Bulkley-Nechako C	2.2	30
Bulkley-Nechako D	1.2	20
Bulkley-Nechako F	1.1	35
Burns Lake	0.7	15
Bulkley-Nechako B	2.5	55
Bulkley-Nechako E	0.8	15
Houston	0.5	15
Smithers	1.7	85
Bulkley-Nechako A	0.8	40
Binche 2 (Pinchie 2)	9.1	10
Fraser-Fort George	1.7	1593
Valemount	3.4	35
Fraser-Fort George H	3.2	60
Prince George	1.5	1090
Mackenzie	3.2	145
Fraser-Fort George A	1.7	55
Fraser-Fort George C	1.6	50
Fraser-Fort George D	2.4	105
Fraser-Fort George E	6.0	30
Fraser-Fort George F	2.3	30
Fraser-Fort George G	2.9	10
Peace River	1.2	675
Tumbler Ridge	2.0	50
Pouce Coupe	1.5	10
Chetwynd	1.3	35
Dawson Creek	1.4	153
Peace River D	1.0	55
Peace River E	1.6	50
Hudson's Hope	1.5	15
Fort St. John	1.0	173
Peace River B	0.2	10
Peace River C	2.1	135

Appendix A**Francophone population of British Columbia by census division and census subdivision, 2006 (end)**

Census division and census subdivision ¹	Francophone population	
	percentage	number
Stikine	1.4	15
Stikine Region	1.7	10
Unnamed 10	4.4	10
Northern Rockies	1.0	60
Fort Nelson	1.1	50

1. Where the number of Francophones is highest.

Note: The term Francophone refers to the first official language spoken.

Source: Statistics Canada, 2006 Census of population.

Appendix B 1

Proportion of Francophones by language use in various domains of the public and private spheres, British Columbia, 2006

Language	Home		Friends		Immediate network		Work		Institutions and stores		Media	
	%	CV	%	CV	%	CV	%	CV	%	CV	%	CV
French only and mainly	22	11.1	6 ^E	21.4	F	F	5 ^E	26.2	x	x	F	F
English and French	8 ^E	18.1	10 ^E	18.3	12 ^E	17.3	8 ^E	22.1	x	x	13	15.6
English only and mainly	71	3.6	84	2.6	86	2.6	87	2.5	99	0.4	85	2.5
Total	100	0.0	100	0.0	100	0.0	100	0.0	100	0.0	100	0.0

CV coefficient of variation

Note: The term Francophone refers to the first official language spoken.

Source: Statistics Canada, Survey on the Vitality of Official-Language Minorities, 2006.

Appendix B 2

Proportion of children with at least one Francophone parent by language of school attended, British Columbia, 2006

Language of school attended by the child ¹	Children with at least one Francophone parent	
	percentage	CV
English school: immersion	20 ^E	18.7
English school: regular	58	7.3
French school	22	15.4
Other language school	x	x
Don't know	0	0.0
Total	100	0.0

1. Children with at least one respondent that has French as first official language spoken.

CV coefficient of variation

Note: The term Francophone refers to the first official language spoken.

Source: Statistics Canada, Survey on the Vitality of Official-Language Minorities, 2006.

Appendix C

Note on the construction of the daily language use indices

The indices used in this section were developed in the following manner. Whether it comes to the use of French or English, in all cases where people use only the language of the majority, they are assigned a value of 1, while those who use only the language of the minority are assigned a value of 5. In general, the large majority of questions consisted of a scale with five levels. For certain questions, there were only three possible categories: “French”, “French and English”, and “English”. The median category therefore corresponds to a value of 3.

Two approaches were used to present the results covering each of the indices: one on language categories, another by average level of use of languages. The second approach consisted essentially of summing the values obtained from each of the questions and dividing this sum by the number of questions answered by the respondent. For the first type, the average scores obtained were regrouped into five categories. However, given that the results obtained consisted of a continuous scale from 1 to 5, we identified thresholds which allowed us to redistribute the values among the following five language categories: “Only the majority language”, “Mainly the majority language”, “Both languages equally”, “Mainly the minority language”, “Only the minority language”. The corresponding thresholds for these categories are as follows: “1 to 1.49”, “1.50 to 2.49”, “2.50 to 3.49”, “3.50 to 4.49” and “4.50 to 5.0”. Since no perfect solution exists to carry out such a distribution, this approach has the advantage of centering the values on either side of the median category and cutting down the range of values at the extremities of the scale.

Finally, the general language use index was drawn up not by using the average of values for all 23 variables, but by adding the value obtained for the question on languages used with friends to the average values obtained on each of the four following indices: languages at work, immediate contacts, institutions and media. Such an approach offers the advantage of not assigning too much importance to a domain made up of numerous questions to the detriment of another composed of fewer questions.

Lastly it should be noted that information covering language used at home was used in the same manner as that regarding friends. By using both the information on language spoken most often and language spoken regularly, the variable created is made up of the same five categories explained above.

Appendix D

Description of concentration index

Dissemination area: a small, relatively stable geographic unit. All dissemination areas have roughly the same number of residents, namely 400 to 700 persons. For a complete definition, see the 2006 Census Dictionary

The definition of concentration takes account of both the proportion and the number of the official-language minority within a dissemination area. A high concentration of the minority group exists when the Francophone population within a dissemination area constitutes at least 50% of the overall population or at least 200 persons. A medium concentration refers to a situation where the proportion is at least 10% but less than 50% and the number of Francophones is equal to or more than 50 but less than 200. Finally, the concentration of Francophones is considered to be low when their proportion within the dissemination area is less than 10% or their number is less than 50 persons.

Once a concentration class (ie. low, average or strong) was assigned to all the dissemination areas in a given municipality (or census subdivision), we chose to assign to the Francophone population of that municipality the concentration class (or level) containing the largest proportion of the minority population. The total, which represents the largest portion of the total Francophone population of the municipality, tells us the concentration class assigned to Francophones of that municipality. In other words, when we state that 97.9% of the Francophones living in British Columbia are weakly concentrated within their municipality of residence, this means that 97.9% of them live in municipalities where, in the majority of cases, either their number is lower than 50 persons or their proportion is lower than 10% of the population within their dissemination area of residence.

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