Language Data

Language Knowledge and Use in Ottawa Neighbourhoods Based on 2006 Census Data.

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November 2011

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Introduction

The following document provides the reader with language data for the City of Ottawa. The data is presented by City of Ottawa neighbourhood and was obtained from the 2006 Census. For each of the language groups presented below, the information was extrapolated from the 20% sample of Canadians that answered the long form census (**Table 1**). This information is very useful in understanding the language demographics of Ottawa neighbourhoods and may help to determine community needs and identify barriers. Data on language knowledge and use are important to consider when dealing with issues related to human resources policies, local education and training, health promotion, and community programs and services.

Table 1. Indicators used to collect language data during the 2006 Census (Census, 2006).

What is?	
Mother Tongue	The first language learned at home in childhood and still understood by the individual at the time of the census.
Language Spoken at Home	The language spoken most often or on a regular basis at home by the individual at the time of the census.
Knowledge of First Official Languages	The ability to conduct a conversation in English only, in French only, in both English and French, or in neither English nor French.
Language of Work	The language used most often at work by the individual at the time of the census.

Why are these Variables Important?

- Children who have relatively strong and equal abilities in two languages demonstrate advantages in many areas of cognitive and linguistic functioning when compared with monolingual children (Winsler et al., 1999).
- Interference between the two languages, however, may decrease the proficiency of bilinguals in either language during earlier stages of language acquisition and development, especially if the two languages were learned sequentially instead of simultaneously (Sebastian-Gallés et al., 2005; Werker et al., 2009).
- Children with parents born outside Canada and who do not speak English or French at home have significantly lower scores in receptive vocabulary (Thomas, 2006).
- Children with English and/or French as a first language are significantly less vulnerable than their classmates in three of the five developmental domains measured by the Early Development Instrument: *Social Competence*, *Language and Cognitive Development*, and *Communication Skills and General Knowledge* (Millar et al., 2011).
- Children learning in their first language are significantly less vulnerable than children learning in their second language in four of the five developmental domains measured by the EDI: *Emotional Maturity*, *Social Competence*, *Language and Cognitive Development*, and *Communication Skills and General Knowledge* (Millar et al., 2011).

Mother Tongue

Table 2. Mother tongue in Ottawa neighbourhoods (Census, 2006).

	Total Population	English Only (%)	French Only (%)	Other Only (%)	Two or More Languages (%)
Alta Vista	28 315	57.1	13.4	26.8	2.7
Barrhaven/ Longfields	51 790	67.6	5.7	24.9	1.8
Beaconhill	17 140	54.6	24.4	18.9	2.0
Beaverbrook/ Marchwood	12 185	73.0	4.3	21.3	1.4
Bells Corners	9 240	74.8	6.5	17.6	1.0
Blackburn Hamlet	8 470	67.8	21.5	8.5	2.1
Blossom Park/ Windsor Park	15 890	59.0	12.1	26.1	2.8
Bridlewood	19 090	67.5	6.3	24.0	2.0
Carleton Heights	8 135	54.9	5.7	37.9	1.5
Carlington	11 370	59.8	10.1	27.6	2.5
Centre Town	24 090	65.1	13.4	19.8	1.7
Clementine	3 795	61.4	9.4	26.6	2.6
Convent Glen	15 315	59.9	28.1	9.7	2.2
Copeland	25 325	71.2	6.1	21.2	1.5
Cumberland	21 490	44.9	40.8	11.9	2.4
Cyrville	14 720	41.3	27.5	28.1	3.1
Dalhousie	11 500	52.7	9.4	36.4	1.6
Glebe	10 560	81.1	7.0	11.0	1.0
Glencairn	8 785	79.4	6.4	12.5	1.7
Goulbourn	28 220	85.6	6.3	7.4	0.8
Hawthorne	11 820	64.7	13.7	19.6	1.9
Hunt Club East	30 245	49.0	11.9	35.9	3.2
Hunt Club West	15 295	62.5	8.5	26.5	2.5
Katimatik/ Hazeldean	17 565	68.8	6.2	23.1	1.9
Lower Town	10 505	46.2	32.1	18.2	3.2
Mer Bleue	515	68.0	29.1	0.0	1.9
Nepean Central	27 190	66.8	5.7	26.1	1.3
Nepean East	31 995	64.2	6.0	27.8	2.0
Nepean North	11 550	48.5	5.7	43.2	2.6
Nepean West	5 000	76.2	4.4	18.3	1.0
New Edinburgh	4 995	68.1	19.8	10.1	2.0
Orleans East	41 020	56.5	31.7	9.7	2.1
Orleans South	28 250	49.4	34.8	13.6	2.2
Osgoode	20 165	82.6	8.7	7.7	1.0
Ottawa East	4 890	59.1	17.0	22.7	1.3
Ottawa North East	20 385	42.3	35.4	19.7	2.5
Ottawa South	8 150	76.7	9.9	12.6	0.8
Ottawa South East	3 930	43.5	18.3	34.6	3.2
Ottawa West	22 020	71.8	9.7	16.8	1.7
Overbrook	9 310	40.9	33.5	21.4	4.3
Pinecrest/ Queensway	32 305	65.2	8.9	24.1	1.8
Rideau	12 945	87.5	5.8	5.5	1.2
Riverside Park	4 375	61.4	9.4	27.3	2.1
Riverview/ Hawthorne	14 745	51.0	17.2	29.8	2.2
Rockcliffe Park	1 925	79.2	6.8	12.5	1.8
Sandy Hill	11 955	55.4	23.9	18.0	2.6
South March	11 690	58.9	7.6	31.2	2.4
Vanier	15 450	40.2	42.8	14.8	2.1
West Carleton	18 510	89.4	4.4	5.6	0.5
Westboro	6 990	76.5	7.9	14.4	1.1

Table 3. Top four mother tongues other than French or English in Ottawa neighbourhoods (Census, 2006)[1].

	Top Four Mother Tongues Other than French or English			
Alta Vista	Arabic	Chinese n.o.s	Italian	Somali
Barrhaven/Longfields	Chinese n.o.s.	Arabic	Vietnamese	Mandarin
Beaconhill	Arabic	Chinese n.o.s.	Polish	Persian (Farsi)
Beaverbrook/Marchwood	Chinese n.o.s.	Korean	Russian	German
Bells Corners	German	Chinese n.o.s.	Vietnamese	Spanish
Blackburn Hamlet	Arabic	Spanish	Russian	Chinese n.o.s.
Blossom Park/Windsor Park	Arabic	Italian	Spanish	Chinese n.o.s.
Bridlewood	Chinese n.o.s.	Vietnamese	Arabic	Spanish
Carleton Heights	Italian	Chinese n.o.s.	Arabic	Spanish
Carlington	Arabic	Somali	Italian	Spanish
Centre Town	Arabic	Chinese n.o.s.	Spanish	German
Clementine	Arabic	Italian	Chinese n.o.s.	German
Convent Glen	Arabic	Spanish	German	Tagalog (Filipino)
Copeland	Chinese n.o.s.	Italian	Spanish	Arabic
Cumberland	Arabic	Urdu	German	Spanish
Cyrville	Arabic	Spanish	Persian (Farsi)	Bengali
Dalhousie	Chinese n.o.s.	Italian	Mandarin	Cantonese
Glebe	German	Chinese n.o.s.	Spanish	Italian
Glencairn	Chinese n.o.s.	Spanish	Italian	Panjabi (Punjabi)
Goulbourn	German	Chinese n.o.s.	Italian	Dutch
Hawthorne	Arabic	Italian	Spanish	Chinese n.o.s.
Hunt Club East	Arabic	Somali	Chinese n.o.s.	Spanish
Hunt Club West	Arabic	Chinese n.o.s.	Spanish	German
Katimatik/Hazeldean	Chinese n.o.s.	Cantonese	Mandarin	Vietnamese
Lower Town	Bengali	Spanish	Chinese n.o.s.	Somali
Mer Bleue			n.a.	
Nepean Central	Chinese n.o.s.	Arabic	Mandarin	Italian
Nepean East	Italian	Arabic	Chinese n.o.s.	Spanish
Nepean North	Arabic	Persian (Farsi)	Urdu	Chinese n.o.s.
Nepean West	Italian	Vietnamese	German	Chinese n.o.s.
New Edinburgh	Spanish	Italian	German	Russian
Orleans East	Urdu	Arabic	Spanish	German
Orleans South	Arabic	Chinese n.o.s.	Portuguese	Vietnamese
Osgoode	German	Arabic	Dutch	Italian
Ottawa East	Chinese n.o.s.	Arabic	Spanish	Russian
Ottawa North East	Arabic	Spanish	Somali	Polish
Ottawa South	Italian	Polish	Mandarin	Arabic
Ottawa South East	Arabic	Somali	Swahili	Creole
Ottawa West	Somali	Italian	Vietnamese	Chinese n.o.s.
Overbrook	Arabic	Somali	Spanish	Portugese
Pinecrest/Queensway	Arabic	Somali	Spanish	Chinese n.o.s.
Rideau	German	Italian	Dutch	Ukranian
Riverside Park	Arabic	Russian	Serbo-Croatian	Persian
Riverview/Hawthorne	Arabic	Somali	Chinese n.o.s.	Spanish
Rockcliffe Park	Hindi	Punjabi	Korean	Chinese n.o.s
Sandy Hill	Somali	Arabic	Spanish	Polish
South March	Chinese n.o.s.	Vietnamese	Arabic	Urdu
Vanier	Portugese	Spanish	Arabic	Tagalog (Filipino)
West Carleton	German	Spanish	Romanian	Polish
Westboro	Italian	Chinese n.o.s.	German	Polish

[1]In the 2006 Census, 'Chinese languages' were broken down into seven major languages: Mandarin, Cantonese, Hakka, Taiwanese, Chaochow (Teochow), Fukien and Shanghainese, as well as a residual category (Chinese languages not otherwise specified (Chinese n.o.s.)).

Language(s) Spoken at Home

Table 4. Language(s) spoken at home in Ottawa neighbourhoods (Census, 2006).

	English Only (%)	French Only (%)	Other Only (%)	Two or More Languages (%)
Alta Vista	71.0	8.9	15.9	4.2
Barrhaven/ Longfields	80.4	2.6	14.2	2.7
Beaconhill	69.2	19.1	9.0	2.7
Beaverbrook/ Marchwood	83.3	1.8	12.5	2.2
Bells Corners	88.8	2.0	7.8	1.4
Blackburn Hamlet	77.6	16.6	3.5	2.3
Blossom Park/ Windsor Park	74.7	7.0	14.6	3.7
Bridlewood	80.9	3.0	13.4	2.8
Carleton Heights	69.9	3.7	22.5	3.9
Carlington	75.5	6.8	14.5	3.2
Centre Town	80.1	7.6	9.6	2.5
Clementine	77.7	4.5	15.4	2.4
Convent Glen	72.4	21.7	3.8	2.1
Copeland	83.8	2.5	12.1	1.5
Cumberland	56.7	36.1	4.8	2.4
Cyrville	55.1	22.4	18.0	4.5
Dalhousie	66.9	6.1	23.9	2.9
Glebe	91.5	4.9	2.7	0.7
Glencairn	89.2	1.8	7.9	1.2
Goulbourn	94.9	2.1	2.5	0.5
Hawthorne	81.1	8.7	8.2	2.0
Hunt Club East	65.2	8.3	21.5	5.0
Hunt Club West	77.2	5.1	15.1	2.8
Katimatik/ Hazeldean	80.7	3.2	14.0	2.1
Lower Town	60.6	27.0	8.2	4.1
Mer Bleue	75.7	22.3	0.0	1.9
Nepean Central	81.1	2.8	13.8	2.2
Nepean East	79.9	2.5	14.8	2.8
Nepean North	62.3	3.7	29.0	5.0
Nepean West	89.0	2.2	7.9	1.0
New Edinburgh	78.0	16.4	3.4	2.0
Orleans East	68.7	24.8	3.8	2.6
Orleans South	61.0	30.0	5.7	3.2
Osgoode	93.4	4.3	1.9	0.5
Ottawa East	73.1	12.6	12.9	1.4
Ottawa North East	55.8	30.2	10.7	3.3
Ottawa South	87.2	7.7	4.3	0.7
Ottawa South East	59.0	13.0	24.6	3.2
Ottawa West	84.6	5.4	8.2	1.6
Overbrook	52.3	29.1	13.2	5.5
Pinecrest/ Queensway	78.7	4.2	14.2	2.8
Rideau	97.6	1.3	0.6	0.3
Riverside Park	76.7	4.2	15.5	3.5
Riverview/ Hawthorne	66.7	11.2	18.8	3.3
Rockcliffe Park	89.9	4.4	3.4	2.1
Sandy Hill	69.2	19.7	8.2	2.8
South March	72.9	4.2	20.3	2.4
Vanier	54.3	34.1	6.9	4.6
West Carleton	96.2	1.8	1.7	0.3
Westboro	88.9	3.1	6.6	1.2

Table 5. Top four languages spoken at home other than French or English in Ottawa neighbourhoods (Census, 2006).

	Top Four Languages Spoken at Home Other than French or English			
Alta Vista	Arabic	Persian (Farsi)	Chinese n.o.s	Somali
Barrhaven/Longfields	Chinese n.o.s.	Mandarin	Arabic	Vietnamese
Beaconhill	Arabic	Chinese n.o.s.	Polish	Spanish
Beaverbrook/Marchwood	Chinese n.o.s.	Korean	Cantonese	Vietnamese
Bells Corners	Chinese n.o.s.	Spanish	Vietnamese	Polish
Blackburn Hamlet	Spanish	Arabic	Russian	Chinese n.o.s.
Blossom Park/Windsor Park	Arabic	Italian	Spanish	Vietnamese
Bridlewood	Chinese n.o.s.	Vietnamese	Mandarin	Somali
Carleton Heights	Italian	Chinese n.o.s.	Arabic	Spanish
Carlington	Arabic	Spanish	Somali	Italian
Centre Town	Chinese n.o.s.	Arabic	Spanish	Cantonese
Clementine	Arabic	Italian	Chinese n.o.s	Serbian
Convent Glen	Spanish	Arabic	Mandarin	Russian
Copeland	Chinese n.o.s.	Italian	Arabic	Persian (Farsi)
Cumberland	Arabic	Urdu	Chinese n.o.s	Hindi
Cyrville	Arabic	Persian (Farsi)	Tagalog (Filipino)	Vietnamese
Dalhousie	Chinese n.o.s.	Vietnamese	Mandarin	Italian
Glebe	Italian	Bengali	Chinese n.o.s	German
Glencairn	Chinese n.o.s.	Spanish	Panjabi (Punjabi)	Tagalog (Filipino)
Goulbourn	Chinese n.o.s.	Russian	Spanish	Tamil
Hawthorne	Arabic	Spanish	Cantonese	Polish
Hunt Club East	Arabic	Somali	Chinese n.o.s	Vietnamese
Hunt Club West	Arabic	Spanish	Chinese n.o.s	Urdu
Katimatik/Hazeldean	Chinese n.o.s.	Mandarin	Cantonese	Vietnamese
Lower Town	Bengali	Chinese n.o.s.	Somali	Spanish
Mer Bleue			n.a.	
Nepean Central	Chinese n.o.s.	Mandarin	Russian	Spanish
Nepean East	Arabic	Italian	Chinese n.o.s	Vietnamese
Nepean North	Arabic	Persian (Farsi)	Chinese n.o.s	Vietnamese
Nepean West	Chinese n.o.s.	Vietnamese	Arabic	Korean
New Edinburgh	Spanish	Russian	Portugese	Polish
Orleans East	Urdo	Cantonese	Spanish	Creole
Orleans South	Arabic	Chinese n.o.s.	Vietnamese	Polish
Osgoode	German	Vietnamese	Arabic	Romanian
Ottawa East	Chinese n.o.s.	Mandarin	Russian	Spanish
Ottawa North East	Arabic	Spanish	Somali	Inuktitut, n.i.e.
Ottawa South	Spanish	Mandarin	Serbian	Italian
Ottawa South East	Arabic	Somali	Spanish	Portuguese
Ottawa West	Somali	Vietnamese	Italian	Russian
Overbrook	Arabic	Somali	Spanish	Portuguese
Pinecrest/Queensway	Arabic	Somali	Persian (Farsi)	Chinese n.o.s.
Rideau	German	Italian	Dutch	Czech
Riverside Park	Russian	Persian (Farsi)	Serbo-Croatian	Mandarin
Riverview/Hawthorne	Arabic	Somali	Urdu	Chinese n.o.s.
Rockcliffe Park	Spanish	Chinese n.o.s.	Swedish	n.a.
Sandy Hill	Somali	Arabic	Spanish	Chinese n.o.s.
South March	Chinese n.o.s.	Vietnamese	Arabic	Urdu
Vanier	Portuguese	Spanish	Arabic	Chinese n.o.s.
West Carleton	Romanian	Spanish	German	Vietnamese
Westboro	Italian	German	Polish	Arabic

Table 6. Ability to speak one, both, or neither of Canada's First Official Languages in Ottawa neighbourhoods (Census, 2006).

	English Only (%)	French Only (%)	English and French (%)	Neither English or French (%)
Alta Vista	80.1	14.9	3.2	1.9
Barrhaven/ Longfields	90.1	6.1	2.0	1.9
Beaconhill	70.6	26.3	2.6	0.5
Beaverbrook/ Marchwood	92.2	4.4	1.5	1.8
Bells Corners	91.0	6.6	1.6	0.8
Blackburn Hamlet	76.2	22.5	0.9	0.3
Blossom Park/ Windsor Park	82.5	12.6	2.7	2.2
Bridlewood	89.5	6.6	1.9	2.0
Carleton Heights	86.5	6.8	3.1	3.7
Carlington	84.5	12.0	1.9	1.5
Centre Town	83.0	14.1	1.5	1.3
Clementine	85.1	10.3	2.8	1.8
Convent Glen	68.8	29.5	1.5	0.2
Copeland	90.7	6.3	1.7	1.3
Cumberland	55.2	42.7	1.5	0.6
Cyrville	63.5	31.0	4.0	1.4
Dalhousie	82.9	10.1	1.6	5.4
Glebe	91.5	7.3	0.9	0.3
Glencairn	91.7	6.5	1.0	0.7
Goulbourn	92.9	6.3	0.4	0.3
Hawthorne	82.9	14.2	2.3	0.6
Hunt Club East	79.4	14.1	4.2	2.4
Hunt Club West	87.0	9.2	2.8	0.9
Katimatik/ Hazeldean	89.8	6.5	1.7	1.9
Lower Town	63.4	34.3	1.7	0.5
Mer Bleue	68.0	32.0	0.0	0.0
Nepean Central	90.6	5.9	2.1	1.3
Nepean East	90.6	6.4	1.9	1.2
Nepean North	86.7	7.1	2.9	3.3
Nepean West	94.4	4.5	0.3	0.7
New Edinburgh	76.6	21.3	1.7	0.2
Orleans East	65.5	32.8	1.3	0.3
Orleans South	61.2	36.5	2.0	0.3
Osgoode	90.6	8.9	0.4	0.0
Ottawa East	79.0	18.1	1.9	0.9
Ottawa North East	57.6	38.0	2.9	1.5
Ottawa South	88.3	9.7	1.8	0.2
Ottawa South East	69.1	22.6	5.0	3.3
Ottawa West	86.6	10.4	2.0	0.8
Overbrook	58.5	36.4	3.9	1.2
Pinecrest/ Queensway	86.8	9.9	2.0	1.3
Rideau	94.2	5.7	0.1	0.1
Riverside Park	86.6	9.6	1.9	1.8
Riverview/ Hawthorne	75.1	19.6	3.5	1.8
Rockcliffe Park	91.7	7.0	1.0	0.0
Sandy Hill	71.7	25.3	2.2	0.8
South March	86.8	8.2	2.6	2.3
Vanier	52.8	44.7	1.6	0.8
West Carleton	95.2	4.4	0.3	0.1
Westboro	89.7	7.9	0.9	1.4

Language of Work

Table 7. Language(s) used at work in Ottawa Neighbourhoods (Census, 2006).

	English Only (%)	French Only (%)	Other Only (%)	Two or More Languages (%)
Alta Vista	91.1	4.2	1.0	3.5
Barrhaven/ Longfields	95.2	1.5	1.0	2.1
Beaconhill	83.8	10.5	0.4	5.2
Beaverbrook/ Marchwood	96.7	1.3	0.5	1.5
Bells Corners	95.2	2.2	0.4	2.0
Blackburn Hamlet	88.4	6.6	0.2	4.7
Blossom Park/ Windsor Park	92.9	3.1	0.5	3.5
Bridlewood	96.4	1.6	0.5	1.4
Carleton Heights	92.7	2.8	1.9	2.5
Carlington	92.6	4.9	0.4	2.1
Centre Town	91.3	4.7	0.7	3.2
Clementine	93.9	3.0	0.5	2.3
Convent Glen	81.8	10.4	0.0	7.6
Copeland	95.5	1.7	1.0	1.8
Cumberland	75.9	17.7	0.3	6.1
Cyrville	81.9	10.4	0.2	7.4
Dalhousie	90.3	3.2	2.9	3.7
Glebe	94.9	2.4	0.4	2.3
Glencairn	97.5	1.3	0.2	1.0
Goulbourn	97.3	1.3	0.2	1.3
Hawthorne	92.9	3.3	0.7	2.9
Hunt Club East	89.6	4.8	0.9	4.7
Hunt Club West	93.6	2.8	0.4	3.1
Katimatik/ Hazeldean	95.6	1.5	0.8	2.0
Lower Town	79.6	13.5	0.3	6.7
Mer Bleue	80.0	5.0	0.0	13.3
Nepean Central	95.5	2.2	0.8	1.5
Nepean East	94.9	1.5	0.7	2.6
Nepean North	94.5	1.2	1.1	3.4
Nepean West	96.1	2.2	0.0	1.7
New Edinburgh	85.6	9.4	0.0	4.6
Orleans East	82.8	12.1	0.3	4.9
Orleans South	80.5	14.2	0.2	5.1
Osgoode	96.8	1.7	0.2	1.2
Ottawa East	87.5	8.4	0.4	3.8
Ottawa North East	78.8	15.4	0.8	4.9
Ottawa South	93.5	4.4	0.7	1.4
Ottawa South East	88.3	6.6	2.1	3.2
Ottawa West	93.9	3.4	0.5	2.2
Overbrook	78.0	13.2	0.3	8.3
Pinecrest/ Queensway	94.8	2.2	0.8	2.2
Rideau	98.2	1.1	0.0	0.6
Riverside Park	91.1	3.0	0.6	5.6
Riverview/ Hawthorne	88.5	7.1	0.6	3.8
Rockcliffe Park	95.3	2.4	0.9	0.9
Sandy Hill	85.6	10.2	0.2	3.8
South March	94.9	1.9	1.3	1.8
Vanier	74.9	17.0	1.1	6.7
West Carleton	97.9	1.4	0.1	0.7
Westboro	96.0	2.0	0.0	1.9

General Information for Ottawa

- In 2006, 18% of individuals residing in Ottawa had a language other than French or English as a mother tongue. The most prominent mother tongues, other than French (17%) and English (65%), were Arabic (2.2%), Chinese n.o.s. (1.7%), Italian (1.1%), Spanish (1.0%), and German (0.8%). Only 1.9% of individuals had two or more mother tongues.
- In 2006, 9.5% of individuals residing in Ottawa spoke a language other than French or English at home. The most prominent languages spoken at home, other than French (12%) and English (76%), were Arabic (1.3%), Chinese n.o.s. (1.2%), Vietnamese (0.6%), Spanish (0.5%), and Mandarin (0.5%). Only 2.4% of individuals spoke two or more languages at home.
- In 2006, 1% of individuals residing in Ottawa could not speak either of Canada's First Official Languages. On the other hand, 2% could speak both official languages, 80% could speak English only, and 17% could speak French only.
- In 2006, 90% of individuals residing in Ottawa most often used only English at work whereas 6% most often used only French at work. Interestingly, 3% most often used multiple languages at work (including French and/or English).

General Information for Ontario

- In 2006, 26.1% of Ontarians had a language other than French or English as a mother tongue. This represents an increase of 2.4% from 2001. The most prominent mother tongues were English (68%), French (4%), and Chinese n.o.s (1.6%). Only 1.9% of individuals had two or more mother tongues.
- In Ontario, only one census division has a Francophone majority: Prescott- Russell (67%), a division that borders Quebec in Southeastern Ontario where Anglophones represent 30% of the population. Two other divisions are more than 10% Francophone in the same region: Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry (23%) and Ottawa (15%). Several divisions in the northeastern region of the province are more than 10% Francophone: Cochrane (47%), Greater Sudbury (28%), Sudbury (28%), Nipissing (25%) and Temiskaming (25%). All the other census divisions in Ontario are less than 10% Francophone (Lachapelle and Lepage, 2010).
- In 2006, 15% of Ontarians spoke a language other than French or English at home. The most prominent languages spoken at home were English (80%)and French (2.4%). Only 2.3% of individuals spoke two or more languages at home.
- In 2006, 71% of Ontarians most often used only English at work whereas 3% most often used only French at work. Interestingly, 25% most often used only a non-official language at work and 1.4% most often used multiple languages at work.

General Information for Canada

- Canadians reported more than 200 languages in response to the 2006 census question on mother tongue. These include languages associated with traditional immigration, such as German, Italian, Ukrainian and Dutch, and languages which characterize more recent immigration, particularly those spoken in Asia and Latin America, which showed the largest gains. The Chinese languages are the third largest mother tongue group, as 3% of the population reported a Chinese language as their mother tongue in the 2006 census.
- In 2006, 20% of the population reported a mother tongue other than English or French. This represents an increase of 2% from 2001. The remaining portion of the population reported English (58%) or French (22%) as their mother tongues. Anglophones made up the majority of the Canadian population and, for the first time, one Canadian in five was an allophone (a person whose mother tongue is neither English or French).
- Of the 1.1million immigrants who settled in Canada between 2001 and 2006, 901,300 (80%) were allophones. Due to increased immigration since the mid-1980s and the tendency of most immigrants to have a mother tongue other than English or French, the proportion of allophones in Canada rose from 18% in 2001 to 20% in 2006.
- The proportion of people who speak French most often at home has been falling steadily, from 26% in 1971 to 21% in 2006, while the corresponding proportion for English was 67% in 2006, the same level as in 1971.
- In 2006, 98% of the population could speak one or both official languages. In addition, English or French was spoken at least regularly at home by 94% of Canadians and most often at home for 89% of the population, sometimes in combination with a non-official language.
- In 2006, 15% of working Canadians (15 years or older) reported using more than one language at work. This was a slight increase over 2001 (14.6%).

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