

Advice to prospective Immigrants who want to live in Canada? Learn one of our Official Languages before you get here

(Immigration contributes to more bilingualism in Montreal)

(Mixed Progress Characterizes results of initiatives to attract French language immigrants outside of Quebec)

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In the fall of 2007 the government of Quebec will be holding public consultations to determine the levels of immigration deemed best suited to meet the society's population objectives. One of the continued objectives of the Quebec government in immigration planning is to ensure that an important share of those settling in the province know the French language. Indeed, as of 2003, Quebec officials proudly boasted that a majority of its immigrants knew French upon arrival. As noted in the 2007 consultation document:

**La pérennité du fait français** est également un enjeu majeur au Québec. Des efforts consistants sont donc déployés, tant sur le plan de la sélection que sur celui de l'intégration linguistique, afin que l'immigration contribue à la vitalité du fait français. En faisant de la connaissance du français un facteur déterminant dans la sélection des travailleurs qualifiés et en augmentant le nombre de ces travailleurs, le Québec a pu accroître substantiellement la proportion des immigrants qui connaissent le français à leur arrivée. Inférieure à 40 % il y a dix ans, cette proportion s'élevait à 58 % en 2006. Cela dit, la question linguistique exige toujours une extrême vigilance et les efforts de francisation doivent se poursuivre et s'adapter aux besoins.

However this figure is obtained by combining the share of those who know French only upon arrival (23.9%) and those knowing both English and French (33.8%). Employing the same logic the majority of Quebec's immigrants know English upon arrival with 19.7% knowing English only and 33.8% knowing both English and French. It is the immigrants that know both English and French that seem much coveted both by Quebec authorities and as we shall observe by Canadian officials as well.

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Language knowledge of immigrants upon arrival in Quebec %										

English	21.4	17.6	19.0	18.5	16.0	15.8	16.8	17.7	18.6	19.7
French	24.8	26.8	27.8	26.9	25.4	24.4	21.8	22.0	23.6	23.9
Both French and English	10.8	13.3	15.2	18.4	21.6	24.7	29.0	33.3	33.7	33.8
Neither English nor French	43.0	42.2	38.0	36.3	37.0	35.1	32.4	27.0	24.1	22.6

Source: Citizenship and Immigration Canada, Facts and Figures, 2007

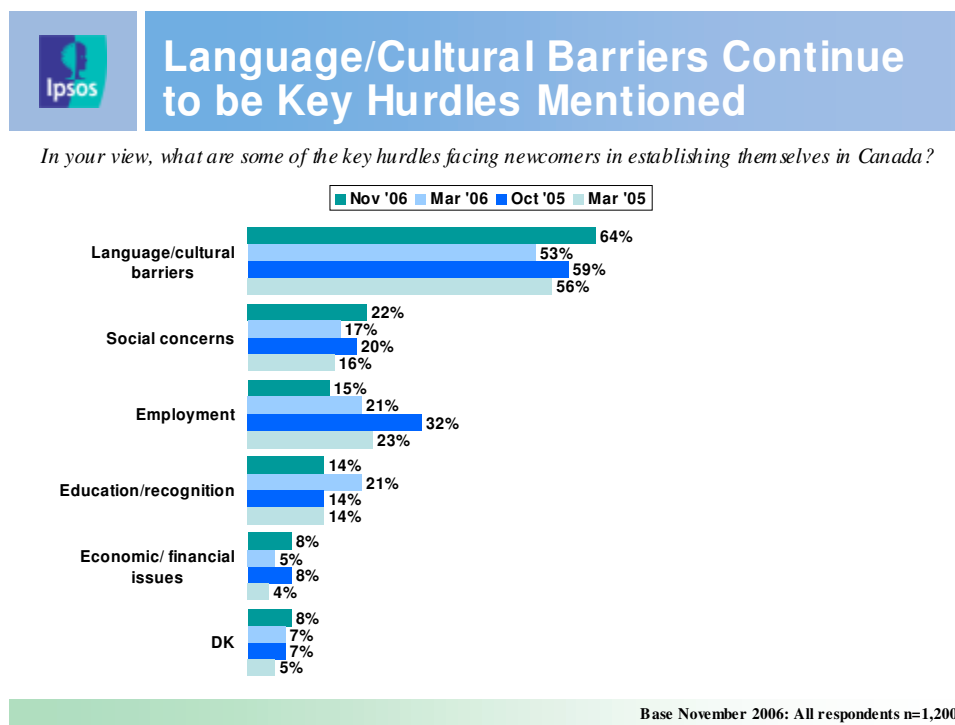
There are other aspects in the changing pattern of immigrant's knowledge of official languages that are also noteworthy. The one thing immediately apparent is the substantial decline in the share of Quebec immigrants that know neither English nor French upon arrival. In 2006 for the first time in several since immigration records have been kept the number of immigrants arriving in Quebec that knew French only upon arrival exceeded the number that knew neither English nor French. The percentage of those speaking neither English nor French was at 43% in 1997 and plummeted to 22.6% in 2006. But as noted the decline in such immigrants was offset by the increased numbers of immigrants that knew both English and French. These "bilingual immigrants" rose from 3 013 (10.8%) in 1997 to 15 098 (33.8%) in 2006, a five fold increase!!!!

Language knowledge of immigrants upon arrival in Quebec	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
	Number									
English	5,984	4,693	5,544	6,008	6,013	5,951	6,638	7,841	8,045	8,793
French	6,927	7,143	8,092	8,733	9,552	9,169	8,613	9,732	10,239	10,697
Both French and English	3,013	3,544	4,430	5,969	8,113	9,288	11,488	14,741	14,599	15,098
Neither	12,011	11,242	11,089	11,793	13,923	13,183	12,814	11,929	10,429	10,089
Quebec	27,936	26,622	29,155	32,503	37,601	37,591	39,553	44,243	43,312	44,677

Source: Citizenship and Immigration Canada, Facts and Figures, 2007

## Canada

Some five years ago immigration officials in Canada came to the conclusion that knowledge of English and/or French upon arrival is important in facilitating the process of adjustment. This perspective was not only supported by Canadians themselves who indicated in government commissioned surveys that language was the principle obstacle to integration but also by immigrants who described language as a major barrier in access to employment.



Indeed, in a 35 country survey conducted in 2004 Canada ranked amongst the top ten countries when it came to saying it was important to speak the country's majority language (see Appendix 1). Paradoxically therefore federal immigration analysts subscribed to a view long held by Quebec around the importance of knowledge of the majority language (French in Quebec's case) as a vital condition in the immigrant adjustment process. Quebec's emphasis on language no doubt influenced the federal approach to giving increased significance to language as a factor in immigrant selection.

As has been the case in previous waves of public opinion surveys conducted by Citizenship and Immigration Canada in November 2006 language/cultural barriers continued to be mentioned most often (64%). Social concerns (22%), employment (15%), and education/recognition were also mentioned as barriers, as were economic/financial issues (8%) (se Chart below).

Since the federal authorities have decided to attribute more importance to official language knowledge through additional points in their selection criteria the effect has been a reduction in the share of immigrants to Canada that know neither English nor French. As observed below, the percentage of immigrants that know neither official language has dropped from a high of nearly 46% in 2002 to 33% in 2006. But the federal authorities desire to make official language knowledge has also seen an increase in the percentage of immigrants that know both English and French and the rise is not only attributable to the upswings in Quebec. This is partly attributable to the pressure exerted on federal immigration officials to respond to the desire of some francophone communities outside of Quebec to attract French-speaking immigrants in an effort to bolster their vitality. As we shall observe the results of the campaign to increase the numbers of French-speaking immigrants outside of Quebec has been mixed. Certainly any concern on the part of Quebec officials has not materialized with respect to the idea that recruiting French language immigrants outside of Quebec would undercut the province’s efforts to recruit such immigrants.

Language knowledge of immigrants upon arrival in Canada by percentage	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
English	51.6	51.5	48.0	48.8	47.4	45.8	43.4	43.7	48.6	50.7	52.9
French	4.3	3.8	4.9	5.0	4.6	4.5	4.6	4.5	4.8	4.6	5.0
Both French and English	3.0	2.8	3.7	4.0	4.4	5.2	6.0	7.3	9.6	8.8	9.0
Neither English nor French	41.1	41.8	43.4	42.2	43.7	44.4	45.9	44.4	37.0	35.9	33.1

Source: Citizenship and Immigration Canada, Facts and Figures, 2007

Language knowledge of immigrants upon arrival in Canada	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
English	111,338	83,648	92,620	107,842	114,876	99,499	96,788	114,702	133,036	133,125
French	8,305	8,505	9,539	10,366	11,331	10,633	9,972	11,301	12,065	12,562
Both French and English	6,109	6,445	7,645	9,912	13,044	13,720	16,244	22,608	23,007	22,660
Neither English nor French	90,270	75,572	80,148	99,326	111,367	105,199	98,323	87,206	94,113	83,294
Canada	216,038	174,195	189,957	227,459	250,641	229,051	221,351	235,824	262,239	251,649

Source: Citizenship and Immigration Canada, Facts and Figures, 2007

#### Language Knowledge of Immigrants across the provinces

Since 2002 the percentage of immigrants that know English only upon arrival has gone up nearly 10 points in nearly every province and such new arrivals now represent the majority in every province except Quebec.

English only upon Arrival	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Canada	51.5	48.0	48.8	47.4	45.8	43.4	43.7	48.6	50.7	52.9
Quebec	21.4	17.6	19.0	18.5	16.0	15.8	16.8	17.7	18.6	19.7
Ontario	58.5	55.9	56.2	53.9	52.3	50.6	52.0	57.8	60.0	62.5
British Columbia	50.5	49.2	49.7	47.1	46.7	42.6	42.8	48.9	49.1	54.4
Alberta	54.0	51.0	53.2	52.4	52.0	49.5	48.9	56.6	56.1	59.6
Manitoba	56.3	49.3	47.8	44.9	46.1	40.1	41.9	51.0	50.4	52.5
Saskatchewan	50.5	48.7	53.0	52.7	49.2	47.6	52.8	59.5	56.9	60.1
Nova Scotia	54.8	47.9	51.8	50.6	56.1	55.8	54.4	62.4	67.4	68.2
New Brunswick	57.6	45.4	48.6	45.0	44.1	45.3	52.6	56.5	55.4	61.6
Other Atlantic	52.9	50.4	49.4	63.7	53.7	54.8	53.7	56.9	55.4	56.6

Source: Citizenship and Immigration Canada, Facts and Figures, 2007

Since 2002 the percentage of immigrants that know neither English nor French has diminished by nearly 15 points in almost all the provinces.

Neither English nor French upon Arrival	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Canada	41.8	43.4	42.2	43.7	44.4	45.9	44.4	37.0	35.9	33.1
Quebec	43.0	42.2	38.0	36.3	37.0	35.1	32.4	27.0	24.1	22.6
Ontario	38.7	40.8	40.6	43.0	44.3	46.0	44.4	37.0	35.1	32.8
British Columbia	48.0	49.1	48.6	51.0	51.5	55.5	55.2	47.7	47.5	41.9
Alberta	43.7	46.1	44.1	44.8	45.1	47.7	48.0	38.3	38.9	34.8
Manitoba	41.7	47.8	49.7	51.8	50.7	57.7	55.6	45.8	45.4	44.9
Saskatchewan	46.2	49.4	44.9	45.6	48.9	49.7	44.1	32.3	36.9	36.6
Nova Scotia	43.0	48.9	44.4	45.4	39.4	39.2	36.4	26.7	21.9	24.7
New Brunswick	32.6	43.2	37.6	38.8	37.7	39.5	28.7	22.5	26.3	28.2
Other Atlantic	45.3	46.3	47.2	34.5	41.2	40.7	42.4	36.4	39.3	39.6

Since 2002 the percentage of immigrants that knew both English and French has increased in nearly every province except New Brunswick.

Both English nor French upon Arrival-Percentage that it represents in each of the provinces as a total of its overall provincial immigration	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Canada	2.8	3.7	4.0	4.4	5.2	6.0	7.3	9.6	8.8	9.0
Quebec	10.8	13.3	15.2	18.4	21.6	24.7	29.0	33.3	33.7	33.8
Ontario	1.8	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.5	2.5	2.8	4.3	4.0	3.8
British Columbia	1.1	1.4	1.3	1.5	1.4	1.6	1.7	3.1	3.1	3.3
Alberta	1.7	1.8	2.0	2.0	2.2	2.2	2.5	4.2	4.1	4.2
Manitoba	1.2	1.6	1.4	1.7	2.1	1.3	1.8	2.4	2.5	1.6

Saskatchewan	3.3	1.9	2.1	1.6	1.9	2.7	3.1	8.2	6.3	3.3
Nova Scotia	1.5	2.2	3.1	3.1	4.1	4.1	7.5	9.7	10.0	6.3
New Brunswick	4.5	5.8	7.0	7.4	9.8	8.6	9.9	16.2	13.0	6.7
Other Atlantic	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Source: Citizenship and Immigration Canada, Facts and Figures, 2007

Since 2002 the share of immigrants that knew French upon arrival has remained relatively stable although the share of such immigrants has grown in Alberta (indeed in real numbers the growth is more meaningful-see appendix)

French Only	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Canada	3.8	4.9	5.0	4.6	4.5	4.6	4.5	4.8	4.6	5.0
Quebec	24.8	26.8	27.8	26.9	25.4	24.4	21.8	22.0	23.6	23.9
Ontario	0.9	1.1	1.1	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	1.0
British Columbia	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.4
Alberta	0.6	1.0	0.7	0.8	0.7	0.6	0.6	0.9	0.9	1.3
Manitoba	0.8	1.3	1.1	1.6	1.1	0.9	0.7	0.8	1.8	1.0
Saskatchewan	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Nova Scotia	0.7	0.9	0.8	0.9	0.5	0.9	1.6	1.2	0.7	0.9
New Brunswick	5.3	5.7	6.8	8.8	8.4	6.5	8.7	4.8	5.3	3.5
Other Atlantic	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Source: Citizenship and Immigration Canada, Facts and Figures, 2007

### French-speaking Immigrants in the rest of Canada

Amongst the goals set out by Citizenship and Immigration Canada is the increase in Francophone immigration outside of Quebec. CIC has expressed pride in the progress that has been made across Canada at both the national and regional levels. Immigration in itself-particularly immigration to Francophone minority communities-poses significant challenges.

In November 2003, CIC's Strategic Framework to Foster Immigration to Francophone Minority Communities set out key objectives: increase the number of French-speaking immigrants to Francophone minority communities, and facilitate the reception and the economic, social and cultural integration of those immigrants into the communities.

The Framework identified the following five objectives:

1. Increase the number of French-speaking immigrants to give more demographic weight to FMCs.
2. Improve the capacity of FMCs to receive Francophone newcomers and to strengthen their reception and settlement infrastructures.
3. Ensure the economic integration of French-speaking immigrants into Canadian society and into FMCs in particular.
4. Ensure the social and cultural integration of French-speaking immigrants into Canadian society and into FMC
5. Foster the regionalization of Francophone immigration outside Toronto and Vancouver.

However to maintain that progress in numbers has been achieved officials need to combine the number and share of immigrants that know both English and French upon arrival. As noted below Quebec has maintained roughly the same share of immigrants that know French only upon arrival within Canada over the last decade. And the share such immigration has represented within the rest of Canada has remained under one percent.

Immigrants French Only	Canada	Quebec	ROC-% of total ROC immigration	ROC-% of total Francophone Group
2006	12562	10 696 (85%)	1866- 0.90	15%
2005	12 061	10 240 (85%)	1 821-0.83	15%
2004	11 302	9 733 (85.8%)	1 569-0.82	14.2
2003	9 972	8 620 (86.5%)	1 352-0.75	13.5
2002	10 633	9 183 (86.4%)	1 450-0.75	13.6
2001	11 330	9 538 (84.2%)	1 792-0.84	15.8
2000	10,366	8733 (84.2%)	1633-0.84	15.8



1999	9,539	8,092 (84.9%)	1447-0.68	15.1
1998	8505	7143 (84.5%)	1362-0.85	15.5
1997	8,305	6,927 (83.4%)	1378-0.74	16.6

Source: Citizenship and Immigration Canada, Facts and Figures, 2007

And though the numbers of immigrants that know both English and French in the rest of Canada has increased over the last 10 years the share of such immigration that Quebec has received has increased constantly over that period and where the ROC once received a very slight majority of such newcomers, their share has been reduced to one-third.

English and French-Speaking Immigrants Settling in the Rest of Canada and percentage they represent	Canada	Quebec	ROC-% of total ROC immigration	ROC-% of total English and French Group
2006	22660	15 098	7562	33.4
2005	23007	14599	8 399	36.5
2004	22608	14741	7 865	34.8
2003	16,244	11488	4 750	29.3
2002	13,720	9288	4 424	30.9
2001	13,044	8113	4 946	38.0
2000	9912	5969	3949	39.8

1999	7645	4430	3215	42.0
1998	6445	3544	2901	45.0
1997	6109	3013	3096	50.6

Source: Citizenship and Immigration Canada, Facts and Figures, 2007

Moreover the percentage of these “bilingual immigrants” settling in Quebec has also remained very stable.

Immigrant French Speakers settling in Rest of Canada as percentage of all immigrant French speakers	Canada	Quebec	ROC-% of total ROC immigration	ROC-% of total French speakers
2006	35 222	25 795 (73.1)	9427	26.9
2005	35 068	24 848 (70.9)	10220	29.1
2004	33910	24 776 (73.1)	9134	26.9
2003	26218	20 116 (76.8)	6102	23.2
2002	24 351	18 477 (75.9)	5874	24.1
2001	24 374	17 636 (72.3)	6738	27.7
2000	20 278	14 702 (70.1)	5 576	29.9
1999	17 184	12 522 (70.1)	4 662	29.9
1998	14950	10 687 (71.4)	4 263	28.6

1997	14 414	9 940 (69.0)	4474	31.0
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Source: Citizenship and Immigration Canada, Facts and Figures, 2007

Overall the share of French-speaking immigrants in the rest of Canada has risen between 2002 and 2006 but in terms of the actual pool of such immigrants coming to Canada it is Quebec that has been very dominant notably as regards the share of immigrants that know both English and French and whose substantial increase will heighten the bilingualism in Montreal.

French-Speaking Immigrants Settling in the Rest of Canada and percentage they represent in total ROC Immigration	French	French and English	Total Immigrant French Speakers in the rest of Canada	% they represent in total ROC Immigration
2006	1865	7562	9427	4.5
2005	1 821	8 399	10 220	4.6
2004	1 569	7 865	9 434	4.9
2003	1 352	4 750	6 102	3.4
2002	1 450	4 424	5 874	3.1
2001	1 792	4 946	6 738	3.1
2000	1633	5 576	7 209	2.9
1999	1447	4 662	6 109	3.0

1998	1362	4 263	5 625	2.8
1997	1378	4 474	5 852	2.4

Source: Citizenship and Immigration Canada, Facts and Figures, 2007

## Appedix 1

### Important: To be able to speak [Country language]

	Important: To be able to speak [Country language]			
	Very important	Fairly important	Not very important	Not important at all
United States (US)	83.3%	13.7%	2.3%	.7%
Norway (NO)	76.8%	20.0%	2.4%	.8%
Denmark (DK)	76.1%	21.4%	2.0%	.5%
Philippines (PH)	75.9%	19.8%	3.8%	.4%
Hungary (HU)	71.9%	24.1%	3.3%	.7%
Israel Jews (IL-J)	71.3%	20.7%	5.9%	2.1%
Venezuela (VE)	70.5%	25.1%	3.1%	1.3%
Sweden (SE)	70.4%	25.9%	2.5%	1.2%
Canada (CA)	69.4%	23.3%	5.2%	2.2%
New Zealand (NZ)	68.8%	24.4%	5.0%	1.8%
Austria (AT)	68.7%	22.9%	7.0%	1.4%
France (FR)	67.0%	27.0%	4.2%	1.8%
Slovenia (SI)	66.7%	28.4%	3.4%	1.5%
Germany-West (DE-W)	65.1%	29.3%	4.4%	1.2%
Great Britain (GB)	65.1%	25.7%	6.2%	3.0%
Uruguay (UY)	64.9%	21.9%	10.7%	2.4%
Germany-East (DE-E)	64.6%	28.9%	4.9%	1.6%
Australia (AU)	63.7%	28.3%	6.7%	1.3%
Poland (PL)	62.6%	32.1%	4.3%	1.0%
Chile (CL)	61.9%	25.2%	10.8%	2.1%
Bulgaria (BG)	61.0%	33.8%	3.6%	1.5%
Russia (RU)	60.6%	23.7%	10.7%	5.0%
UNIVERSE	58.6%	29.7%	8.4%	3.2%
Czech Republic (CZ)	58.3%	33.7%	6.7%	1.4%

Slovak Republic (SK)	55.2%	30.9%	10.2%	3.6%
Latvia (LV)	52.3%	33.5%	10.1%	4.1%
Switzerland (CH)	51.9%	40.9%	6.9%	.3%
South Korea (KR)	50.3%	37.5%	11.1%	1.1%
Finland (FI)	48.4%	37.6%	10.1%	3.9%
Portugal (PT)	47.1%	47.6%	4.5%	.8%
Japan (JP)	45.8%	32.6%	16.1%	5.5%
South Africa (ZA)	44.6%	43.8%	5.1%	6.4%
Spain (ES)	33.7%	50.5%	12.2%	3.6%
Taiwan (TW)	23.9%	35.6%	30.8%	9.7%
Ireland (IE)	13.2%	25.4%	36.3%	25.0%

Source: ISSP, 2004

### Real Numbers of Immigrants by Language Knowledge in Other Provinces, 1997-2006

#### Ontario

Language ability	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
	Number									
English	68,920	51,661	58,495	71,951	77,705	67,601	62,203	72,327	84,371	78,654
French	1,047	1,002	1,108	1,206	1,387	1,157	1,020	1,147	1,274	1,199
Both French and English	2,170	2,038	2,305	2,889	3,732	3,325	3,399	5,355	5,561	4,750
Neither	45,600	37,696	42,258	57,459	65,816	61,509	53,101	46,263	49,318	41,311
Ontario	117,737	92,397	104,166	133,505	148,640	133,592	119,723	125,092	140,524	125,914

Source: Citizenship and Immigration Canada, Facts and Figures, 2007

#### British Columbia

Language ability	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
	Number									
English	24,179	17,692	17,945	17,646	17,961	14,524	15,085	18,118	22,000	22,911
French	137	123	137	151	139	100	108	118	125	176
Both French and English	547	486	475	545	543	544	585	1,140	1,367	1,377
Neither	22,973	17,672	17,569	19,088	19,831	18,887	19,453	17,652	21,279	17,615
British Columbia	47,836	35,973	36,126	37,430	38,474	34,055	35,231	37,028	44,771	42,079

Source: Citizenship and Immigration Canada, Facts and Figures, 2007

## Alberta

The biggest increase in the numbers of French-speaking immigrants settling outside of Quebec has been in Alberta where...

Language ability	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
	Number									
English	6,935	5,707	6,431	7,524	8,529	7,305	7,743	9,320	10,878	12,354
French	71	117	80	110	116	85	99	155	176	273
Both French and English	216	201	244	291	360	330	399	688	798	876
Neither	5,610	5,163	5,334	6,438	7,403	7,047	7,596	6,310	7,552	7,214
Alberta	12,832	11,188	12,089	14,363	16,408	14,767	15,837	16,473	19,404	20,717

Source: Citizenship and Immigration Canada, Facts and Figures, 2007

Manitoba

Language ability	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
	Number									
English	2,086	1,477	1,780	2,083	2,117	1,851	2,727	3,788	4,078	5,276
French	30	39	41	72	50	42	45	57	144	100
Both French and English	43	49	51	78	96	61	114	180	201	164
Neither	1,544	1,432	1,853	2,402	2,330	2,665	3,616	3,401	3,673	4,511
Manitoba	3,703	2,997	3,725	4,635	4,593	4,619	6,502	7,426	8,096	10,051

Source: Citizenship and Immigration Canada, Facts and Figures, 2007

Saskatchewan

Language ability	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
English	875	762	916	992	838	794	881	1,155	1,198	1,637
French / Both French and English	58	30	37	31	33	45	52	159	132	90
Neither	801	772	776	859	833	829	735	628	777	997
Saskatchewan	1,734	1,564	1,729	1,882	1,704	1,668	1,668	1,942	2,107	2,724

Nova Scotia and New Brunswick

Language ability	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
	Number									
English	1,552	979	826	814	953	791	802	1,104	1,301	1,762
French	19	19	12	14	9	13	24	21	13	22
Both French and English	43	45	49	50	69	58	111	172	192	162
Neither	1,218	1,000	707	731	669	556	537	473	423	639
Nova Scotia	2,832	2,043	1,594	1,609	1,700	1,418	1,474	1,770	1,929	2,585

Language ability	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
	Number									
English	382	328	321	341	352	320	350	449	604	1,014
French	35	41	45	67	67	46	58	38	58	58
Both French and English	30	42	46	56	78	61	66	129	142	110
Neither	216	312	248	294	301	279	191	179	287	464
New Brunswick	663	723	660	758	798	706	665	795	1,091	1,646