

CITY

QUOTE OF THE DAY

We do not have government by the majority. We have government by the majority who participate.
 THOMAS JEFFERSON

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WEATHER

Sunny with a high 27/low of 18, Page A12 

LOTTERIES

For lottery results, see the Loto-Québec ad. Page A5

HOW REAL IS THE DECLINE

Last month, respected Quebec researcher Jack Jedwab pressed Pause on the fraught discussion of the health of the French language in the province.

It has become accepted wisdom in many circles that French is in decline in Quebec. In fact, for many politicians and commentators, the question is no longer whether French is in decline but rather just how steep the drop is.

Not so fast, said Jedwab, who is the head of the Association for Canadian Studies and Metropolis

Canada (ACS-Metropolis).

According to Jedwab, the purported decline is actually based on different ways of interpreting data rather than any objective measure of the growing “anglicization” of Quebec. Jedwab examined three key contentions:

1 The purported decline in the share of people whose mother tongue is French and/or who speak French most often in Quebec but notably on the Island of Montreal, where, it is claimed,

francophones are no longer the majority.

2 The insufficient number of people whose first language is neither English nor French who are switching to the use of French most often at home.

3 A decrease in the extent to which the French language is being used at work in Quebec. The claim is that there is a drop in the degree to which francophones say they are speaking French

“most often” at their place of work, which presumably results in an increasing use of English by all Quebecers.

The charts and tables here, prepared by the Association for Canadian Studies, examine those contentions and explain why they can be misleading. All statistics are drawn from the 2016 Canadian census as reported by Statistics Canada and the Quebec Ministry of Immigration, Francisation and Integration.



GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

Quebec’s French mother tongue population is nearly 80 per cent, but the annual percentage of French mother tongue immigrants between 2015 and 2019 was 20 per cent.

Quebec’s English mother tongue population is about 10 per cent, but immigrants of English mother tongue accounted for 3 per cent annually over the same period.

Some 13 per cent of Quebecers are allophones (persons whose mother tongue is neither English nor French), but allophones accounted for 80 per cent of immigrants between 2015 and 2019.

Declines in the share of mother tongue francophones would be wholly attributable to the percentage of immigrant allophones, not from immigrant anglophones. It is worth noting that one in three mother tongue anglophones who arrived in Quebec between 2008 and 2017 ended up leaving Quebec within five years.

NO DECLINE IN FRANCOPHONE POPULATION ON MONTREAL ISLAND

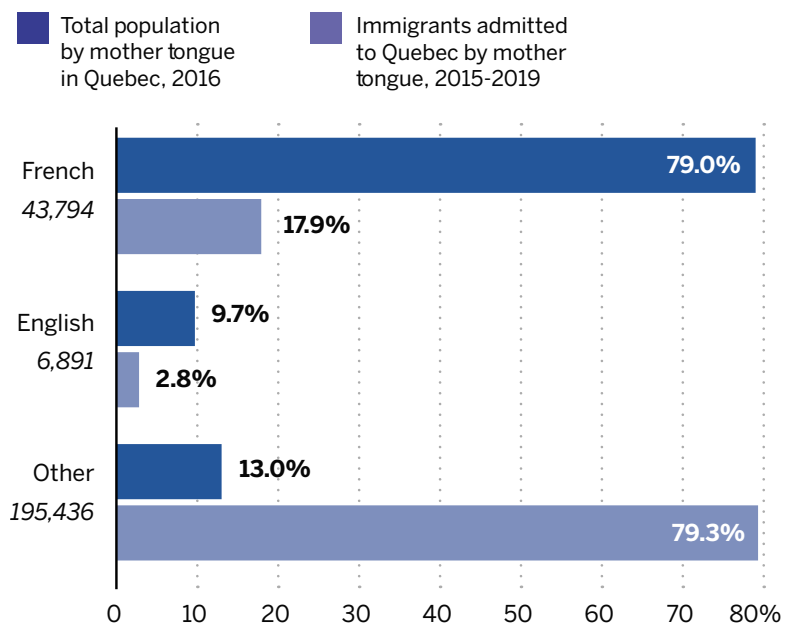
Francophone population didn’t decline on the Island of Montreal between 2006 and 2016.

Montreal region	2016	2006
Total - Language spoken most often at home (LSH)	1,914,755	1,823,900
English	22.8	23.9
French	49.8	52.5
Non-official languages	18.2	19.0
English and French (half reallocated to French, half reallocated to English)	1.8	1.1
English and non-official language (total reallocated to English)	2.0	1.1
French and non-official language (total reallocated to French)	4.0	1.9
English, French and non-official language (half reallocated to French and English)	1.3	0.45

	2016	2006
Percentage of French LSH after the distribution of multiple responses	55.4%	55.2%
Percentage of English LSH after the distribution of multiple responses	26.4%	25.8%

SOURCE: CENSUS OF CANADA, 2016

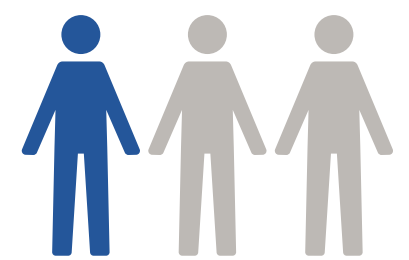
MOTHER TONGUE POPULATION



SOURCE: GOVERNMENT OF QUEBEC

1 in 3

mother-tongue anglophones who arrived in Quebec between 2008 and 2017 ended up leaving Quebec within five years.



SOURCE: GOVERNMENT OF QUEBEC

ANTIDOTE WORD SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters to find the word that matches the definition.

R A H P A A R P G

noun – a self-contained section of a piece of writing indicated by an indented line, typically containing several sentences on a given topic



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