

OF THE FRENCH LANGUAGE?

How does the anglophone minority become part of a “majority”?

For years Quebec demographers and policy-makers have talked about the “minoritization” of francophones on the Island, which has the effect of stoking language insecurities among francophones.

The argument that francophones are a minority on the

Island of Montreal requires that the much smaller anglophone population is repositioned as part of the “majority” on the Island by combining their numbers and sharing with the linguistically diverse allophone population.

Without providing justification, demographers and policy-makers use the Island as opposed to the Montreal region

to focus on that lower share of francophones who reside there, not taking into the disproportionate migration of francophones to the off-Island suburbs.

The fact remains that it is anglophones who are a language minority on the Island and that for every anglophone residing on it there are more than double the number of francophones.



THE DETAILS

GLOSSARY

“Mother tongue” refers to the first language learned at home in childhood and still understood by the person at the time the data was collected.

“Language spoken most often at home” — or LSH — refers to the language the person speaks most often at home at the time of data collection. A person can report more than one language as “spoken most often at home” if the languages are spoken equally often.

“Language used most often at work” refers to the language the person uses most often at work. A person can report more than one language as “used most often at work” if the languages are used equally often.

Languages Reference Guide, Census of Population, 2016 (statcan.gc.ca)

METHODOLOGY

According to Statistics Canada, **one method for presenting multiple responses between French, English and non-official languages groups is to include all mentions of a language.** Another way is to distribute the multiple response categories equally between the groups (e.g. half “French and non-official” response in French and the other half in “non-official”); the “English, French and non-official” would be distributed equally in the three groups, 1/3 each. Another is to keep multiples apart.

Interpreting and presenting census language data (statcan.gc.ca)

The data presented here uses a “hybrid approach,” where those indicating they spoke French and a non-official language most often at home (for example, French and Arabic) would be considered francophone and those saying “English and non-official language” would be considered anglophone. Those who said they spoke French, English and a non-official language at home would be divided equally between the francophone and anglophone population(s).

Interpreting and presenting census language data (statcan.gc.ca)

MORE PEOPLE SPEAK MORE THAN ONE LANGUAGE

Montreal region	2016	2006
Total - Language spoken most often at home (LSH)	8,066,555	7,435,905
English	782,185 (9.7%)	744,430 (10%)
French	6,375,670 (79%)	6,027,730 (81.1%)
Non-official languages	585,885 (7.3%)	518,320 (7%)
English and French (half reallocated to French, half reallocated to English)	86,715 (1.1%)	52,325 (0.7%)
English and non-official language (total reallocated to English)	54,395 (0.7%)	26,560 (0.4%)
French and non-official language (total reallocated to French)	139,385 (1.7%)	54,490 (0.7%)
English, French and non-official language (half reallocated to French and English)	42,320 (0.5%)	12,040 (0.2%)

	2016	2006
Percentage of French LSH after the distribution of multiple responses	81.6%	82.2%
Percentage of English LSH after the distribution of multiple responses	11.2%	10.9%

SOURCE: CENSUS OF CANADA, 2016

LSH FRANCOPHONES IN THE MONTREAL REGION

Taking into account the distribution of the multiple responses, the percentage of LSH francophones increased between 2006 and 2016 in the Montreal region.

Montreal region	2016	2006
Total - Language spoken most often at home (LSH)	4,053,360	3,588,520
English	15.3	16.5
French	65.9	67.8
Non-official languages	12.2	12.3
English and French (half reallocated to French, half reallocated to English)	1.5	1.0
English and non-official language (total reallocated to English)	1.2	0.7
French and non-official language (total reallocated to French)	2.9	1.3
English, French and non-official language (half reallocated to French and English)	0.9	0.3

	2016	2006
Percentage of French LSH after the distribution of multiple responses	70%	69.8%
Percentage of English LSH after the distribution of multiple responses	17.7%	17.9%

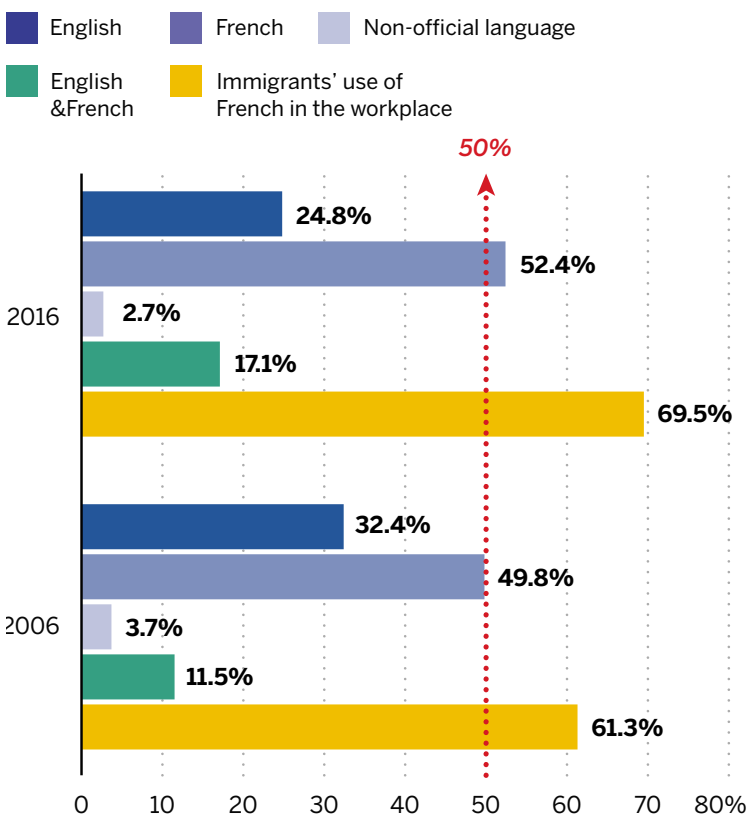
SOURCE: CENSUS OF CANADA, 2016

Since 2006, there has indeed

been a decrease in the extent to which francophones use French most often at work in Montreal. However, over the same period there have been important increases in the extent to which immigrants use French at work.

The same holds true for anglophones and allophones. Hence, the idea that a slight drop in use of French at work means an even greater decline in the extent to which others do so is not supported by the data from the census.

THE MAJORITY OF MONTREAL'S IMMIGRANTS REPORT USING FRENCH MOST OFTEN AT WORK



SOURCE: STATISTICS CANADA

LANGUAGE MOST OFTEN USED AT WORK

Montreal metropolitan region	Mother tongue				
Language used most often at work	Year	Total	French	English	Non-official language/allophones
French	2016	69.7	87.3	21.9	47.1
	2006	72.0	89.7	20.4	45.7
English	2016	17.8	6.0	64.2	28.2
	2006	19.5	5.8	70.0	35.4
English & French	2016	10.7	6.5	13.4	17.8
	2006	6.7	4.2	8.8	11.6

SOURCE: STATISTICS CANADA

Powerful quake latest blow to country

HAITI FROM **A1**

“There are a lot of people who went through this 11 years ago and are now living this,” she said.

“Our hearts bleed,” said Frantz Benjamin, the member of the Quebec National Assembly for Viau, at a press conference Saturday.

As the news broke, Benjamin gathered together local community leaders to organize a crisis unit. Organizers appealed to all levels of government and the public to contribute to emergency relief efforts.

Anyone who wants to help should make a donation to one of three organizations providing emergency aid: the Canadian Red Cross, Doctors of the World Canada or Doctors Without Borders Canada, Villefranche said.

“These are the three organizations best able to act in this emergency,” she said.

She expressed hope that the federal government would open Canada’s doors to earthquake survivors who have relatives in Canada, as it did following the 2010 quake. Some 15,000 Haitians immigrated here after the previous disaster, she said. Quebec had 143,165 residents of Haitian origin in 2016, almost half of them born in Canada.

On Twitter, Mayor Valérie Plante expressed “solidarity with the Haitian people following the terrible earthquake,” adding that Montreal had been in contact with the Red Cross and would “participate financially in international efforts.”

“Canadians are thinking of everyone affected by the devastating earthquake in Haiti. Our hearts go out to those who have lost loved ones and those who have been injured — and we’re standing ready to provide assistance in any way we can,” tweeted federal Liberal Leader Justin Trudeau.

Conservative Leader Erin O’Toole and NDP Leader Jagmeet Singh also expressed sympathy, as did Premier François Legault.

Quebec Liberal Leader Dominique Anglade, whose parents died in the 2010 earthquake, tweeted that every image of Saturday’s quake “is reminiscent of 2010. Yet it is 2021,” she said, noting that survivors of the 2010 disaster are still “struggling to heal.”

The powerful quake that struck Haiti’s southwestern peninsula Saturday morning was the latest blow to the impoverished country, whose president, Jovenel Moïse, was assassinated July 7.

It released about twice as much energy as the 2010 earthquake, the New York Times reported. Its epicentre was 80 kilometres west of the one 11 years ago, which was centred about 50 kilometres west of the capital, Port-au-Prince.

Villefranche said local organizers hope to set up a 1-800 help line in response to the disaster by Monday.

People who survived the 2010 earthquake and are finding that the news of Saturday’s quake has reawakened their trauma are urged to call the help line once it’s available to seek psychological support, community organizer Édouard Staco said Saturday.

A native of Les Cayes, a seaport community hard hit by Saturday’s quake, Staco is the president and founder of the Fonds 1804, an organization that encourages young people to stay in school.

Presse canadienne contributed to this report.