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Profile of Linguistic Situation in New Brunswick

Prepared by

Dominique Pépin-Filion

Canadian Institute for Research on Linguistic Minorities

In collaboration with

Josée Guignard Noël

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For the

Commissioner of Official Languages for New Brunswick

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Moncton, New Brunswick

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Introduction

This brief analysis of the linguistic situation in New Brunswick was prepared at the request of the Office of the Commissioner of Official Languages for New Brunswick following the release of language data from the 2011 census. Each of the six sections of this report provides an initial response to the six questions submitted by the Office of the Commissioner (see appendix). The sections addressing those questions therefore pertain to the retention and vitality of official languages, changes in the relative share of French and the number of people who speak the official languages, linguistic diversification and integration of immigrants, and official bilingualism. For each of these questions, an indicator for analyzing the linguistic situation was selected and additional calculations were made when necessary to ensure as much as possible the comparability over time of the results of the 2011 census with those of earlier censuses.¹

1. Slight decline in retention of French

With the data from the censuses, it is possible to estimate the retention of different mother tongues since childhood. The retention rate indicates the proportion of people who still speak their mother tongue at home. This indicator is relevant because a language spoken at home is more likely to be passed on. Fewer than 9 persons in 10 (87.3%) whose mother tongue was French spoke French most often at home in New Brunswick, compared with almost all persons (98.6%) whose mother tongue was English who spoke English most often at home in 2011. While the English retention rate has remained stable, the French retention rate has declined slightly over the past decade, going from 88.7% in 2001 to 88.1% in 2006, and sliding down to 87.3% in 2011 (Table 1 appended). An analysis of a greater number of censuses would make it possible to determine whether this decline in French retention is in fact a trend.

Since the 2001 census, it has been possible to distinguish between “complete” retention, i.e., speaking one’s mother tongue most often at home, and “partial” retention, i.e. speaking another language most often at home and speaking one’s mother tongue regularly at home, i.e., every day.² It can be seen that partial retention concerns mostly Francophones, a small proportion (6.3%) of whom spoke their mother tongue regularly rather than most often at home in 2011, whereas this phenomenon was marginal among Anglophones (0.8%). Moreover, partial retention of French appears to have increased slightly since at least 2001. The sum of full and partial retention indicates the percentage of people who speak their mother tongue at least regularly at home. This was the case for slightly more than 9 Francophones in 10 (93.6%) in the province, compared with almost all Anglophones (99.4%) in 2011. These retention rates already provide a partial overview of the linguistic vitality of the two official language communities in the province, which will be looked at in more detail in the next section.

It is also important to determine whether mother-tongue retention varies by people’s age at the time of the census. Table 1 appended shows recent changes in official mother-tongue retention rates by the main age groups of the population of New Brunswick. It can be seen that complete and total French mother-tongue retention declines systematically with age regardless of the census considered, whereas this relationship is not as continuous for English. Complete retention of French therefore declined gradually from 95.2% among people under the age of 15 to 84.7% among those aged 65 and over in 2011. This decrease of about 10 percentage points may be the result of a number of factors, including exogamy and better access to French-language education, which vary over the years or with the passage of time. However, the fact that complete retention of French also decreases from census to census for all



age groups suggests that it decreases with age and over time despite factors that have improved over the years. Further analysis would make it possible to confirm this trend and gain a better understanding of these relationships.

2. Language vitality: the gap between official languages is increasing

It is possible to get a general picture of the vitality of a language within a population using a simple index. The linguistic vitality index represents the ratio between populations using one main language at home and those reporting that same language as their mother tongue.³ This index synthesizes the combined effects of a language's retention and attraction factors.^{4,5} The index is equal to 1 when there are as many people with a particular mother tongue within a population as there are people who speak that language most often at home. Consequently, when a language's vitality index is less than 1, this means that the general situation is unfavourable for that language, and conversely, when the index is greater than 1, the overall situation is favourable for that language.

Table 2. Official languages vitality index in New Brunswick, 1971 to 2011

Official language	1971	1981	1991	1996	2001	2006	2011
French	0.93	0.93	0.92	0.92	0.91	0.91	0.90
English	1.05	1.04	1.06	1.05	1.06	1.07	1.07

Sources: Statistics Canada, censuses of population, 1971, 1981, 1991, 1996, 2001, 2006, and 2011.

Note: The multiple responses were equally distributed except in the 1971 census.

In New Brunswick, the vitality index for the French language was less than 1 (0.90) in 2011, while that for the English language was greater than 1 (1.07) (Table 2). In other words, there were 10% fewer people using mostly French at home in 2011 than there were people whose mother tongue was French in the province. However, there were 7% more people speaking English most often at home than there were people whose mother tongue was English. The general situation in New Brunswick was therefore favourable for the English language and unfavourable for the French language.

The French vitality index has shown a slow, yet constant, decline of about one point per decade since 1981, whereas the English vitality index has shown a slight increase of about three points since 1981. The vitality gap between the official languages in the province is therefore increasing over time. It has actually increased by more than a half, going from 11 percentage points in 1981 to 17 points 30 years later.

3. Share of French in New Brunswick: a setback on all fronts

Statistics Canada recently drew attention to the fact that the relative share of French seemed to be declining in New Brunswick, regardless of the linguistic characteristic considered.⁶ Our analysis shows that this finding based on 2006 and 2011 data applies as well to the variations observed between the 2001 and 2011 censuses (Table 3a). In addition, all declines in relative share seem to have been accelerating since the early 2000s.

The most significant decline concerns knowledge of French, which dropped by 1.4 percentage points within the provincial population between 2006 and 2011 alone. This was actually a historic reversal in

the upward trend noted since the 1971 census in terms of both number and relative share (Table 3b appended).

Table 3a. Share of French in N.B. by different linguistic characteristics, 2001 to 2011

Linguistic characteristic	2001	2006	2011	Variation		
	%	%	%	2001-2006	2006-2011	2001-2011
Knowledge of French ¹	43.4	43.6	42.2	0.2	-1.4	-1.2
Language spoken most often at home ²	30.3	29.7	28.8	-0.6	-0.9	-1.5
First official language spoken ²	33.1	32.7	31.9	-0.4	-0.8	-1.2
Mother tongue ²	33.3	32.7	32.0	-0.6	-0.7	-1.3

Sources: Statistics Canada, censuses of population, 2001, 2006, and 2011.

1. Includes single and multiple responses.

2. The multiple responses were equally distributed.

The three other linguistic characteristics used to identify the relative share of French within the population declined throughout the past decade. The proportion of people speaking French most often at home declined the most (1.5 percentage points), going from 30.3% in 2001 to 28.8% in 2011. The use of French most often at home in the province actually decreased during the past three decades (Table 3b appended).

Whereas the French mother-tongue community accounted for exactly one-third (33.3%) of the New Brunswick population in 2001, it dropped to 32.0% in 2011. The percentage of people for whom French was the first official language spoken declined similarly during the 2000s, going from 33.1% in 2001 to 31.9% in 2011.

However, we should qualify these declines in the French language by stating that they were accompanied by a certain stabilization in the proportion of the population whose mother tongue was English, which hovered around 65% in 1971 and more recently in the proportion with knowledge of English, which has been about 90% since 1996 (Table 3b appended). In addition to the effects of imperfect retention and incomplete transmission,⁷ the declines in French would more likely be associated with the cumulative increases in the proportion of New Brunswickers for whom English was the first official language spoken (66.0% in 1971 to 68.0% in 2011) or of those for whom English was the main language used at home (67.9% in 1981 to 69.8% in 2011). Furthermore, since the 1980s, there has been an increase in the relative proportion of people whose mother tongue is not an official language, which rose slightly from 1.2% in 1981 to 1.7% in 2001 and then jumped to 2.6% in the mid-2000s. The use most often at home of non-official languages also increased in the province, going from 0.7% in 2001 to 1.4% in 2011. In New Brunswick, as elsewhere, we seem to be witnessing the slow but steady advent of multilingualism, most likely due to the increasing growth and diversification of immigration since the 1980s.

4. Linguistic diversification and integration of immigrants

An analysis of immigration based on official languages in New Brunswick provides an overview of the linguistic composition and linguistic integration of immigrants to the province. Table 4a appended shows



the changes in numbers and proportions by official mother tongue and first official language spoken within the province's entire immigrant population between 2001 and 2011.

First of all, we can see that fewer than 1 New Brunswick immigrant in 10 (8.9%) had French as their mother tongue, compared with more than half (52.9%) whose mother tongue was English in 2011. These percentages must be compared with the official mother tongue percentages, i.e., French (32.0%) and English (65.4%), within the entire population during the same census (Table 3b appended). The French-language community therefore had proportionally almost three times fewer (-2.9) immigrants whose mother tongue was French than the English-language community had immigrants whose mother tongue was English.⁸ The proportion of immigrants whose mother tongue was not an official language increased significantly over the past decade (8.5 percentage points), whereas the proportions of immigrants whose mother tongue was an official language showed a major decline (-7.6) for English and a slight decline (-0.7) for French since 2001. These are the consequences of the increasing linguistic diversification of immigration to the province, a trend that had been developing slowly in New Brunswick since 1981, before accelerating in the early 2000s.

The proportions of the New Brunswick immigrant population by first official language spoken provide a first indication of their linguistic integration. In 2011, the vast majority (85.7%) of immigrants reported English as their first official language spoken, compared with slightly over a tenth (11.0%) who reported French. Here again, these percentages must be looked at in terms of the respective proportions of the two official languages in the province. Relatively speaking, the French-language community would actually have linguistically integrated about five and a half times fewer (-5.5) immigrants with a non-official mother tongue than the English-language community.

We can get an indication of the current changes in this diversification and linguistic integration by observing these same proportions in Table 4b appended, but this time, only for recent immigrants, i.e., New Brunswickers who came to Canada in the five years preceding the census being considered. First of all, we can see that recent immigrants living in New Brunswick are becoming more and more numerous. Their numbers actually increased by two-thirds in the last two censuses (67.1% in 2006 and 66.6% in 2011), going from 2,570 in 2001 to 4,295 in 2006 and 7,155 in 2011, which represents one-quarter (25.1%) of immigrants to the province.⁹ These increases, which take into account the interprovincial migration of immigrants after they arrive in the country, are consistent with the Statistics Canada finding, supported by administrative data from Citizenship and Immigration Canada, that "between 2006 and 2011, this province received twice as many immigrants as it did in the previous intercensal period."¹⁰ New Brunswick's immigration rate, along with Nova Scotia's and Newfoundland and Labrador's, remains among the lowest in the country.

The number of recent official mother tongue immigrants also rose in the 2000s, although fewer than 1 recent immigrant in 10 (7.7%) still living in the province in 2011 reported French as their mother tongue, compared with almost 3 in 10 (29.0%) who reported English. The Francophone community therefore had proportionally almost two times fewer (-1.8) newcomers whose mother tongue was French in 2011 than the Anglophone community had newcomers whose mother tongue was English. Also, about 1 recent immigrant in 10 (11.7%) reported French as their first official language spoken in 2011, whereas 8 in 10 (81.1%) reported English. Relatively speaking, the French-language community would actually have linguistically integrated four and a half times fewer (-4.5) newcomers with a non-official tongue in 2011 than the English-language community.



5. Migration and return to population growth

The 2011 census points to more positive results for official languages with the return of population growth across New Brunswick. It should be recalled that the population had been decreasing since 1996 – since 1991 for Francophones¹⁰ – whereas the growth rate (2.9%) observed between 2006 and 2011 was the highest it had been since the late 1970s.¹⁰

The province's population grew by more than 20,000 during the last intercensal period, resulting in an increase in the number of people in almost all linguistic characteristics (Table 5 appended). The two exceptions were use of French most often at home (-743) and knowledge of French (-1,574), representing relative variations of -0.3% and -0.5% between 2006 and 2011. The number of people speaking both official languages therefore increased for French mother tongue (+1,703) and English mother tongue (+18,103), as well as for French first official language spoken (+565) and English first official language spoken (+19,485). The number of people using English most often at home (+19,439) increased as well, as did the number of people reporting a knowledge of English (+27,429) or both official languages (+5,799). However, these increases were clearly greater for the English language, relatively speaking, and the increases observed between 2006 and 2011 did not make up for the setbacks of the past decade in terms of the number of people speaking French regardless of the French linguistic characteristic considered, particularly between 2001 and 2006.

Migratory increase, i.e., immigration and interprovincial migration, probably explains a large portion of this population growth. It should be recalled that immigration to the province doubled between 2006 and 2011, whereas “New Brunswick lost fewer people as a result of interprovincial migration”¹⁰ during the same period. The 2011 data on migration were not available at the time of the analysis.

6. Official bilingualism: a reversal in the historical trend

In New Brunswick, the official bilingualism rate has been declining since the early 2000s. This is a reversal in the historical trend, as bilingualism had been rising continuously in the province for at least the entire second half of the last century.¹¹ Individual bilingualism, demonstrated by less than one-fifth (19%) of the population in the 1950s and 1960s,¹¹ increased steadily during the 1970s, 1980s, and 1990s, reaching a peak in 2001, whereas slightly more than one-third (34.2%) of the population reported a knowledge of French and English (Table 3b appended). The trend then seems to have reversed itself sometime in the early 2000s, since the percentage of bilingual residents of the only officially bilingual province in Canada was still one-third (33.4%) in 2006 but slowly slipped below the one-third (33.2%) level in 2011 (Table 6a). It should be noted that the variation was smaller during the last five-year period, but there was still a drop of nearly one percentage point (-0.9%) in a decade. This decline must be viewed in the context of an average progression of more than four percentage points per decade between 1971 in 2001 (Table 3b appended).



Table 6a. Bilingualism rates in New Brunswick by mother tongue, 2001 to 2011

	2001	2006	2011	Variation		
Mother tongue ¹	%	%	%	2001-2006	2006-2011	2001-2011
French	71.9	68.5	71.4	-3.4	3.0	-0.4
English	15.8	16.7	15.9	0.9	-0.9	0.0
Non-official languages	17.6	17.5	15.3	-0.2	-2.1	-2.3
Total New Brunswick	34.2	33.4	33.2	-0.8	-0.1	-0.9

Sources: Statistics Canada, censuses of population, 2001, 2006, and 2011.

1. Includes single and multiple responses.

Obviously, individual bilingualism rates differ significantly by linguistic group, and as might be expected, people reporting French as their mother tongue present the highest official bilingualism rates by far. Consequently, in 2011, more than two-thirds (71.4%) of mother-tongue Francophones said they could conduct a conversation in English and in French compared to less than one-sixth of those reporting that their mother tongue was English (15.9%) or a non-official language (15.3%). The bilingualism rate among Francophones is therefore 4.5 times greater than the rate among Anglophones. Although the bilingualism rate observed among Anglophones in New Brunswick was the highest outside Québec,¹¹ the imbalance reflects a persistent difference in actual status between the province's two official languages.

The variation in bilingualism by linguistic group indicates that the decline observed in the early 2000s is due mainly to a temporary, but notable, decrease in the proportion of bilingual people within the Francophone population (-3.4 percentage points) between 2001 and 2006. This may be attributable in part to economy-related interprovincial migration, which is more likely to affect Francophones with a knowledge of English, although more in-depth research would be necessary to confirm this. Another downward trend seems to be taking shape at the same time: a decrease in bilingualism among people whose mother tongue is non-official language, particularly since 2006 (-2.1 percentage points). It may be that the relatively large increase in recent immigration to New Brunswick is combining with a poorer knowledge of both official languages in the province within this new subpopulation. Here again, further research would be required to gain a better understanding of the demolinguistic impact of the linguistic characteristics of these newcomers. Lastly, the bilingualism rate among people with English as their mother tongue remained almost unchanged in 2011 compared with 2001, although it decreased slightly in 2006 (-0.9 percentage point).

The analysis of bilingualism rates by age group and mother tongue (Table 6b appended) shows that bilingualism increases with age among the youngest, peaking at 84.2% among Francophones aged 30 to 34 and at 34.9% and 34.0% among Anglophones aged 10 to 14 and 15 to 19 who learn French primarily at school, before declining gradually to 66.6% and 6.4% among Francophones and Anglophones aged 65 and over, respectively. Starting at age 20, Anglophones seems to lose their French gradually, with the passage of time. The biggest decline observed among Anglophones in the 2000s involved children aged 5 to 9 among whom the bilingualism rate dropped by one-third between 2006 and 2011 (nearly six percentage points). This is probably the consequence of the reform of the early French immersion program, which came into effect in 2008 in the province's English-language schools. However, the greatest increases correspond to the arrival of the first immersion cohorts at the 35-to-39 (+9.6) and 40-to-44 (+5.5) age groups.

¹ For a detailed analysis of the factors affecting the language data comparability between censuses, see Statistics Canada, *Methodology Document on the 2011 Census Language Data* (Ottawa: Government of Canada, 2013).

² The postcensal Survey on the Vitality of Official-Language Minorities shows that, for people reporting the use of another language “on a regular basis” at home, this means “daily” use, i.e., usually “every day.” See Statistics Canada, *Languages in Canada: 2006 Census* (Ottawa: Government of Canada, 2011), p. 48.

³ Simon Langlois, “La place du français au Québec: bilan nuancé,” in Miriam Fahmy, ed., *L’état du Québec 2009* (Montréal: Fides, 2008), p. 105-112).

⁴ Rodrigue Landry, *Petite enfance et autonomie culturelle. Là où le nombre le justifie...V* (Moncton: Canadian Institute for Research on Linguistic Minorities, 2010).

⁵ Rodrigue Landry, *L’Acadie du Nouveau-Brunswick, analyse selon le modèle de l’autonomie culturelle* (forthcoming).

⁶ Statistics Canada, *French and the ‘francophonie’ in Canada: Language, 2011 Census of Population* (Ottawa: Statistics Canada, 2012).

⁷ Mother-tongue transmission is not analyzed in this report owing to a lack of complete data even though this is an important issue when it comes to official languages.

⁸ Which may explain in part that “Over the past 35 years in New Brunswick, international immigration has had little effect on how the size of the French mother tongue population has evolved, since the demographic contribution has been marginal.” See Statistics Canada, *Portrait of Official-Language Minorities in Canada: Francophones in New Brunswick* (Ottawa: Statistics Canada, 2011), p. 25).

⁹ Statistics Canada, “New Brunswick,” *Focus on Geography Series*, National Household Survey (NHS), analytical products, 2011 (Ottawa: Government of Canada, 2013).

¹⁰ Statistics Canada, *The Canadian Population in 2011: Population Counts and Growth: Population and dwelling counts, 2011 Census* (Ottawa: Government of Canada, 2012).

¹¹ Statistics Canada, *Languages in Canada: 2006 Census* (Ottawa: Government of Canada, 2011).



Appendices

Questions from the Office of the Commissioner of Official Languages for New Brunswick

1. Is it possible to identify mother-tongue retention rates by age group (Anglophone and Francophone)? How do these rates compare with those in the two previous censuses? Is a trend emerging?
2. Statistics Canada calls for caution when the 2011 data are compared with those from earlier censuses. Can we draw any conclusions or identify any trends with regard to the vitality of the two official languages in New Brunswick? If so, what are they?
3. According to Statistics Canada, “In New Brunswick, the share of French has declined somewhat, regardless of the characteristics.” What are the characteristics that best support such a conclusion, and how do they compare with the data from earlier censuses?
4. According to the data in the 2011 census, did immigration play a role in the vitality of the two official languages? If yes, what was that role?
5. Are there any data in the 2011 census that look positive for the vitality of our two official languages?
6. What should we think about the bilingualism rate (official languages) in the province? Is it increasing, stable, or decreasing in comparison with the earlier censuses?



Table 1. Official mother-tongue retention rates in New Brunswick by age group, 2001 to 2011

	Complete retention ¹			Partial retention ²			Total ³		
	2001	2006	2011	2001	2006	2011	2001	2006	2011
Mother tongue⁴	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
French	88.7	88.1	87.3	5.4	6.1	6.3	94.1	94.2	93.6
Under 15	96.3	95.4	95.2	2.2	3.2	3.3	98.5	98.6	98.5
15 to 24	92.5	92.5	90.7	4.3	4.9	5.6	96.9	97.4	96.4
25 to 44	87.3	87.2	86.6	6.8	7.6	7.8	94.1	94.8	94.4
45 to 64	85.6	85.5	85.2	6.3	6.7	6.9	91.8	92.2	92.1
65 and over	85.5	85.0	84.7	5.2	5.8	5.6	90.7	90.8	90.2
English	98.6	98.6	98.6	0.7	0.8	0.8	99.4	99.4	99.4
Under 15	98.9	99.1	98.7	0.6	0.6	0.9	99.5	99.7	99.6
15 to 24	98.6	99.0	98.9	0.7	0.6	0.7	99.3	99.5	99.5
25 to 44	98.1	98.0	98.2	1.1	1.1	1.1	99.2	99.1	99.3
45 to 64	98.9	98.6	98.5	0.5	0.8	0.7	99.4	99.4	99.3
65 and over	99.0	98.9	98.9	0.4	0.6	0.5	99.4	99.4	99.4

Sources: Statistics Canada, censuses of population, 2001, 2006, and 2011.

1. Retention is defined as “complete” when the mother tongue is spoken most often at home.
2. Retention is defined as “partial” when the mother tongue is spoken regularly but not most often at home.
3. The sum of complete retention and partial retention indicates the percentage of people who speak their mother tongue at home at least regularly.
4. Includes single and multiple responses.



Table 3b. Share of official languages in N.B. by different linguistic characteristics, 1971 to 2011

	1971	1981	1991	1996	2001	2006	2011
Linguistic characteristic	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Mother tongue¹	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
French	33.8	33.6	34.0	33.2	33.3	32.7	32.0
English	64.8	65.1	64.6	65.3	65.0	64.7	65.4
Non-official languages	1.3	1.2	1.4	1.5	1.7	2.6	2.6
First official language spoken¹	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
French	33.9	33.6	33.9	33.0	33.1	32.7	31.9
English	66.0	66.4	66.1	66.9	66.8	67.2	68.0
Neither French nor English	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.1
Language spoken most often at home¹	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
French	31.4	31.4	31.2	30.5	30.3	29.7	28.8
English	67.9	67.9	68.2	68.9	69.0	69.0	69.8
Non-official languages	0.8	0.7	0.7	0.6	0.7	1.2	1.4
Knowledge of official languages²							
French ³	37.4	39.4	42.0	42.6	43.4	43.6	42.2
English ³	84.0	87.0	87.4	89.9	90.7	89.6	90.9
French and English ³	21.5	26.5	29.5	32.6	34.2	33.4	33.2
Neither French nor English	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1

Sources: Statistics Canada, censuses of population, 1971, 1981, 1991, 1996, 2001, 2006, and 2011.

1. The multiple responses were equally distributed among the three linguistic groups except in the 1971 census.
2. The percentages do not add up to 100% because a person may have knowledge of more than one official language.
3. Includes all people reporting knowledge of this language, alone or with other languages.



Table 4a. Mother tongue and first official language spoken by immigrants to New Brunswick, 2001 to 2011

	2001		2006		2011		Variation (2001-2006)		Variation (2006-2011)	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Mother tongue	22,465	100.0	26,395	100.0	28,465	100.0	3,930		2,070	
French ¹	2,170	9.7	2,435	9.2	2,530	8.9	265	-0.4	95	-0.3
English ¹	13,615	60.6	14,325	54.3	15,070	52.9	710	-6.3	745	-1.3
French and English ¹	60	0.3	120	0.5	60	0.2	60	0.2	-60	-0.2
Non-official languages ²	6,620	29.5	9,515	36.0	10,805	38.0	2,895	6.6	1,290	1.9
First official language spoken	22,465	100.0	26,395	100.0	28,465	100.0	3,930		2,070	
French	2,535	11.3	3,080	11.7	3,125	11.0	545	0.4	45	-0.7
English	19,460	86.6	22,450	85.1	24,405	85.7	2,990	-1.6	1,955	0.7
French and English	285	1.3	580	2.2	595	2.1	295	0.9	15	-0.1
Neither French nor English	185	0.8	285	1.1	340	1.2	100	0.3	55	0.1

Sources: Statistics Canada, censuses of population, 2001 and 2006, and 2011 National Household Survey.

1. Includes respondents who reported this language with or without another non-official language.

2. Includes respondents who reported a non-official language as their only mother tongue.



Tableau 4b. Mother tongue and first official language spoken by recent immigrants to New Brunswick, 2001-2011 immigration period

	1996-2001 (in 2001)		2001-2006 (in 2006)		2006-2011 (in 2011)		Variation (2001-2006)		Variation (2006-2011)	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Mother tongue	2,570	100.0	4,295	100.0	7,155	100.0	1,725		2,860	
French ¹	160	6.2	195	4.5	550	7.7	35	-1.7	355	3.1
English ¹	955	37.2	1,260	29.3	2,075	29.0	305	-7.8	815	-0.3
French and English ¹	10	0.4	30	0.7	20	0.3	20	0.3	-10	-0.4
Non-official languages ²	1,445	56.2	2,810	65.4	4,505	63.0	1,365	9.2	1,695	-2.5
First official language spoken	2,575	100.0	4,300	100.0	7,155	100.0	1,725		2,855	
French	295	11.5	500	11.6	835	11.7	205	0.2	335	0.0
English	2,125	82.5	3,435	79.9	5,800	81.1	1,310	-2.6	2,365	1.2
French and English	75	2.9	220	5.1	290	4.1	145	2.2	70	-1.1
Neither French nor English	80	3.1	145	3.4	230	3.2	65	0.3	85	-0.2

Sources: Statistics Canada, censuses of population, 2001 and 2006, and 2011 National Household Survey.

1. Includes respondents who reported this language with or without another non-official language.

2. Includes respondents who reported a non-official language as their only mother tongue.



Table 5. Population of New Brunswick by different linguistic characteristics, 2001 to 2011

Linguistic characteristic	2001	2006	2011	Variation		
	Number	Number	Number	2001-2006	2006-2011	2001-2011
Mother tongue¹	719,710	719,650	739,900	-60	20,250	20,190
French	239,357	235,270	236,973	-4,087	1,703	-2,385
English	468,084	465,710	483,813	-2,374	18,103	15,729
Non-official languages	12,274	18,665	19,105	6,391	440	6,831
First official language spoken¹	719,710	719,650	739,895	-60	20,245	20,185
French	238,448	235,130	235,695	-3,318	565	-2,753
English	480,918	483,843	503,328	2,925	19,485	22,410
Neither French nor English	345	680	865	335	185	520
Language spoken most often at home¹	719,710	719,650	739,900	-60	20,250	20,190
French	217,773	213,885	213,142	-3,888	-743	-4,631
English	496,681	496,855	516,294	174	19,439	19,613
Non-official languages	5 256	8 910	10 459	3 654	1 549	5 203
Knowledge of official languages²	719,710	719,650	739,900	-60	20,250	20,190
French ³	312,280	313,839	312,265	1,559	-1,574	-15
English ³	652,860	645,131	672,560	-7,729	27,429	19,700
French and English ³	245,865	240,086	245,885	-5,779	5,799	20
Neither French nor English	430	766	955	336	189	525

Sources: Statistics Canada, censuses of population, 2001, 2006, and 2011.

1. The multiple responses were equally distributed among the three linguistic groups.

2. When added together, the numbers do not match the totals since a person may have knowledge of more than one official language.

3. Includes all people reporting knowledge of this language, alone or with other languages.



ICRML
Institut canadien
de recherche
sur les minorités
linguistiques

CIRLM
Canadian Institute
for Research
on Linguistic
Minorities

Table 6b. Bilingualism rates in N.B. by mother tongue and age group, 2001 to 2011

	2001	2006	2011	Variation		
Mother tongue ¹	%	%	%	2001-2006	2006-2011	2001-2011
French	71.9	68.5	71.4	-3.4	3.0	-0.4
Under 5	22.3	22.6	25.2	0.3	2.6	2.9
5 to 9	35.5	37.5	41.0	2.0	3.5	5.4
10 to 14	55.7	55.9	61.8	0.2	5.9	6.1
15 to 19	75.8	73.4	76.0	-2.4	2.5	0.2
20 to 24	85.0	77.2	80.9	-7.7	3.6	-4.1
25 to 29	84.3	78.7	83.1	-5.7	4.4	-1.3
30 to 34	84.0	80.2	84.2	-3.8	4.0	0.1
35 to 39	78.5	77.7	83.3	-0.8	5.6	4.8
40 to 44	78.9	75.1	80.0	-3.8	4.9	1.1
45 to 49	79.6	73.1	75.3	-6.5	2.2	-4.3
50 to 54	78.7	73.8	74.0	-4.9	0.2	-4.7
55 to 59	78.5	73.2	74.3	-5.3	1.1	-4.2
60 to 64	73.9	70.0	73.8	-3.9	3.8	-0.1
65 and over	67.1	62.7	66.6	-4.4	3.9	-0.5
English	15.8	16.7	15.9	0.9	-0.9	0.0
Under 5	4.9	4.4	5.8	-0.6	1.4	0.9
5 to 9	16.7	17.4	11.6	0.7	-5.8	-5.1
10 to 14	31.2	33.8	34.9	2.5	1.2	3.7
15 to 19	35.3	35.9	34.0	0.6	-2.0	-1.3
20 to 24	31.3	31.4	27.2	0.0	-4.2	-4.1
25 to 29	24.5	25.1	22.7	0.7	-2.5	-1.8
30 to 34	17.7	24.0	22.0	6.3	-2.0	4.3
35 to 39	11.2	17.1	20.8	5.9	3.7	9.6
40 to 44	10.5	11.2	16.0	0.7	4.8	5.5
45 to 49	10.7	10.3	10.7	-0.3	0.4	0.0
50 to 54	10.3	10.9	9.6	0.6	-1.3	-0.8
55 to 59	8.3	9.4	9.2	1.1	-0.2	0.9
60 to 64	8.4	8.9	8.7	0.5	-0.1	0.3
65 and over	5.6	6.2	6.4	0.7	0.2	0.8
Non-official languages	17.6	17.5	15.3	-0.2	-2.1	-2.3
Under 5	4.6	9.6	6.7	5.0	-2.9	2.1
5 to 9	12.0	19.4	16.5	7.5	-3.0	4.5
10 to 14	27.8	26.0	27.3	-1.8	1.3	-0.5
15 to 19	21.3	29.8	22.3	8.5	-7.5	1.0
20 to 24	17.0	14.2	16.6	-2.8	2.4	-0.4
25 to 29	19.1	22.6	15.2	3.5	-7.4	-3.9
30 to 34	25.0	13.6	15.8	-11.4	2.2	-9.2
35 to 39	17.2	18.6	15.5	1.5	-3.1	-1.7
40 to 44	16.6	19.6	12.6	3.0	-7.0	-4.0
45 to 49	19.5	17.0	13.3	-2.5	-3.7	-6.3
50 to 54	14.3	17.9	13.7	3.6	-4.2	-0.6
55 to 59	17.5	12.5	15.8	-5.1	3.4	-1.7
60 to 64	18.6	16.0	16.0	-2.6	0.0	-2.5
65 and over	13.5	14.9	12.4	1.4	-2.6	-1.1
Total New Brunswick	34.2	33.4	33.2	-0.8	-0.1	-0.9

Sources: Statistics Canada, censuses of population, 2001, 2006, and 2011.

1. Includes single and multiple responses.