

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE GENERAL PROFILE OF FRANCOPHONES IN ONTARIO

Demography

- There are 548,940 Francophones in Ontario; they represent 4.8% of the province's total population;
- In absolute numbers, Eastern Ontario accounts for 41.3% of Ontario's Francophone population; Central Ontario accounts for 25.6%, and Northeastern Ontario accounts for 25.2%. Southwestern Ontario accounts for 6.3% of Ontario's Francophone population and Northwestern Ontario accounts for 1.6%;
- Between 1996 and 2001, the Francophone population of Ontario increased by 6,600—a 1.2% increase in five years; and
- More than four out of every five Francophones in Ontario (81.5%) live in a region designated under the *French Language Services Act*.

Mobility and Place of Birth

- Between 1996 and 2001, 40,480 Francophones settled in Ontario; three out of five came from Quebec and one out of five came from another country;
- Over one-third (36.6%) of Francophones 20 years and over who arrived from Quebec settled in the Ottawa region and close to 15.0% settled in the Toronto region. Most (55.2%) of those from other countries settled in Central Ontario. 35.9% settled in Eastern Ontario; and
- Two out of every three Francophones were born in Ontario (65.1%).

Preservation of the Language

- The rate of preservation of the French language continues to decline. French is the language most often spoken in the home for 56.5% of Francophones;
- Parents play a central role in preservation of mother tongue. When the mother tongue of both parents is French, most children keep their mother tongue (91.7%). When only the mother reports that French is her mother tongue, 34.2% of children keep their mother tongue. When only the father reports the French is his mother tongue, 14.6% keep their mother tongue; and
- More than two out of every three Francophones (67.4%) report that they speak their mother tongue in the workplace (French spoken most often or regularly).