



WRHA FRENCH LANGUAGE SERVICES RESEARCH TIDBITS

Issue 5

FRANCOPHONE COMMUNITY PROFILE

WHO ARE THEY?

The Francophone Community Enhancement and Support Act defines Manitoba's Francophone community as those persons in Manitoba whose mother tongue is French and those persons in Manitoba whose mother tongue is not French but who have a special affinity for the French language and who use it on a regular basis in their daily life. Considering this statement, there are 109,945 Francophones in Manitoba representing eight point six percent (8.6%) of the Manitoba population. According to the 2016 census, Manitoba's francophone population has increased by 5,850 individuals since the 2011 census or a five point two percent increase (5.2%). Sixty five percent (65%) of the province's francophone population lives in the area served by the Winnipeg Regional Health Authority. Persons living in Winnipeg whose mother tongue is French and those persons living in Winnipeg whose mother tongue is not French but who have a special affinity for the French language and who use it on a regular basis in their daily life is up to 71,225 residents according to the last census.

DID YOU KNOW?

According to the 2016 census, Winnipeg's francophone population has increased by 3,955 individuals since the 2011 census or a four point four percent increase (4.4%).

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The majority of Winnipeg's Francophones reside in St. Boniface, St. Vital, St. Norbert, and River Heights, with a smaller pocket in St. James due to the military base and most recently new francophone immigrants settling in the inner city and Fort Garry.

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Based on anonymous self-declaration in the 2016 Aon Hewitt Staff Engagement Survey, 2,250 of 15,000 (14%) respondents have declared as speaking both official languages.

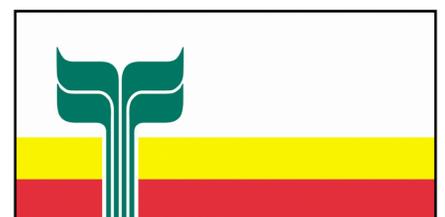
FACTS & FIGURES

- ▶ Francophone population in Manitoba (2016): 109,935
- ▶ Francophone population in Winnipeg (2016): 71,225
- ▶ Increase of 2,975 Francophones in Winnipeg since 2011
- ▶ Percentage of Francophones in Winnipeg (2016): 10.1%
- ▶ Number of Francophone schools (DSFM) in Winnipeg: 8
- ▶ Number of French immersion schools in Winnipeg: 17
- ▶ Designation of 900+ bilingual positions in the Winnipeg Health Region
- ▶ Bilingual designation of 30+ facilities, programs, services and agencies in the Winnipeg Health Region

Source: Statistics Canada, 2016 Census

FRANCO-MANITOBAN FLAG?

The Franco-Manitoban flag was unveiled in 1980 following a competition organized by the Conseil jeunesse provincial. Resulting from a popular vote, the choice of Franco-Manitobans was then the proposal of Franco-Manitoban graphic designer Cyril Parent.



HERITAGE & COMMUNITY

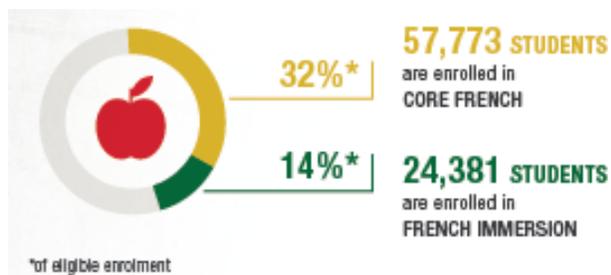
The Francophone community is a fundamental characteristic of the Manitoban identity. The francophone community has been present in Manitoba since the 18th century and is proud of their heritage. In fact, 2018 marks the bicentennial of the Archidiocèse de Saint-Boniface and the Université de Saint-Boniface. The francophone community is increasingly vibrant and the pride in the community continues to grow regardless of the linguistic tensions it has faced over the past century. Significant progress has been made in Manitoba over the past forty years since the language crisis, and the Francophone community has obtained many of the infrastructures it needs to live and flourish in its own language. Manitoba's Francophone Community has several strengths such as being geographically concentrated and having a cohesive Francophone non-governmental organization network (over 30 provincial organizations and countless regional organizations). Over the past decades, the Francophone community has been striving to build a strong sense of identity in young Francophones, to normalize and promote the French fact in all sectors of activity, and to successfully integrate and retain Francophone immigrants.

Louis David Riel was a Canadian politician, a founder of the province of Manitoba, and a political leader of the Métis people of the Canadian Prairies.



EDUCATION

Close to half of all Francophones in Manitoba have either not completed or gone beyond their high school studies. However, more than 6,300 (16 %) of them have gone to university, a proportion that is similar to the national average for Francophones and a bit higher than the provincial average for Anglophones.



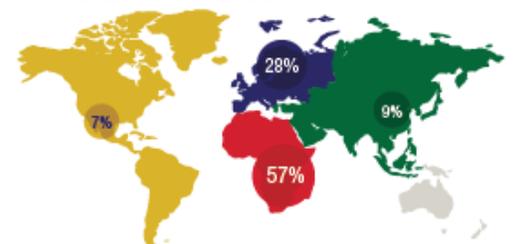
IMMIGRATION

The region's francophone population has dramatically changed over the years due to a natural shifting of immigration patterns, combined with targeted immigration efforts in French-speaking regions such as France, Belgium, as well as the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Morocco and Mauritius. Forty percent of the province's French-speaking immigrants arrived in Manitoba after 1996. It should also be noted that a strong percentage of the Francophone immigrants who settled in the past ten years are of African origin.

Many of the recent Francophone immigrants and refugees entering the Winnipeg Health Region system are requiring use of the whole continuum of health care services, from primary care to acute care and chronic care. They also often require the support of social services.

Some designated bilingual WRHA services are being strained to provide required services in French and some facilities, programs, services and agencies are frequently resorting to using the interpretation services of the WRHA Language Access program. While these interpretation services are of undeniable value, it is known that health care discussions are best held directly in the language of the client's choice, with trained interpreters being a secondary, yet viable option.

WHERE WERE FRENCH-SPEAKING IMMIGRANTS BORN?



FLS PRINCIPLES

French language Services in Manitoba:

- ▶ Occur within an officially bilingual country (recognized in the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms)
- ▶ Are constitutionally entrenched (legislation, courts, education)
- ▶ Are governed by a provincial law (entrenching principles for offering services in French)
- ▶ Are the subject of a recently renewed policy (services across government)

Bilingualism is one of Canada's and Manitoba's greatest strengths.

WHY FRENCH

Bonjour 你好 Hello
Manitoba

HISTORY

- ▶ In 1731, explorer Pierre Gauthier de La Vérendrye and his sons were the first Europeans to reach the territory now called Manitoba;
- ▶ For about a century and a half, the Métis (people of mixed First Nation and European ancestry) made up the majority of the population in this territory. Most were Francophone;
- ▶ When Manitoba entered the Canadian federation in 1870, its population comprised an almost equal number of Anglophones and Francophones. Guarantees were therefore included in the provincial constitution to preserve this linguistic duality. These guarantees protected bilingualism of laws, courts and denominational schools;
- ▶ Between 1870 and 1890, with the arrival of many English-speaking Ontarians and immigrants from Eastern Europe, major demographic changes occurred in Manitoba, and Francophones became a minority group;
- ▶ In 1890, the provincial government abolished the official status of French in the legislative assembly and in the courts with the Official Language Act, making English the only official language of Manitoba.
- ▶ In 1916, the government eliminated the funding that it provided to denominational schools and prohibited the teaching of French in public schools;
- ▶ Between 1976 and 1979, Saint-Boniface insurance broker and founder of the Festival du Voyageur (and Métis) Georges Forest used a unilingual parking ticket to challenge Manitoba's language law in the Supreme Court of Canada... and won;
- ▶ In 1979, the Supreme Court of Canada ruled that the 1890 act making English the only official language of Manitoba was unconstitutional and restored the bilingualism of Manitoba's laws and courts;
- ▶ From 1983-1984, debate over how the government of Manitoba should deal with this ruling led to the French Language Crisis. Anti-French sentiment became so pronounced that the offices of the Société franco-manitobaine (SFM) were firebombed, anti-French graffiti littered the streets of St. Boniface and the SFM's President had to relocate his family out of province due to death threats. Eventually, tensions cooled and the government of Manitoba realized it had certain unavoidable obligations;
- ▶ In 1990, the Gauthier Report was published with recommendations for French Language Services;
- ▶ In 1994, Franco-Manitobans regained control of their schools;
- ▶ In 1999, the Cartier Report was published with recommendations on French Languages Services within the government of Manitoba;
- ▶ In 2016, the provincial government adopted the Francophone Community Enhancement and Support Act, which contributes to the vitality of the community.

POLICY & LEGISLATIVE OBLIGATIONS

The Manitoba government continues to acknowledge the contribution of the Francophone community to the province's economic and cultural diversity and is committed to supporting the development and vitality of Manitoba's Francophone community. Pursuant to section 23 of the Manitoba Act, 1870, English and French have an official status in the legislative and judicial spheres of government in the province. In Reference Re Manitoba Language Rights, the Supreme Court of Canada, in discussing the intent of section 23, stated that "the purpose of . . . section 23 of the Manitoba Act, 1870 . . . was to ensure equal access to the legislatures, the laws and the courts for Francophones and Anglophones alike". As a result, all provincial statutes and regulations must be passed in English and French and the courts must be able to operate in both languages.

In addition to these constitutional obligations, the Government of Manitoba adopted a FLS Policy in 1989. The fundamental purpose of the Policy is to ensure that government departments and agencies provide their services in both English and French in geographic areas of the province where the French-speaking population is concentrated. Over the past 30 years the Government of Manitoba has taken measures to foster the enhancement of the vitality of Manitoba's Francophone community as it sanctioned numerous acts, regulations and policies such as: Public Schools Act, Bilingual and Francophone Facilities and Programs Designation Regulation (131/2013) of The Regional Health Authorities Act, Part 9 of The City of Winnipeg Charter Act, The Bilingual Service Centres (BSC) Act, The Centre culturel franco-manitobain Act, The Université de Saint-Boniface Act, The Regional Health Authorities Act - FLS Regulation. Since, the Manitoba government has enacted the Francophone Community Enhancement and Support Act in 2017. With this simple gesture, Manitoba has been propelled to the forefront of provinces that have progressively enhanced French-language rights at the provincial level in recent decades. At the national level, Manitoba is being recognized as a leader among provinces because of its explicit legislative recognition of the francophone community.

UNIVERSITIES

►The University of Manitoba, Faculty of Health Sciences has a bilingual (French/English) stream in Family Medicine. Enrollment has been relatively stable over the last couple years. 2016-2017: 8 residents.

►The St. Boniface University has seen positive enrollment trends in their nursing, social work and health care aide programs. 2017-2018: 34 students in nursing (BN), 10 students in nursing (RN), 10 students in the nurses aid program and 28 students in social work.



OVER 2,000 STUDENTS

attend the Université de Saint-Boniface,
the only French-language university in Western Canada.

IN A NUTSHELL...



Nearly **5,400 STUDENTS**
attend French-language schools
(2015-2016)



8.9% INCREASE
over the
past 5 years!

23 FRENCH-LANGUAGE EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

WHERE WERE THEY BORN?

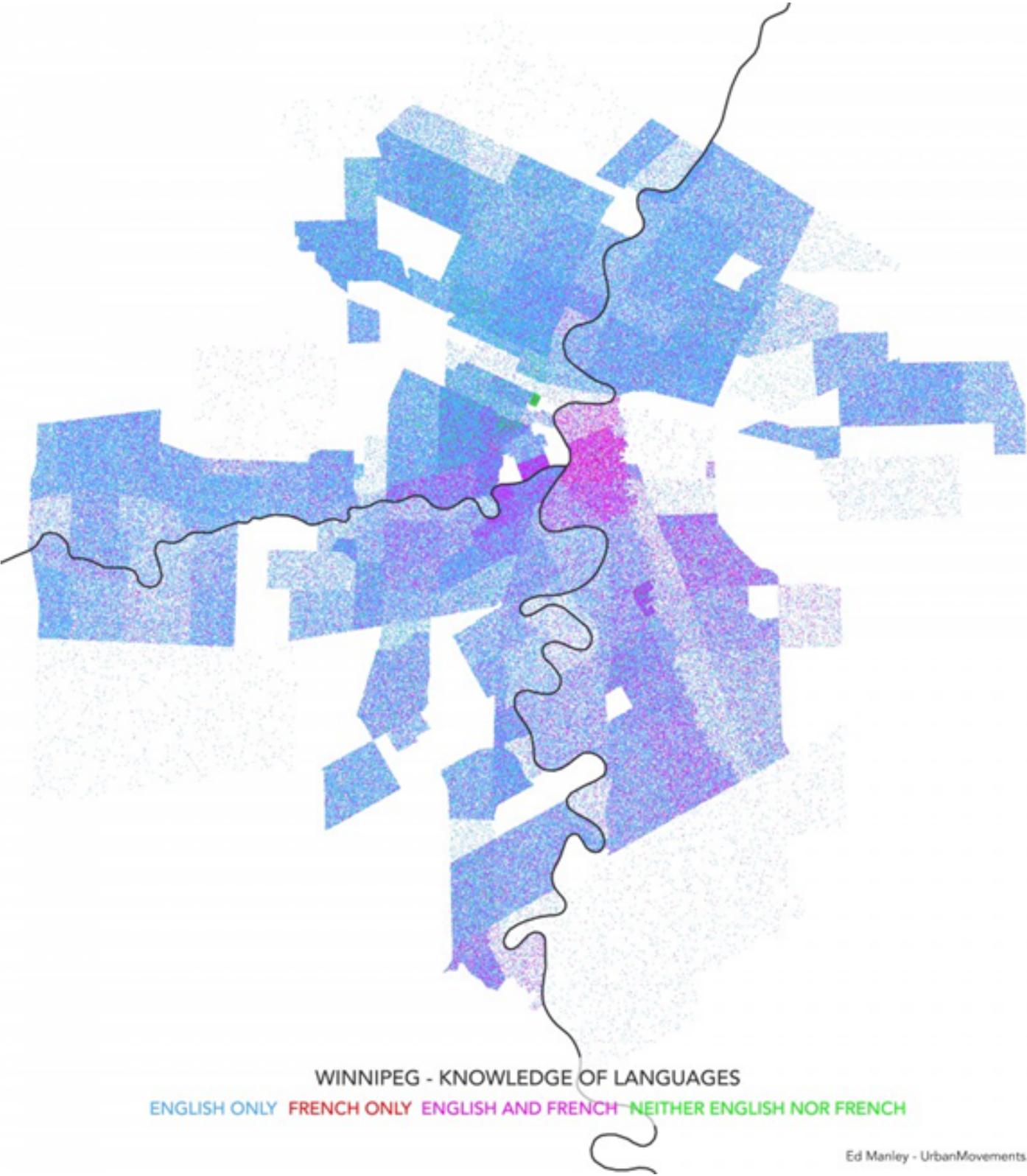


In Manitoba: **74%**

Elsewhere in Canada: **15%**

Abroad: **11%**

KNOWLEDGE OF LANGUAGES IN WINNIPEG



OUR COMMITMENT

The Winnipeg Health Region and all its service providers aim to:

- ▶ Improve access to health services in French, including primary health care;
- ▶ Ensure there are an appropriate number of organizations able to provide health services in French, consistent with Ministry standards;
- ▶ Ensure an adequate distribution of health professionals who are able to provide care in French;
- ▶ Provide information and resources in French;
- ▶ Respond to issues of interest and concern;
- ▶ Focus on the Active Offer of services in French;
- ▶ Increase staff awareness about needs of the French-speaking community;
- ▶ Collaborate with Francophone community representatives, and;
- ▶ Facilitate changes to improve the quality of services provided.



RESOURCES

The Winnipeg Regional Health Authority French Language Services mandate is:

To assist the WRHA in promoting and providing health services in French in accordance with its French Language Services policies, the Government of Manitoba French Language Services Policy, and regulations established under the legislation governing the Regional Health Authorities of Manitoba.

VIDEO - The importance of Active Offer



VIDEO - What is an Active Offer and why is it so important?



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