

Alberta and the Francophonie

Timeline of the Government of Alberta's efforts to support the development of the Francophonie

1877	French and English are the official languages used in the Northwest Territories Legislative Assembly which Alberta was part of at the time. We can speak both languages in schools and in court. All statutes and regulations are to be published in French and English.	1988	The province enacts a new Education Act to respect the provisions of section 23 of the Charter. However, the Act does not recognize the right of Francophone parents to the governance of their schools.
1891	The Canadian Parliament authorizes the Northwest Territories Legislative Assembly to use the language of their choice during debates but the statutes and regulations must be published in both languages.	1993	Following the decision of the Supreme Court of Canada in 1990, the right of Francophone parents to school governance is recognized (Mahé Case).
1896	French education is permitted for the first two years of elementary education.	1995	For criminal proceedings, Alberta establishes services in French.
1905	Alberta becomes a province. The Act creating the province is proclaimed in both languages and linguistics rights are not mentioned. Article 110 of the Northwest Territories continues to apply until 1988.	1997	The first Canada-Alberta Agreement on French Language Services is signed.
1936	The adoption of the Law for larger school boards that includes clauses that maintain the rights of Catholics and Francophones.	1998	Alberta becomes a member of the Association of Francophone Parliamentarians.
1964	The Legislative Assembly adopts the Association canadienne-française de l'Alberta (ACFA) Act that incorporates and ensures the independence of the organization established in 1926.	1999	The Francophone Secretariat is created and the Government of Alberta joins the Ministerial Conference on the Canadian Francophonie.
1964	Amendment to the School Act permitting the teaching of French one hour per day for Grades 1 to 9.	1999	Francophone school governance is restructured to create five Francophone regional authorities. In 2013, the two Francophone school boards in southern Alberta are amalgamated. Since then, the province has a total of four Francophone school boards.
1968	Amendment to the School Act permitting the teaching of French up to 50% of the time for Grades 3-12.	1999	The Legislative Assembly begins a tradition of celebrating the Rendez-vous de la Francophonie in the rotunda of the Legislature Building.
1969	Adoption of the Official Languages Act of Canada.*	2000	Alberta becomes a member of the Ministerial Conference on Canadian Francophonie after having observer status since 1998.
1970	Establishment of the Official Languages in Education Program, which encouraged the provincial government and school boards to introduce immersion programs.	2007	Installation of the monument « L'empreinte francophone » on the Legislature grounds to highlight the contributions of Alberta's Francophonie to the development of the province.
1976	Amendment to the School Act permitting the teaching of French up to 80%.	2013	Adoption of a regulation under section 4(1) of Alberta's Language Act that clarifies the use of French in proceedings under the Provincial Offences Procedure Act.
1978	Alberta tables its Policy on Minority Language Instruction and establishes the Language Services Branch within the Department of Education.	2017	Adoption of a first French Policy and adoption of the Franco-Albertan flag as an official emblem of Alberta as a symbol of distinction.
1980	The Legislative Assembly adopts the Fondation de l'ACFA Act that incorporates and ensures the relative financial independence of the ACFA.		
1982	Adoption of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms.*		
1983	Inauguration of the first private Francophone school – École Georges et Julia Bugnet : without public funding, the school closes after one school year.		
1984	Inauguration of the first two publicly funded Francophone schools: Maurice Lavallée in Edmonton (K-8) and Saint-Antoine in Calgary (K-6).		
1988	The province adopts a policy on French as a second language (FSL) instruction, with a view to creating learning opportunities for all students in Alberta, through French immersion programs, and FSL and related courses.		

**Federal legislation that has important implications for Francophones living in minority situations.*