

# The Francophonie in Alberta: Strong and Vibrant

## A Rich Heritage

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**17<sup>th</sup> century:** Brought by fur traders, French is the first European language spoken in Alberta.
- 1877:** French and English are both used in the Northwest Territories Legislative Assembly, which Alberta is part of.
- 1905:** The Act creating the Province of Alberta is proclaimed in both languages but does not mention linguistics rights.
- 1964:** The Legislative Assembly adopts the ACFA Act that incorporates this organization created in 1926.
- 1984:** Inauguration of the first two publicly funded Francophone schools.
- 1988:** Alberta adopts the *Languages Act* and officially becomes a unilingual province but provides the ability to use French in the Legislature and in the courts.
- 1999:** Alberta creates the Francophone Secretariat and joins the Ministerial Conference on the Canadian Francophonie.
- 2017:** Alberta adopts its first French Policy and recognizes the Franco-Albertan flag as an emblem.



## Growing Population


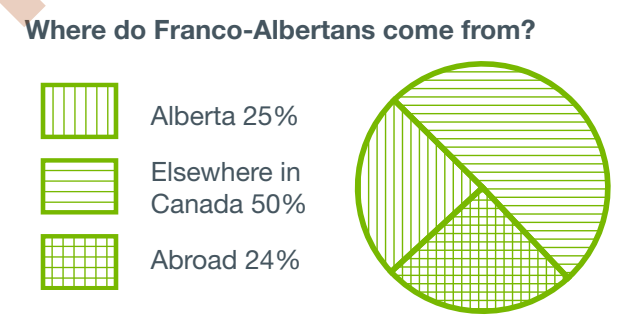
- 7%** of Albertans speak French

  - ▶ Up 19% between 2006 and 2016
  - ▶ French is the most common language spoken in Alberta after English
- 2%** of Albertans have French as a mother tongue

  - ▶ Up 27% between 2006 and 2016
- 10.5%** of Albertans are of French or French-Canadian descent

**Alberta has:**

- ▶ the 3<sup>rd</sup> largest minority Francophone population in the country after Ontario and New Brunswick
- ▶ the highest Francophone population growth after Québec

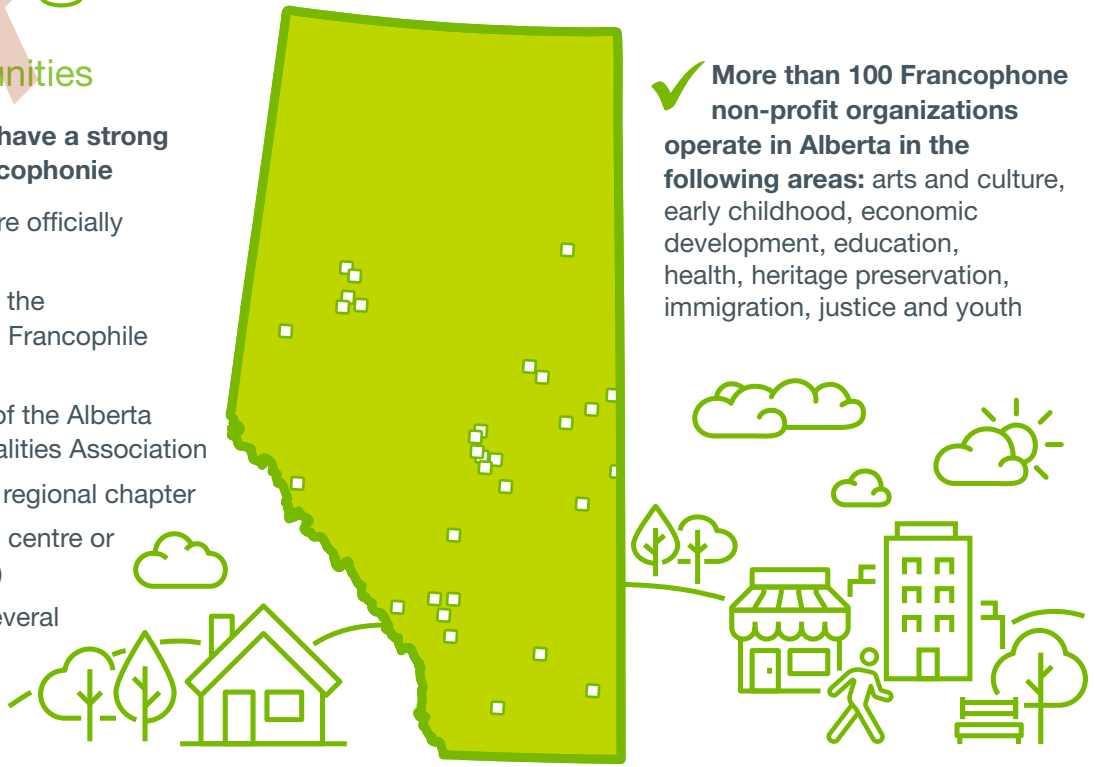



## Thriving Communities

- ✓ **31 communities have a strong and vibrant Francophonie**

  - ▶ 4 municipalities are officially bilingual
  - ▶ 4 are members of the Francophone and Francophile Cities Network
  - ▶ 13 are members of the Alberta Bilingual Municipalities Association
  - ▶ 14 have an ACFA regional chapter
  - ▶ 15 have a cultural centre or other institution(s)
  - ▶ 27 have one or several Francophone school(s)

✓ **More than 100 Francophone non-profit organizations operate in Alberta in the following areas:** arts and culture, early childhood, economic development, education, health, heritage preservation, immigration, justice and youth



## Events



### Many events bring together Francophones and Francophiles from across the province:

- ▶ Flying Canoë Volant | February | Edmonton
- ▶ Carnaval de St-Isidore | February | Northern Alberta
- ▶ Alberta Francophonie Month | March | Everywhere in the province
- ▶ Calgary Maple Festival des Sucres | March | Calgary
- ▶ Fête franco-albertaine | July | Nordegg

## Media

### Print:

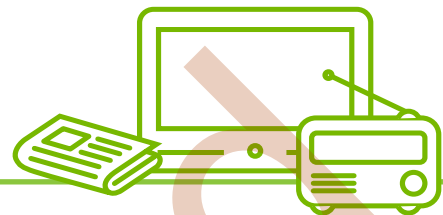
- ▶ Le Franco

### TV:

- ▶ Radio-Canada ICI Télé
- ▶ Unis TV

### Radio:

- ▶ CHPL 92.1 FM (Plamondon, Lac La Biche)
- ▶ CJSR Fourre Tout 88 FM (Edmonton)
- ▶ CKRP 95.7 FM (Falher, Peace River)
- ▶ Radio Canada ICI Musique
- ▶ Radio Canada ICI Première
- ▶ Radio Cité 97.9 FM (Edmonton)



## Education Continuum In French

### Schools:

#### 1 in 3 Alberta students is learning French

- ▶ Francophone students: 8,403
  - Up 34% since 2013
  - 42 Francophone schools
  - 4 Francophone regional authorities
- ▶ French Immersion students: 45,543
- ▶ Students enrolled in a French as a Second Language course: 146,439

### Early childhood:

#### 20 Francophone daycares

- ▶ 640 spaces

### Postsecondary education:

#### Campus Saint-Jean, University of Alberta

- ▶ 849 students
- ▶ 2 collegial programs
- ▶ 7 undergraduate programs
- ▶ 2 master's programs



## Glossary

**Franco-Albertan** – A Francophone who lives in Alberta.

**Francophone** – A person who speaks French and identifies to French socially or culturally, regardless of ethnic origin or first language learned.

**Francophonie** – Inclusive term to describe French-speaking individuals and communities, and to represent the organizations that support their vitality.

**Francophone education** – French is taught as a first language; provides a high proficiency in French and an educational experience built around Francophone culture, identity and community.

**Francophile** – A person who appreciates and supports French language and cultures.

**French as a Second Language (FSL) courses** – French is taught as a school subject; optional course that provides basic skills in French.

**French immersion programs** – French is taught as a second language; provides support in the development of French language skills and cultural appreciation.

**French-speaking** – A person who speaks French, regardless of ethnic origin or first language learned.

### Sources:

- Campus Saint Jean, University of Alberta (2017-18 data)
- Corporate Data Warehouse, Government of Alberta
- Fédération des parents francophones de l'Alberta (2018 data)
- Ministry of Education, Government of Alberta (2017-18 data)
- Office of the Commissioner of Official Languages
- Statistics Canada (2006, 2011 and 2016 censuses)

