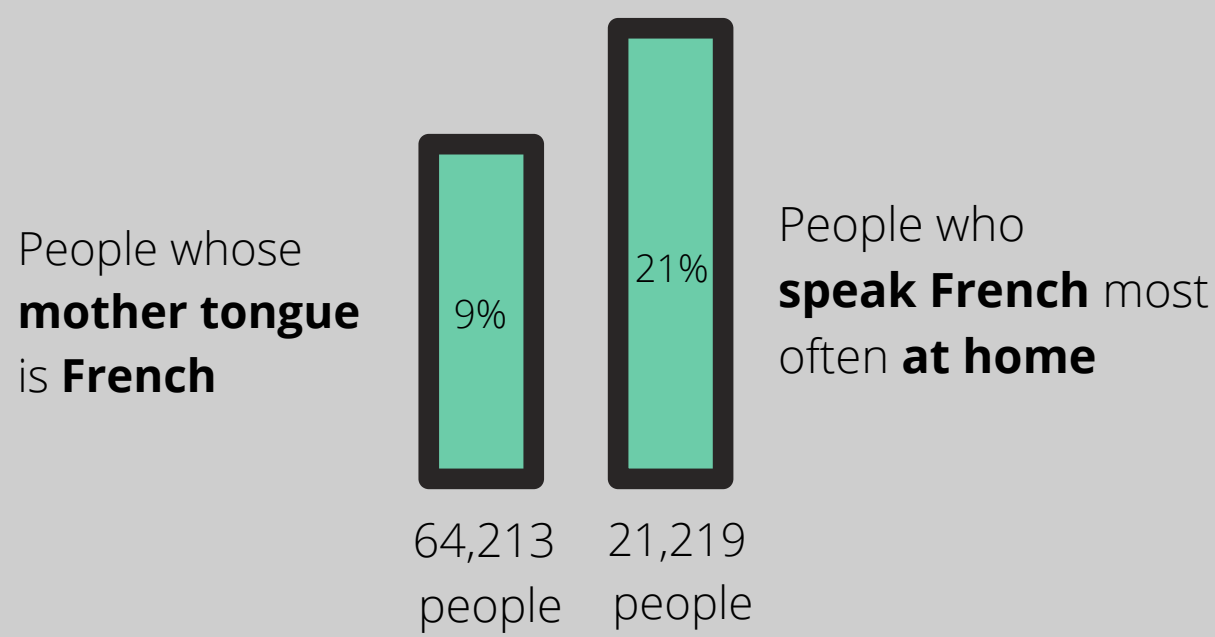


# The French Presence in BRITISH COLUMBIA



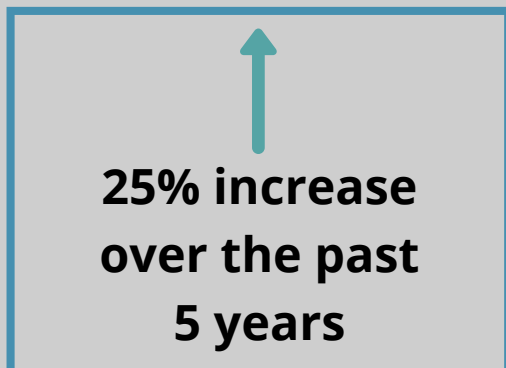
**French** is the **first official language** of **1.4% of the population** (64,325 people)

**7% of the population** (314,925 people) can **speak both English and French**

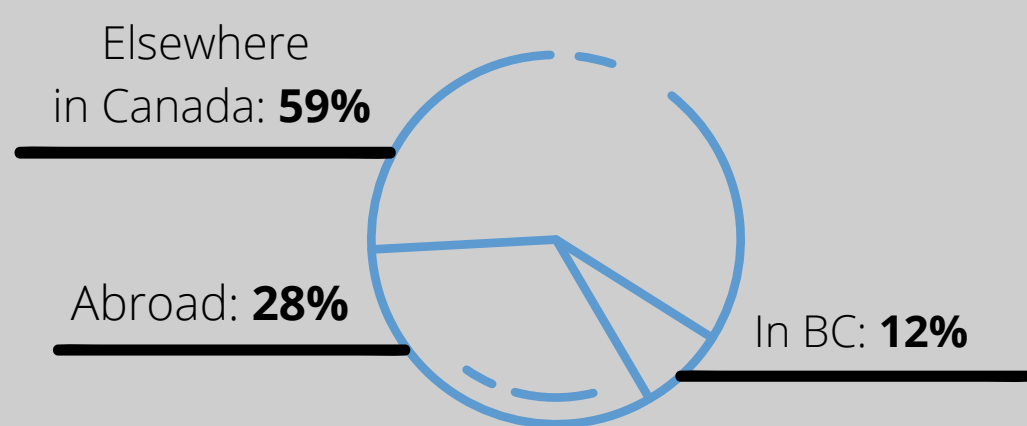
Nearly **6,000 students** are enrolled in French-language schools (2016-2017)



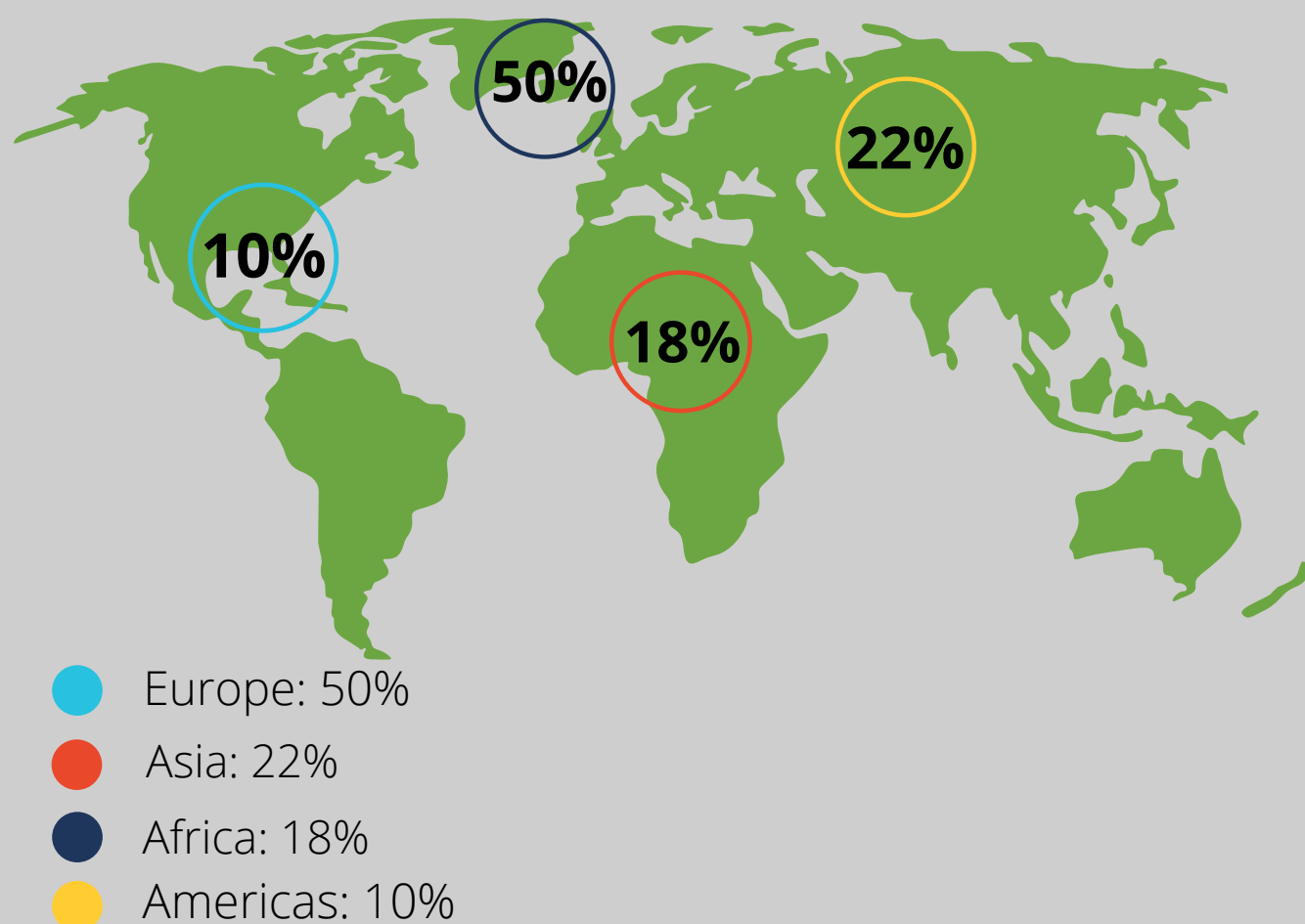
**40 French-language schools**



## WHERE WERE THEY BORN?



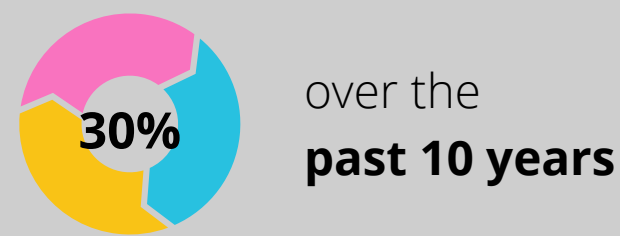
## WHERE WERE FRENCH-SPEAKING IMMIGRANTS BORN?



- MEDIA**
- La Source
  - CILS FM 107.9 (Victoria) and Radio-Canada ICI Première and ICI Musique
  - ICI Radio-Canada Télé and Unis TV

**53,206 students (9.5%)** are enrolled in **French immersion** (2016-2017)

**French immersion** enrollment **has increased nearly**



\*eligible of enrollment



**1/3 of public school students (173,013)** are enrolled in core French (2016-2017)



**Simon Fraser University** offers post-secondary education in French.

## WHERE DO FRANCOPHONES LIVE?

### ECONOMIC REGIONS



- Lower Mainland-Southwest: **58%**
- Vancouver Island and Coast: **20%**
- Thompson-Okanagan: **12%**
- Kootenay: **4%**
- Cariboo: **3%**
- Northeast: **1%**
- North Coast: **1%**
- Nechako: **1%**

## CELEBRATE



- The **Festival du Bois** in Maillardville honours French-Canadian traditions and culture. It is the largest Francophone festival on Canada's West Coast.
- Victoria's **Festival de la francophonie** showcases local Francophone and francophile bands, Francophone artisans and community organizations.
- The **Festival d'été francophone** in Vancouver celebrates French-Canadian music and culture.

## HISTORY

- In 1793, six French-Canadian voyageurs, accompanied by Alexander Mackenzie, reached the Pacific.
- By 1812, over 300 French Canadians were engaged in fur trading and farming.
- Before the gold rush of 1858, French was the most spoken language in the west.
- Quebec families arrived in 1909 and settled along the Fraser River east of Vancouver, which would become Maillardville.
- The Fédération des francophones de la Colombie-Britannique was created in 1945, at a time when the province's French-speaking community was establishing itself. Today, the Fédération continues to represent the community's interests in British Columbia.
- The Franco-Columbian flag was adopted in 1982.
- The Legislative Assembly has recognized Franco-Columbians' education rights since 1997.

### Sources:

- Statistics Canada, 2016 Census of Population
- Statistics Canada, 2011 National Household Survey
- Fédération des communautés francophones et acadienne du Canada(link is external) (in French only)
- Profiles of the Francophone and Acadian Communities of Canada(link is external)
- Canadian Parents for French(link is external)
- Conseil scolaire francophone de la Colombie-Britannique(link is external) (in French only)