

Linguistic questions in the census: your answers are precious!

For the first time in history, questions were added to Statistics Canada's census in order to enumerate those entitled to instruction in French in minority communities. This is crucial for the Department of Education and the CSFY to determine the number of students eligible for the French first language program and to plan resources accordingly. Your answers are precious! Here is an overview of reasons.

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Part of a French/English Bilingual Family? Here's Why the Census Matters.

Is your spouse a Francophone? Do your kids speak French and/or go to a French-language school? **Here's some useful information to know before filling out the census.**

Your answers to language questions in the census have an impact on bilingual services and activities in your community.

Governments, municipalities and community organizations use language data from the census to plan where and how to offer French-language or bilingual services. Day camps, recreation programs, schools, and other community services all rely on data from the census.

In addition, this year there's a **new question in the census** that will help determine exactly how many people in Canada have a right to education in the official language of the minority. If you or your spouse have received part of your education in French, your children have the right to receive their education in French.

Accurate answers that reflect the language reality of your household help us better help your community

If you're filling out the census for everyone in your family, be mindful that answers to language questions may vary depending on the individual. Be sure to discuss the language questions in the census with your spouse and other people in your household to provide the most accurate answers possible – especially with regards to languages spoken at home.

Only by understanding the place of French in the daily life of your family can governments, municipalities and organizations better serve you and your community.

Here's what the language questions in the census look like.

The census addresses four overarching themes regarding language.

- 1) Mother tongue. The census will ask you about the first language each person in your household learned in childhood and still understands.
- 2) Language knowledge. The census will ask about which official language (English, French) each member of your household can understand well enough to hold a conversation.
- 3) Language use. The census will ask what languages each person in your household speaks regularly at home. Is one of those languages spoken most often?
- 4) Education. The census will ask what language each person in your household received their education in. If you or your partner received your education in French in a bilingual school or via a French-language class in an English-language school, it still counts as French-language education.