

### Francophones in New Brunswick Losing Some Ground

Statistics Canada observed changes in response patterns to both the mother tongue and home language questions on the 2011 Census questionnaire relative to previous censuses. Data users are advised to exercise caution when evaluating trends related to mother tongue and home language that compare 2011 Census data to that of previous censuses.

- Outside of Quebec, New Brunswick has the highest percentage of people with a French mother tongue. However, the French language in New Brunswick seems to be losing some ground.
- In 2011, about 233,530 people or 31.6% of the population reported their mother tongue as French only, down from 32.4% of the population (232,980 people) that reported a French only mother tongue in 2006. Additionally, only 28.4% of New Brunswickers (209,885 people) spoke French most often at home in 2011, compared to 29.4% (211,665 people) that said they spoke it most often at home in 2006.
- Anglophones still make up the majority of the population. In 2011, 64.9% of New Brunswick's population reported English as their only mother tongue, up slightly from the 64.4% share registered in 2006. Furthermore, English was the language spoken most often at home by 69.2% of the population in 2011.
- There was little change between 2006 and 2011 in the proportion of persons with a non-official language as their only mother tongue (i.e., allophones). Their share remained stable at 2.5%.

Selected language	2011				2006			
	Mother Tongue		Language spoken most often at home		Mother Tongue		Language spoken most often at home	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Total	739,900	100.0	739,895	100.0	719,650	100.0	719,650	100.0
English	479,935	64.9	512,115	69.2	463,190	64.4	494,215	68.7
French	233,530	31.6	209,885	28.4	232,980	32.4	211,665	29.4
Non-official language	18,395	2.5	9,310	1.3	18,320	2.5	8,350	1.2
Aboriginal language	2,545	0.3	1,130	0.2	3,070	0.4	1,395	0.2
Non-Aboriginal language	15,850	2.1	8,180	1.1	15,250	2.1	6,955	1.0
Multiple responses	8,045	1.1	8,590	1.2	5,160	0.7	5,420	0.8

Note: Counts for mother tongue and language spoken most often at home include single responses only.

Sources: Statistics Canada, censuses of population, 2006 and 2011.