

Mother tongue and home language of New Brunswickers

[Mother tongue](#) refers to the first language learned at home during childhood and still understood by the individual at the time of the census. [Home language](#), in this analysis, refers to the language spoken most often at home at the time of the census. Most respondents report only one language; however, some report more than one.

- The proportion of the population who reported English or French as their mother tongue or home language has been falling over time, while non-official languages (languages other than English and French) are becoming more common.
- Between 2011 and 2016, there was a modest decline in the proportion of New Brunswickers who reported English only or French only as a mother tongue. In 2016, 64.2% of New Brunswick's population reported English as their only mother tongue (down from 64.9% in 2011) and 31.4% reported French only (down from 31.6% in 2011). Decreased proportions over this period were also evident among those who reported speaking only English or French at home.
- At the same time, the proportion of the population who reported a single non-official language as their mother tongue rose from 2.5% in 2011 to 3.1% in 2016. Similarly, the share of those speaking a single non-official language at home increased from 1.3% in 2011 to 1.7% in 2016.
- Nationally, 56.0% of Canadians reported English as their only mother tongue in 2016, 20.6% reported French only and 21.1% reported a non-official language only. The respective proportions for home language spoken were 63.7% for English only, 20.0% French only and 11.5% for a single non-official language.

Mother tongue and language spoken most often at home for the total population excluding institutional residents, N.B., 2011 and 2016									
	2016				2011				
	Mother tongue		Language spoken most often at home		Mother tongue		Language spoken most often at home		
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	
Total	736,280	100.0	736,280	100.0	739,900	100.0	739,895	100.0	
English	472,725	64.2	505,935	68.7	479,930	64.9	512,110	69.2	
French	231,110	31.4	206,315	28.0	233,530	31.6	209,885	28.4	
Non-official language	23,150	3.1	12,690	1.7	18,395	2.5	9,310	1.3	
English and French	7,285	1.0	7,275	1.0	6,580	0.9	6,235	0.8	
English and non-official language	1,535	0.2	3,435	0.5	1,120	0.2	2,020	0.3	
French and non-official language	330	0.0	340	0.0	250	0.0	175	0.0	
English, French and non-official language	145	0.0	290	0.0	95	0.0	160	0.0	

Source: Statistics Canada, 2011 and 2016 Census Profiles