



Office of the
Commissioner of
Official Languages

Commissariat
aux langues
officielles

Accessing opportunity

A study on challenges in French-as-a-second-language education teacher supply and demand in Canada

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National Table for French as a Second Language

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Methodology

- Literature review
- Interviews with representatives from ministries of education, university faculties and school boards
- Interviews with FSL teacher candidates
- On-line survey of teacher candidates

Key findings

Literature

- Overall increase in demand from parents for FSL programs (especially French immersion)
- A general and persistent shortage of qualified FSL teachers in Canada

Key findings

Some factors related to the shortage of FSL teachers

- Lack of French-language proficiency combined with linguistic insecurity for teacher candidates
- Poor working conditions of FSL teachers
- Difficulty for those wishing to teach French who come from outside the country to integrate the education system

Recommendations

The federal minister of official languages should assume a clear national leadership:

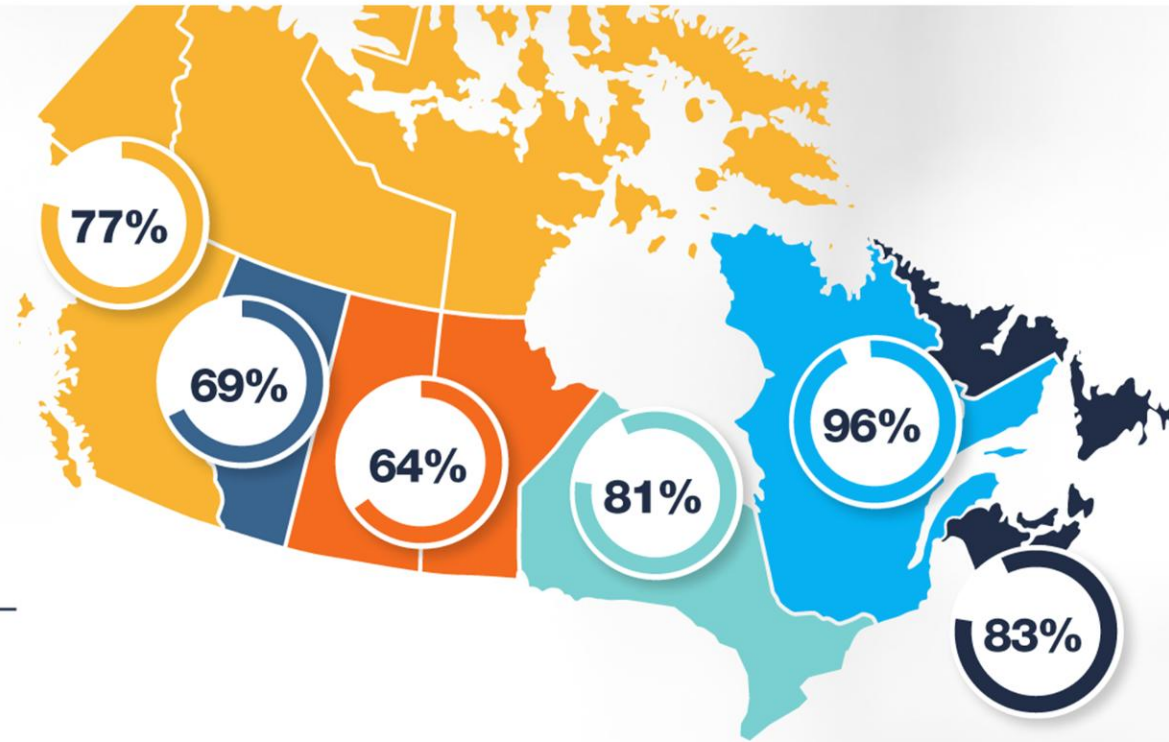
- Establish a national FSL consultation table
- Lead a pan-Canadian strategy for FSL teacher recruitment and retention
- Work with IRCC to facilitate the process for French-speaking immigrants with a degree in education from their country to successfully integrate into Canadian FSL teaching positions and classrooms

What do Canadians think?



8 OUT OF 10 CANADIANS AGREE

that more needs to be done so that
young people can become bilingual



CANADIANS SUPPORT OFFICIAL LANGUAGES:

*English and French should
continue to be taught in
elementary schools across
Canada*

91%
AGREE

*If it takes more resources to guarantee
the same quality of education for
students from official language
minority communities, then those
resources should be made available*

81%
AGREE

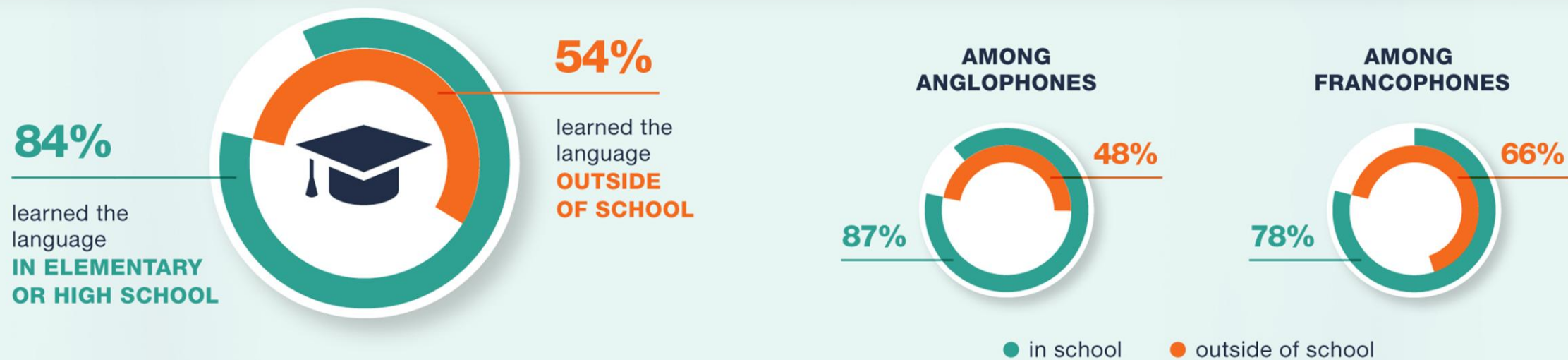
76%
AGREE

*Provincial governments
should make more spaces
available in immersion
programs*

72%
AGREE

*The Government of Canada should do more
to support college and university programs
for those who want to study in French
outside Quebec*

AMONG CANADIANS WHO CAN SPEAK IN THEIR SECOND OFFICIAL LANGUAGE:



**MORE THAN
3 OUT OF
4 PARENTS**


feel it is important for their children to have the opportunity to learn both official languages and become bilingual.*

*Results of an online panel survey (sample: 1,500 respondents) conducted by Environics for the Office of the Commissioner of Official Languages in September and October 2021.


Survey conducted by Environics for the Office of the Commissioner of Official Languages in September and October 2021. The telephone survey results (sample: 1,507 respondents) have a margin of error at the national level of $\pm 2.5\%$, 19 out of 20.

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**How can we promote FSL to parents
and how can we facilitate access to
FSL programs for those who want it?**



“Education programs in French as a second language are at the heart of Canadian bilingualism. Ours is a shared linguistic ecosystem [I]t is in everyone’s interest to support access to opportunities to become bilingual in all parts of the country.”

- Commissioner of Official Languages Raymond Th  berge



QUESTIONS ?