

## **Ontario Math is different from Statistics Canada math**

Ontario is claiming 611,500 Francophones with the last census. Statistics Canada is claiming 493,300 Francophones in Ontario. Why the difference? Simply, Ontario changed the definition in 2009, our federal government continues to use mother tongue as the determining factor. This is another reason why Canada needs a discussion on language, as we see government making changes without wide consultation and in many cases, no actual need.

**Ontario June 4, 2009** <http://www.ofa.gov.on.ca/en/news-090604.html>

Ontario is introducing a new definition of the province's Francophone population that will better reflect the evolution and diversity of Ontario's Francophone communities.

For statistics gathering purposes, Francophones were previously defined as only those whose mother tongue is French. This new inclusive definition captures those whose mother tongue is neither French nor English, but who have a particular knowledge of French as an Official Language and use French at home, including many recent immigrants to Ontario.

Under the previous definition roughly 50,000 Ontarians who speak French in their everyday life were not considered Francophones. The Ontario Trillium Foundation has already adopted the new definition for use in its statistics.

- According to the new definition, Francophones represent 4.8 per cent of the total Ontario population for a total of 580,000 people. Based on the old definition, they represented 4.4 per cent of the population.
- When applying the new definition, Toronto's Francophone population increases by 42 per cent, while Ottawa's Francophone population increases by 10 per cent.
- In the French Language Services Commissioner's first annual report in 2008, it was recommended that a new definition of the Francophone population of Ontario be developed to better reflect the community.

**Ontario March 26, 2013** <http://www.ofa.gov.on.ca/en/news-130326.html> Also see Commissioner news on April 9 2013 <http://www.csf.gouv.on.ca/blogue/?lang=en>

Ontario is now home to more than 600,000 Franco-Ontarians. According to the 2011 census, there are 611,500 francophones living and working in Ontario. Ontario's francophone population forms the largest French-speaking community in Canada

outside of Quebec with about one in 20 people in Ontario identifying as a francophone.

Ontario is supporting its growing francophone population by taking important steps to enhance the delivery of government services in French.

This includes new rules that make it mandatory for third parties that deliver services to the public on behalf of a government ministry or agency to offer services in French.

### **Statistics Canada – 2011 Census - Language**

Statistics Canada has generally used the criterion of mother tongue, that is, the first language learned at home in childhood and still understood at the time of the census

<b>Province</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>English</b>	<b>French</b>	<b>Non official</b>	<b>Eng &amp; Fr</b>
Ontario	12,722,065	8,677,040	493,300	3,264,435	46,605

<http://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2011/dp-pd/hlt-fst/lang/Pages/highlight.cfm?TabID=1&Lang=E&Asc=1&PRCode=01&OrderBy=999&View=1&tableID=401&queryID=1&Age=1>