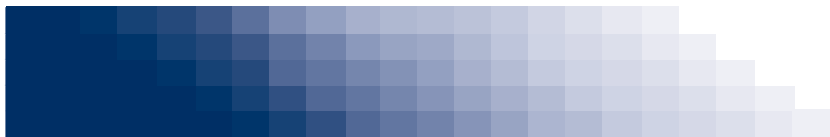
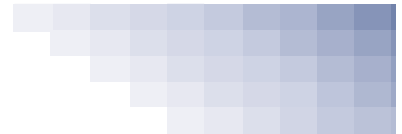


Linguistic Profile of the Bilingual Visible Minority Population in Canada

Prepared for the Office of the Commissioner of Official Languages



Fall 2007



Overview

The Office of the Commissioner of Official Languages (OCOL) works to ensure the implementation of the *Official Languages Act*.

- The Commissioner of Official Languages is required to take all actions and measures within his authority to ensure recognition of the status of each of the official languages and compliance with the spirit and intent of the *Official Languages Act* in the administration of the affairs of federal institutions, including any of their activities relating to the advancement of English and French in Canadian society.

In order to obtain a general picture of the bilingual visible minority population in Canada, Government Consulting Services undertook for OCOL, an analysis using data from the 2001 Census of Canada carried out by Statistics Canada. The analysis looks at bilingualism and education levels of visible minorities and where visible minority populations are located in Canada. Particular attention is given to visible minorities between the ages of 20 and 49, the ideal age for recruitment into the work force.

For the purposes of this study, the term "bilingual" refers to the two official languages of Canada. The term "Canadians" is used in this study to refer to people living in Canada, without regard to citizenship. It should be noted that 23% of the visible minority population residing in Canada are not Canadian citizens.

Population Snapshot

(for detailed information, see Appendices 1 to 5)

| Canadian Population | |
|---|------------------------|
| Total Population of Canada | 29.6 million |
| Total Bilingual Population | 5.2 million (17.7%) |
| English First Official Language Population | 21.9 million |
| Bilingual English First Official Language Population | 1.9 million (8.8%) |
| Visible Minority Population of Canada | 4.0 million |
| Bilingual Visible Minority Population | 430,000 (10.8%) |
| Population of Canada 20 to 49 Years of Age | 13.3 million |
| English First Official Language Population 20 to 49 Years of Age | 9.9 million |
| Bilingual English First Official Language Population 20 to 49 Years of Age | 954,000 (9.6%) |
| Visible Minority Population of Canada 20 to 49 Years of Age | 1.95 million |
| Bilingual Visible Minority Population 20 to 49 Years of Age | 225,000 (11.5%) |
| Provinces with Large Visible Minority Populations | |
| Ontario | 2.15 million |
| British Columbia | 836,000 |
| Quebec | 498,000 |
| Alberta | 330,000 |

Visible Minorities in Canada in 2001

The visible minority population of Canada is 3.98 million, some 13% of the total population of 29.6 million.

Age

Approximately 1.95 million people, or about half the visible minority population, are between the ages of 20 and 49 which accounts for about 15% of the total population in this age group in Canada (see Appendix 2).

Place of residence

About 95% of Canada's visible minority population resides in four provinces (Ontario, British Columbia, Quebec and Alberta), along with about 85% of the total Canadian population (see Appendices 1 and 2).

Most of the visible minority population resides in Ontario (54% or 2.15 million) and British Columbia (21% or 836,000) (see Appendix 2). These two provinces are home to three-quarters of the visible minority population of Canada and 51% of the total population (see appendices 1 and 2). Significant visible minority populations also reside in Quebec (12% or 498,000) and Alberta (8% or 330,000) (see Appendix 2).

Bilingual Visible Minorities: Bilingualism Levels and First Official Language

Proportionally speaking, bilingualism levels are slightly higher among the visible minority population (11%) than among the population who have English as their first official language (9%).

- Some 5.2 million members (18%) of the total population of Canada are bilingual (see Appendix 3).
- Of the population who have English as their first official language (21.9 million), some 1.9 million people are bilingual (9%) (see Appendix 4).
- Among the visible minority population (4 million), some 430,000 people are bilingual (11%) (see Appendix 5).

In the total population, the number of bilingual people who have French as their first official language (over 3 million or 58%) exceeds the number of bilingual people who have English as their first official language (1.9 million or 37%). However, the situation is reversed for the bilingual visible minority population.

- Some 47% of bilingual visible minorities have English as their first official language, 26% have French and 27% have both English and French.

Bilingual Visible Minorities: Age

Among those aged 20 to 49, the proportion of bilingual visible minorities and bilingual Canadians who have English as their first official language is similar.

- Among the 1.95 million members of the visible minority population ages 20 to 49, about 225,000 (11%) are bilingual (see Appendix 5).
- This is similar to those in this age group who have English as their first official language (10% of whom are bilingual), but differs from the total population of Canadians in this age group (21% of whom are bilingual).

In line with trends for the total population and the population who have English as their first official language, the proportion of the visible minority population that is bilingual decreases with age.

- In the visible minority population, the incidence of bilingualism is at its greatest among those 20 to 29 years of age (16%) and at its lowest among those 40 to 49 years of age (8%).
- This pattern is similar for groups who have English as their first official language and for the total population.

Bilingual Visible Minorities: Residence

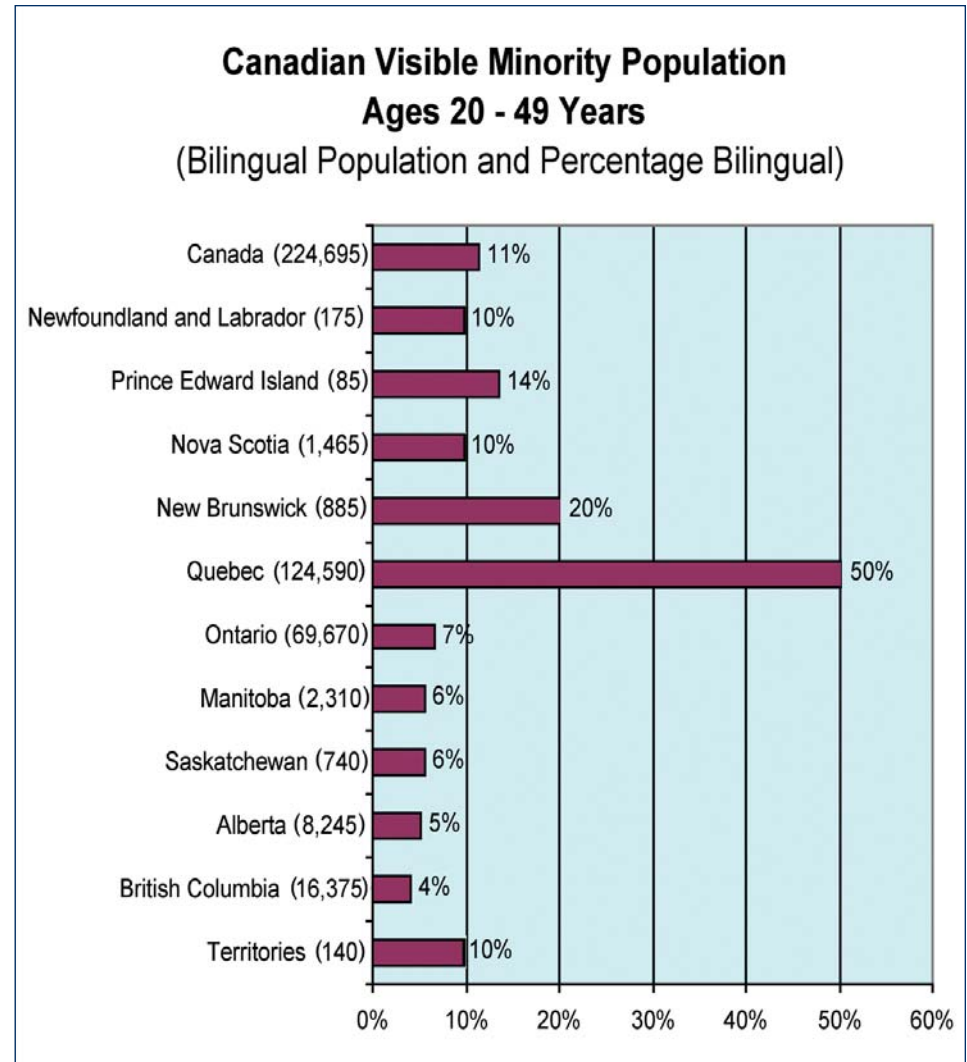
Ontario, Alberta and British Columbia are home to 83% of the visible minority population aged 20 to 49 (see Appendix 5) but have some of the lowest bilingualism rates (7%, 5% and 4% respectively).

Quebec, however, has only 12% of the visible minority population but has the highest bilingualism rate for any province (over 50%).

The bilingual visible minority population aged 20 to 49 is primarily located in Quebec, Ontario and British Columbia (see Appendix 5).

Proportionally, Quebec has more than half (55% or 125,000) of the total bilingual visible minority population, while Ontario has 31% (70,000) and British Columbia 7% (16,000). Alberta has a moderate-sized population (4% or 8,200), while each of the other provinces has fewer than 2,500 bilingual visible minorities.

Some 84% of the bilingual visible minority population between the ages of 20 and 49 lives in four cities: Montréal (115,000), Toronto (44,000), Ottawa (16,000) and Vancouver (14,000).



Education Profiles (Ages 20 to 49)

Bilingual populations tend to have higher education levels than non-bilingual populations.

- The total bilingual population, total bilingual visible minority population and total bilingual population who have English as their first official language have similar education profiles (see Appendices 3 to 5). Most importantly, they are well educated, with 67% having a postsecondary education and 30% to 40% having at least a university degree or higher education.
- The total population and the total visible minority population are also similar in terms of education levels, which tend to be lower than those of the bilingual population (see Appendices 1 and 2). About 55% have a postsecondary education and approximately 20% to 30% have at least a university degree or higher education.

This pattern of educational achievement does not differ significantly from province to province.

- The educational achievement of the bilingual visible minority population 20 to 49 years of age is similar in major cities. In Toronto, Ottawa and Vancouver, 44% to 47% of bilingual visible minorities have university degrees. This is in comparison to Montréal where a somewhat smaller percentage (32%) have a university degree.

Summary

Based on 2001 Census data of those between the ages of 20 and 49, the visible minority population consists of 1.95 million people, about 15% of the total population in this age group, and about 225,000 (11%) are bilingual. More than half of the bilingual visible minority population in this age group live in the province of Quebec. The visible minority population in this age group who are bilingual and who also have a university degree is 85,565.

The Office of the Commissioner of Official Languages will continue to take a keen interest in Canada's visible minority communities to monitor the advancement of English and French in Canadian society.

Appendix 1

Canada: Demographic Description of the Population, Ages 20 to 49 Years

| | Canada | Newfound-land and Labrador | Prince Edward Island | Nova Scotia | New Brunswick | Quebec | Ontario | Manitoba | Saskatchewan | Alberta | British Columbia | Territories |
|-----------------------------------|------------|----------------------------|----------------------|-------------|---------------|-----------|------------|-----------|--------------|-----------|------------------|-------------|
| Total (All Age Groups) | 29,639,030 | 508,075 | 133,385 | 897,570 | 719,715 | 7,125 580 | 11,285,550 | 1,103,695 | 963,155 | 2,941,150 | 3,868,875 | 92,290 |
| Total (Ages 20 to 49) | 13,311,765 | 228,470 | 56,450 | 392,990 | 320,225 | 3,218,045 | 5,068,800 | 471,925 | 398,295 | 1,388,265 | 1,725,100 | 43,195 |
| Highest Level of Education | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Education Below High School | 2,684,725 | 66,990 | 14,310 | 88,120 | 77,865 | 649,755 | 898,90 | 127,495 | 106,010 | 310,890 | 330,810 | 13,685 |
| High School Graduation | 3,432,320 | 43,190 | 12,870 | 82,960 | 91,055 | 789,735 | 1,392,980 | 118,975 | 98,645 | 339,150 | 454,815 | 7,925 |
| Trades Certificate Diploma | 1,631,400 | 50,330 | 8,570 | 65,500 | 40,850 | 431,010 | 498,210 | 57,550 | 61,515 | 195,470 | 215,900 | 6,495 |
| Non University Diploma | 2,588,260 | 35,195 | 11,170 | 73,820 | 58,345 | 657,960 | 1,018,200 | 78,425 | 64,020 | 261,330 | 321,920 | 7,885 |
| University Below Bachelors | 346,990 | 3,675 | 975 | 9,890 | 5,825 | 109,530 | 111,170 | 10,780 | 9,935 | 27,415 | 56,990 | 805 |
| Bachelors Degree | 1,830,025 | 21,375 | 6,620 | 52,810 | 35,245 | 404,860 | 766,130 | 58,550 | 45,970 | 193,285 | 240,485 | 4,675 |
| University Above Bachelors | 245,510 | 1,705 | 650 | 5,945 | 3,400 | 47,595 | 130,905 | 6,835 | 3,140 | 13,770 | 31,120 | 440 |
| Masters Degree | 411,555 | 4,445 | 925 | 9,980 | 5,545 | 94,660 | 192,715 | 8,900 | 5,910 | 32,805 | 54,605 | 1,070 |
| Doctorate | 140,980 | 1,575 | 370 | 3,965 | 2,100 | 32,930 | 59,685 | 4,395 | 3,150 | 14,135 | 18,470 | 190 |

Appendix 2

Canada: Demographic Description of the Visible Minority Population, Ages 20 to 49 Years

| | Canada | Newfound-land and Labrador | Prince Edward Island | Nova Scotia | New Brunswick | Quebec | Ontario | Manitoba | Saskatchewan | Alberta | British Columbia | Territories |
|-----------------------------------|-----------|----------------------------|----------------------|-------------|---------------|---------|-----------|----------|--------------|---------|------------------|-------------|
| Total (All Age Groups) | 3,983,845 | 3,855 | 1,180 | 34,525 | 9,425 | 497,975 | 2,153,045 | 87,110 | 27,580 | 329,925 | 836,440 | 2,785 |
| Total (Ages 20 to 49) | 1,954,370 | 1,790 | 625 | 15,285 | 4,370 | 247,095 | 1,059,505 | 40,620 | 13,280 | 160,670 | 409,690 | 1,470 |
| Highest Level of Education | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Education Below High School | 375,650 | 195 | 140 | 3,280 | 645 | 52,690 | 193,025 | 8,015 | 2,570 | 35,135 | 79,650 | 295 |
| High School Graduation | 493,945 | 285 | 195 | 3,565 | 1,200 | 57,465 | 272,640 | 12,010 | 3,560 | 38,765 | 103,965 | 320 |
| Trades Certificate Diploma | 141,675 | 210 | 40 | 1,635 | 310 | 20,025 | 71,680 | 3,875 | 1,050 | 13,505 | 29,235 | 115 |
| Non University Diploma | 292,130 | 235 | 70 | 2,155 | 655 | 40,935 | 160,225 | 5,500 | 1,195 | 22,705 | 58,260 | 210 |
| University Below Bachelors | 86,980 | 50 | 30 | 505 | 155 | 13,245 | 43,825 | 1,455 | 575 | 5,775 | 21,295 | 45 |
| Bachelors Degree | 381,660 | 415 | 100 | 2,440 | 880 | 38,705 | 214,040 | 6,865 | 2 505 | 31,920 | 83,435 | 345 |
| University Above Bachelors | 43,905 | 30 | 20 | 315 | 60 | 6,060 | 24,620 | 755 | 220 | 2,460 | 9,325 | 55 |
| Masters Degree | 99,085 | 105 | 35 | 700 | 275 | 12,400 | 58,735 | 1,250 | 900 | 6,445 | 18,190 | 80 |
| Doctorate | 39,340 | 255 | 20 | 675 | 195 | 5,560 | 20,715 | 895 | 695 | 3,970 | 6,335 | 35 |

Appendix 3

Canada: Demographic Description of the Total Bilingual Population, Ages 20 to 49 Years

| | Canada | Newfound-land and Labrador | Prince Edward Island | Nova Scotia | New Brunswick | Quebec | Ontario | Manitoba | Saskatchewan | Alberta | British Columbia | Territories |
|-----------------------------------|-----------|----------------------------|----------------------|-------------|---------------|-----------|-----------|----------|--------------|---------|------------------|-------------|
| Total (All Age Groups) | 5,231,575 | 20,890 | 15,990 | 90,265 | 245,870 | 2,907,700 | 1,319,720 | 102,840 | 49,000 | 220,905 | 269,360 | 7,040 |
| Total (Ages 20 to 49) | 2,778,625 | 9,220 | 6,450 | 42,670 | 124,345 | 1,638,280 | 650,110 | 44,945 | 19,795 | 106,195 | 132,710 | 3,900 |
| Highest Level of Education | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Education Below High School | 293,570 | 565 | 805 | 4,420 | 25,140 | 167,585 | 64,930 | 6,070 | 2,160 | 11,405 | 10,150 | 380 |
| High School Graduation | 659,090 | 2,255 | 1,375 | 8,975 | 34,015 | 375,890 | 161,555 | 12,630 | 5,445 | 25,695 | 30,370 | 875 |
| Trades Certificate Diploma | 273,275 | 755 | 615 | 5,385 | 14,170 | 174,870 | 49,215 | 4,505 | 2,305 | 10,135 | 10,925 | 420 |
| Non University Diploma | 613,845 | 1,020 | 1,295 | 7,230 | 24,530 | 408,220 | 119,480 | 7,365 | 2,980 | 18,160 | 22,780 | 775 |
| University Below Bachelors | 105,235 | 300 | 185 | 1,470 | 3,080 | 73,635 | 16,320 | 1,240 | 615 | 2,870 | 5,405 | 95 |
| Bachelors Degree | 556,800 | 2,955 | 1,620 | 10,505 | 17,600 | 297,790 | 149,735 | 9,485 | 4,550 | 27,225 | 34,350 | 980 |
| University Above Bachelors | 80,460 | 210 | 185 | 1,360 | 1,850 | 36,600 | 30,090 | 1,325 | 350 | 2,505 | 5,875 | 90 |
| Masters Degree | 145,955 | 820 | 275 | 2,295 | 2,895 | 76,120 | 45,275 | 1,555 | 915 | 5,830 | 9,725 | 265 |
| Doctorate | 50,385 | 340 | 95 | 1,030 | 1,065 | 27,570 | 13,510 | 770 | 475 | 2,370 | 3,130 | 20 |

Appendix 4

Canada: Demographic Description of the Bilingual English First Official Language Population, Ages 20 to 49 Years

| | Canada | Newfound-land and Labrador | Prince Edward Island | Nova Scotia | New Brunswick | Quebec | Ontario | Manitoba | Saskatchewan | Alberta | British Columbia | Territories |
|-----------------------------------|-----------|----------------------------|----------------------|-------------|---------------|---------|---------|----------|--------------|---------|------------------|-------------|
| Total (All Age Groups) | 1,912,390 | 18,975 | 10,790 | 56,830 | 73,100 | 501,690 | 802,920 | 60,015 | 32,605 | 143,890 | 206,695 | 4,880 |
| Total (Ages 20 to 49) | 954,295 | 8,335 | 4,380 | 27,435 | 34,470 | 259,950 | 399,065 | 26,655 | 13,935 | 75,860 | 101,645 | 2,580 |
| Highest Level of Education | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Education Below High School | 78,270 | 415 | 310 | 1,885 | 3,980 | 29,485 | 26,225 | 2,450 | 1,110 | 6,240 | 6,005 | 195 |
| High School Graduation | 238,295 | 2,130 | 1,000 | 6,165 | 10,290 | 67,765 | 95,490 | 7,950 | 4,245 | 18,610 | 24,035 | 615 |
| Trades Certificate Diploma | 69,190 | 620 | 295 | 2,325 | 3,340 | 24,115 | 22,535 | 2,020 | 1,160 | 5,570 | 7,015 | 225 |
| Non University Diploma | 172,975 | 850 | 825 | 3,930 | 6,590 | 58,670 | 67,255 | 3,900 | 1,885 | 12,245 | 16,335 | 435 |
| University Below Bachelors | 27,790 | 265 | 110 | 935 | 750 | 7,995 | 10,135 | 695 | 390 | 2,155 | 4,295 | 65 |
| Bachelors Degree | 245,080 | 2,775 | 1,405 | 8,430 | 7,435 | 48,980 | 112,970 | 7,090 | 3,765 | 22,565 | 28,910 | 755 |
| University Above Bachelors | 39,305 | 210 | 130 | 990 | 600 | 7,240 | 22,065 | 860 | 290 | 2,040 | 4,805 | 80 |
| Masters Degree | 63,185 | 760 | 235 | 1,940 | 1,125 | 11,895 | 32,695 | 1,115 | 775 | 4,590 | 7,865 | 195 |
| Doctorate | 20,205 | 310 | 70 | 835 | 360 | 3,805 | 9,695 | 575 | 315 | 1,845 | 2,380 | 15 |

Appendix 5

Canada: Demographic Description of the Bilingual Visible Minority Population, Ages 20 to 49 Years

| | Canada | Newfound-land and Labrador | Prince Edward Island | Nova Scotia | New Brunswick | Quebec | Ontario | Manitoba | Saskatchewan | Alberta | British Columbia | Territories |
|-----------------------------------|---------|----------------------------|----------------------|-------------|---------------|---------|---------|----------|--------------|---------|------------------|-------------|
| Total (All Age Groups) | 430,085 | 375 | 170 | 2,975 | 2,060 | 215,420 | 149,830 | 5,355 | 1,845 | 16,725 | 35,080 | 265 |
| Total (Ages 20 to 49) | 224,695 | 175 | 85 | 1,465 | 885 | 124,590 | 69,670 | 2,310 | 740 | 8,245 | 16,375 | 140 |
| Highest Level of Education | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Education Below High School | 19,435 | 10 | 0 | 110 | 85 | 12,745 | 4,635 | 140 | 55 | 610 | 1,055 | 10 |
| High School Graduation | 49,965 | 45 | 25 | 315 | 240 | 26,175 | 16,350 | 725 | 190 | 2,180 | 3,695 | 55 |
| Trades Certificate Diploma | 14,785 | 0 | 0 | 130 | 30 | 9,640 | 3,400 | 125 | 70 | 510 | 855 | 0 |
| Non University Diploma | 42,080 | 10 | 10 | 125 | 130 | 27,685 | 10,410 | 310 | 50 | 1,045 | 2,280 | 30 |
| University Below Bachelors | 12,860 | 0 | 0 | 95 | 30 | 7,795 | 3,465 | 95 | 50 | 365 | 955 | 0 |
| Bachelors Degree | 53,595 | 50 | 10 | 320 | 230 | 24,645 | 20,135 | 610 | 180 | 2,470 | 4,895 | 50 |
| University Above Bachelors | 8,390 | 0 | 10 | 100 | 25 | 4,090 | 2,930 | 90 | 40 | 190 | 910 | 0 |
| Masters Degree | 16,200 | 15 | 15 | 100 | 55 | 8,045 | 5,950 | 130 | 45 | 545 | 1,270 | 10 |
| Doctorate | 7,380 | 45 | 0 | 160 | 65 | 3,765 | 2,400 | 80 | 70 | 320 | 470 | 0 |