

2.14 Population by mother tongue, 1981 and 1986

Language	1981 ¹		1986	
	No.	%	No.	%
English	14,684,365	60.3	15,334,085	60.6
French	6,127,530	25.2	6,159,740	24.3
Non-official languages				
Aboriginal	150,235	0.6	138,060	0.5
Italian	499,920	2.1	455,820	1.8
Portuguese	159,295	0.7	153,985	0.6
Spanish	64,875	0.3	83,130	0.3
German ²	485,375	2.0	438,680	1.7
Yiddish	27,945	0.1	22,665	0.1
Dutch	136,500	0.6	123,670	0.5
Ukrainian	258,575	1.1	208,415	0.8
Russian	28,525	0.1	24,860	0.1
Polish	116,095	0.5	123,120	0.5
Finnish	31,130	0.1	25,770	0.1
Hungarian	77,630	0.3	69,000	0.3
Greek	116,835	0.5	110,350	0.4
Arabic ³	44,425	0.2	40,665	0.2
Punjabi	49,670	0.2	63,640	0.3
Chinese	212,785	0.9	266,560	1.1
Vietnamese	28,325	0.1	41,560	0.2
Tagalog (Pilipino)	36,195	0.1	42,420	0.2
Other languages	409,270	1.7	428,205	1.7
Sub-total, single response	23,745,200	97.5	24,354,390	96.2
Multiple response	597,980	2.5	954,940	3.8
Canada ⁴	24,343,180	100.0	25,309,330	100.0

¹ Since multiple responses are shown in this table, the 1981 data do not correspond to those previously released.

² Includes Alsatian in 1986.

³ Includes Maltese in 1981.

⁴ The figures for 1986 exclude the population on 136 incompletely enumerated Indian reserves and settlements. The total population on these reserves was estimated to be about 45,000 in 1986.

2.15 Distribution of the population by mother tongue, by province, 1981 and 1986

Province or territory	Total population	Single response			Multiple responses					
		English	French	Non-official language	English and French	English and non-official language(s)	French and non-official language(s)	English, French and non-official language(s)	Non-official language(s)	
1981										
Nfld.	567,680	559,845	2,110	4,255	910	510	10	30	—	
PEI	122,505	114,685	5,700	1,245	675	190	—	10	—	
NS	847,445	790,320	33,300	16,280	4,645	2,640	55	150	45	
NB	696,405	445,860	227,250	7,665	13,010	2,415	45	145	10	
Que.	6,438,400	641,550	5,247,045	394,875	100,850	17,560	18,070	17,475	980	
Ont.	8,625,105	6,584,540	439,905	1,368,250	62,070	154,535	2,340	7,560	5,905	
Man.	1,026,240	723,180	49,435	216,395	5,450	29,760	250	530	1,245	
Sask.	968,315	763,155	23,855	154,880	2,850	22,340	190	330	715	
Alta.	2,237,725	1,790,840	56,770	335,025	9,115	42,355	560	1,400	1,660	
BC	2,744,465	2,226,310	40,500	413,260	8,405	51,600	695	1,800	1,895	
YT	23,150	20,000	530	2,030	95	465	10	15	15	
NWT	45,740	24,075	1,140	19,145	165	1,165	15	25	10	
Canada	24,343,180	14,684,365	6,127,530	2,933,305	208,245	325,530	22,255	29,475	12,485	
1986										
Nfld.	568,350	560,360	2,005	3,765	1,120	1,025	10	65	5	
PEI	126,645	118,490	5,155	1,340	1,340	290	5	15	—	
NS	873,175	814,135	30,865	15,890	8,490	3,490	65	205	35	
NB	709,440	450,970	225,590	7,885	23,050	1,650	75	200	25	
Que.	6,532,465	580,030	5,316,925	393,725	150,730	29,875	30,635	29,350	1,185	
Ont.	9,101,690	6,941,940	424,720	1,354,610	104,550	254,525	3,540	11,015	6,795	
Man.	1,063,015	758,305	45,600	197,195	10,990	48,295	270	980	1,390	
Sask.	1,009,610	815,090	20,725	132,750	5,190	34,400	225	465	770	
Alta.	2,365,825	1,914,450	48,070	314,200	14,150	70,945	615	1,745	1,650	
BC	2,883,365	2,331,595	38,240	416,335	12,685	79,345	835	2,490	1,850	
YT	23,505	20,730	560	1,730	105	360	—	5	5	
NWT	52,240	28,010	1,290	21,140	215	1,525	25	35	5	
Canada	25,309,330	15,334,085	6,159,740	2,860,570	332,610	525,720	36,310	46,585	13,715	