

Bilingualism in Canada: Definitely, Maybe?

Part 2

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National Bilingualism: Vision of French and English Speaking Nation(s) More Popular in Quebec than in the ROC

Highlights:

- Some 40% Canadians believe that bilingualism keeps the country united while 54% of Canadians disagree with this statement.
- Some 38% of Canadians believe that in Canada we are required to learn a second official language; however the majority of Canadians (57%) disagree with the statement.
- Some 45% of Canadians agree that we should be required to learn a second official language on the other hand 54% of Canadians disagree with the statement. Six percent didn't reply or don't know

On Tuesday March 4th Statistics Canada will release the 2006 census data on language used in the workplace. The release comes against the backdrop of a flurry of debate around the situation of the French language in Montreal and contested observations about the value of bilingualism. Perhaps the most controversial were remarks by PQ leader Pauline Marois who proposed that all Quebecers should be bilingual and suggested a number of measures to achieve that end. A Leger Marketing Survey commissioned by the Association for Canadian Studies at start of the month of February, 2008 reveals that a majority of Quebecers agree upon the importance of bilingualism and particularly upon the need for bilingualism to enhance one's economic standing. However it also suggests that the idea that bilingualism keeps Canada together is believed far more in Quebec than elsewhere in Canada as is the idea that Canadians should be required to learn a second language. It is also worth noting that those Canadians who feel that we should already be required to learn a second language are more likely to agree that we should be required to do so. If these attitudes persist then the gap in support for bilingualism and the real ability to speak both languages widen between Quebec, New Brunswick and Ottawa versus the ROC.

1. Bilingualism keeps the country united

Some 40% Canadians believe that bilingualism keeps the country united while 54% of Canadians disagree with this statement.

On the basis of gender women are more likely to agree that bilingualism keeps the country united (41%) than men (39%).

Gender

	Total	Man	Woman
TOTAL AGREE	40%	39%	41%
Strongly agree	17%	16%	17%
Somewhat agree	24%	23%	24%
TOTAL DISAGREE	54%	56%	51%
Somewhat disagree	28%	27%	29%
Strongly disagree	25%	30%	21%
DK/ No Answer	6%	4%	8%

On the basis of basis of language Francophone respondents are twice as likely to agree that bilingualism keeps the country united (63%) than Anglophone respondents (31%). This is the case of 43% of Allophone respondents.

Language

	French	English	Other
TOTAL AGREE	63%	31%	43%
Strongly agree	30%	10%	22%
Somewhat agree	33%	21%	21%
TOTAL DISAGREE	31%	64%	49%
Somewhat disagree	19%	32%	28%
Strongly disagree	12%	32%	21%
DK/ No Answer	6%	5%	8%

On a regional basis Quebecers are the most likely to agree that bilingualism keeps the country united (63%) compared to Albertans who are the least likely to agree with the statement (20%).

Province

	Martimes	QC	ON	MB/SK	AB	BC
TOTAL AGREE	43%	63%	37%	35%	20%	27%
Strongly agree	15%	31%	14%	10%	10%	8%
Somewhat agree	28%	32%	23%	25%	10%	19%
TOTAL DISAGREE	44%	30%	58%	57%	76%	69%
Somewhat disagree	22%	19%	30%	22%	44%	35%
Strongly disagree	22%	11%	29%	35%	31%	34%

DK/ No Answer	14%	7%	5%	8%	5%	4%
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On the basis of education Canadians who are university educated are more likely to agree that bilingualism keeps the country united (45%) than Canadians who are not university educated (38%).

Education

	Elem/sec	College	Univ.
TOTAL AGREE	38%	38%	45%
Strongly agree	16%	15%	19%
Somewhat agree	22%	23%	26%
TOTAL DISAGREE	55%	58%	50%
Somewhat disagree	25%	31%	31%
Strongly disagree	30%	27%	19%
DK/ No Answer	7%	3%	5%

2. We should be required to learn a second official language

Some 45% of Canadians agree that we should be required to learn a second official language with 52% of Canadians disagreeing with the statement.

On the basis of gender women are more likely to agree that in Canada we are required to learn a second official language (50%) than men (39%).

Gender

	Total	Man	Woman
TOTAL AGREE	45%	39%	50%
Strongly agree	22%	21%	23%
Somewhat agree	23%	18%	27%
TOTAL DISAGREE	52%	57%	46%
Somewhat disagree	22%	24%	19%
Strongly disagree	30%	33%	27%
DK/ No Answer	4%	3%	4%

On the basis of language some 76% of Francophones agree that in Canada we should be required to learn a second official language compared to 42% of Allophones and 34% of Anglophones.

Language

	French	English	Other
TOTAL AGREE	76%	34%	42%
Strongly agree	40%	16%	20%
Somewhat agree	36%	18%	22%
TOTAL DISAGREE	21%	63%	53%
Somewhat disagree	11%	23%	28%
Strongly disagree	9%	40%	25%
DK/ No Answer	3%	3%	5%

On a regional basis Quebecers are the most likely to agree that in Canada we should be required to learn a second official language (78%) compared to British Columbians who were the least likely to agree (23%).

Province

	Martimes	QC	ON	MB/SK	AB	BC
TOTAL AGREE	35%	78%	40%	29%	29%	23%
Strongly agree	19%	43%	16%	19%	16%	10%
Somewhat agree	16%	34%	24%	10%	13%	14%
TOTAL DISAGREE	59%	17%	56%	68%	70%	73%
Somewhat disagree	22%	9%	25%	22%	19%	37%
Strongly disagree	38%	8%	31%	46%	51%	36%
DK/ No Answer	6%	5%	3%	3%	1%	4%

On the basis of education some 56% of university educated Canadians agree that in Canada we should be required to learn a second official language. This is the case of 43% of college educated Canadians and 37% of elementary/ secondary school educated Canadians.

Education

	Elem/sec	College	Univ.
TOTAL AGREE	37%	43%	56%
Strongly agree	21%	17%	29%
Somewhat agree	16%	26%	27%
TOTAL DISAGREE	59%	54%	42%
Somewhat disagree	22%	22%	22%
Strongly disagree	37%	32%	20%

DK/ No Answer	4%	3%	2%
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3. In Canada we are required to learn a second official language

Some 38% of Canadians believe that in Canada we are required to learn a second official language; however the majority of Canadians (57%) disagree with the statement.

On the basis of gender women are more likely to agree that in Canada we are required to learn a second official language (43%) than men (34%).

Gender

	Total	Man	Woman
TOTAL AGREE	38%	34%	43%
Strongly agree	16%	13%	19%
Somewhat agree	22%	21%	23%
TOTAL DISAGREE	57%	62%	51%
Somewhat disagree	22%	22%	22%
Strongly disagree	35%	40%	29%
DK/ No Answer	5%	4%	6%

On the basis of language Francophones are most likely to agree that in Canada we are required to learn a second official language (51%) followed by Allophones (48%) and Anglophones (30%).

Language

	French	English	Other
TOTAL AGREE	51%	30%	48%
Strongly agree	22%	12%	21%
Somewhat agree	29%	18%	27%
TOTAL DISAGREE	43%	66%	44%
Somewhat disagree	21%	22%	24%
Strongly disagree	22%	44%	20%
DK/ No Answer	5%	4%	8%

On a regional basis Quebecers are the most likely to agree that in Canada we are required to learn a second official language (52%) compared to Canadians from the Prairie Provinces who are the least likely to agree with the statement (15%).

Province

	Martimes	QC	ON	MB/SK	AB	BC
TOTAL AGREE	26%	52%	41%	15%	28%	32%
Strongly agree	7%	24%	17%	3%	10%	17%
Somewhat agree	20%	28%	24%	11%	18%	15%
TOTAL DISAGREE	68%	41%	54%	76%	71%	64%
Somewhat disagree	18%	21%	22%	21%	26%	25%
Strongly disagree	50%	20%	32%	55%	45%	40%
DK/ No Answer	6%	6%	5%	9%	1%	4%

On the basis of education Canadians with a university education are the more likely to agree that in Canada we are required to learn a second official language (43%) than Canadians with a elementary/ secondary or college education (36%).

Education

	Elem/sec	College	Univ.
TOTAL AGREE	36%	36%	43%
Strongly agree	13%	15%	20%
Somewhat agree	23%	22%	23%
TOTAL DISAGREE	58%	60%	54%
Somewhat disagree	21%	23%	24%
Strongly disagree	37%	37%	30%
DK/ No Answer	5%	4%	3%

Custom Tabulations:

	Do you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree with the following: : / In Canada we are required to learn a second official language			
We should be required to learn a second official language	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree
Strongly agree	65.3%	27.4%	19.5%	16.7%
Somewhat agree	16.2%	42.3%	28.0%	20.1%
Somewhat disagree	7.4%	19.0%	33.1%	17.6%
Strongly disagree	10.0%	11.0%	18.4%	45.0%
I don't know / I prefer not answering	1.1%	.3%	.8%	.6%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

	Do you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree with the following: : / We should be required to learn a second official language			
In Canada we are required to learn a second official language	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree
Strongly agree	41.6%	11.3%	6.9%	7.6%
Somewhat agree	21.6%	36.3%	22.1%	10.5%
Somewhat disagree	16.2%	25.3%	40.3%	18.4%
Strongly disagree	18.8%	24.6%	29.0%	60.7%
I don't know / I prefer not answering	1.6%	2.6%	1.7%	2.8%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Francophone	Do you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree with the following: : / In Canada we are required to learn a second official language			
We should be required to learn a second official language	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree
Strongly agree	77.7%	34.9%	28.6%	31.7%
Somewhat agree	17.6%	55.0%	37.9%	24.6%
Somewhat disagree	4.1%	8.9%	24.3%	15.9%
Strongly disagree	.7%	.6%	8.6%	27.8%
I don't know / I prefer not answering		.6%	.7%	
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Anglophone	Do you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree with the following: : / In Canada we are required to learn a second official language			
We should be required to learn a second official language	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree
Strongly agree	42.9%	18.0%	10.6%	
Somewhat agree	18.7%	25.6%	22.9%	
Somewhat disagree	11.0%	33.8%	39.4%	
Strongly disagree	24.2%	22.6%	25.9%	
I don't know / I prefer not answering	3.3%		1.2%	

Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	
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Allophone	Do you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree with the following: : / In Canada we are required to learn a second official language			
We should be required to learn a second official language	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree
Strongly agree	72.2%	17.4%	21.1%	15.8%
Somewhat agree	5.6%	43.5%	10.5%	21.1%
Somewhat disagree	11.1%	17.4%	42.1%	21.1%
Strongly disagree	11.1%	21.7%	26.3%	42.1%
I don't know / I prefer not answering				
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%