

English-speaking Quebec: Portrait and issues

Presentation to SEE-Net 2021-12-02

By Lorraine O'Donnell, PhD
Affiliate Assistant Professor, SCPA
Research Associate, QUESCREN

Who and where

A minority

1. First official language spoken-English vs Mother Tongue-English

	2011	2016
FOLS-E • number	1,058,250	1,103,480
percent	13.5%	13.7%
MT • number	700,405	718,990
percent	9%	8.9%

- 1. ESQ = minority
 - historic minority in QC (Bill 101)
 - official language minority community in Canada (Official Languages Act)



Across Quebec



Quebec's English-speaking Communities

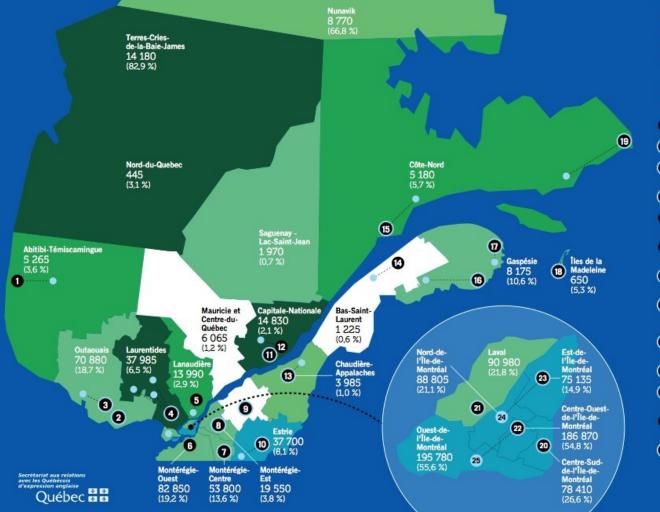
Les communautés d'expression anglaise du Québec



Head Office

Satellite Office

CHSSN



Population 1 103 475

Recensement du Canada, 2016

du Québec

13,7 %

ERCC Initiative

- Abitibi-Témiscamingue Neighbours Regional Association
- Outaouais Connexions Resource Centre
- Outaouais Regional Association of West Quebec (RAWQ)
- 4 Korners Family Resource Center
- Lanaudière
 English Community Organization
 of Lanaudière (ECOL)
- Montérégie-Ouest Montérégie West Community Network (MWCN)
- Montérégie-Centre Assistance and Referral Centre (ARC)
- Montérégie-Est Monteregie East Partnership for the English-Speaking Community
- Mauricie et Centre-du-Québec Centre for Access to Services in English (CASE)
- Estrie Townshippers' Association
- Capitale-Nationale Jeffery Hale Community Partners (JHCP)
- Capitale-Nationale Voice of English-speaking Quebec (VEQ)
- Chaudière-Appalaches Megantic English-speaking Community Development Corp.

Initiative ERCC

- 14 Bas-Saint-Laurent Heritage Lower Saint Lawrence (HLSL)
 - Côte-Nord North Shore Community Association (NSCA)
 - Gaspésie Committee for Anglophone Social Action (CASA)
 - (17)
 - Vision Gaspé-Percé Now (VGPN)
 - Îles de la Madeleine Council for Anglophone Magdalen Islanders (CAMI)
 - 19 Côte-Nord Coasters Association
 - Centre-Sud-de-l'Île-de-Montréal Collective Community Services
 - The Youth & Parents AGAPE Association Inc. (AGAPE)
 - Centre-Ouest-de-l'Île-de-Montréal African Canadian Development & Prevention Network (ACDPN)
 - Est-de-l'Île-de-Montréal East Island Network for English-language Services (REISA)
 - Nord-de-l'Île-de-Montréal East Island Network for English-language Services (REISA)
 - Ouest-de-l'Île-de-Montréal African Canadian Development & Prevention Network (ACDPN)

Characteristics and issues

Diverse...

- 1. Early (18-19c) ESQ
 - = English, Irish, Scots, Welsh, Jews, Blacks
- 2. Today (2006)
 - ESQ more diverse than Francophone population
 - Percentage of population = immigrant origin
 - ESQ (FOLS-E): 32.5%
 - Francophone Quebecers: 7.6%
 - Percentage of population = visible minority
 - ESQ (FOLS-E): 24.2%
 - Francophone Quebecers: 6%



...and largely bilingual

French-English bilingualism rate, 2016

MT English: 69%

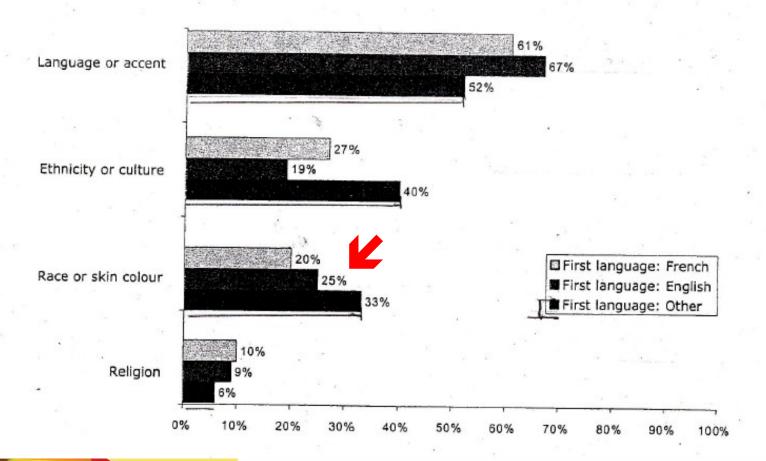
MT French: 40%

MT other than English or French: 51%



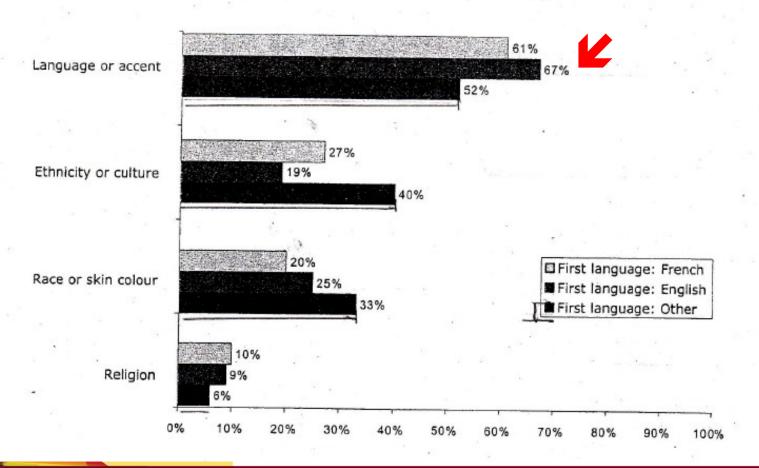
...but experience of discrimination

FIGURE 3: Perceived grounds of discrimination by first language of respondents in Quebec



...especially linguicism.

FIGURE 3: Perceived grounds of discrimination by first language of respondents in Quebec



What is linguicism?

= "discrimination against speakers of a different language or with a different accent."

Chief sources of discrimination in Canada

- In Quebec
 - Anglophones: language/accent: 67%
 - Francophones: language/accent: 61%
 - Allophones: language/accent (52%), ethnicity (40%) and race (33%)
- In ROC
 - Skin colour, overall
 - + linguicism, for Francophones



A different employment profile...

Working in different sectors, 2006

- (1) professional, scientific and technical services
- (2) administrative and management services
 - Anglophones [FOLS-E]: 8.7% and 4.8% (more)
 - Francophones: 5.8% and 3.5%
- (3) retail
- (4) health care & social assistance

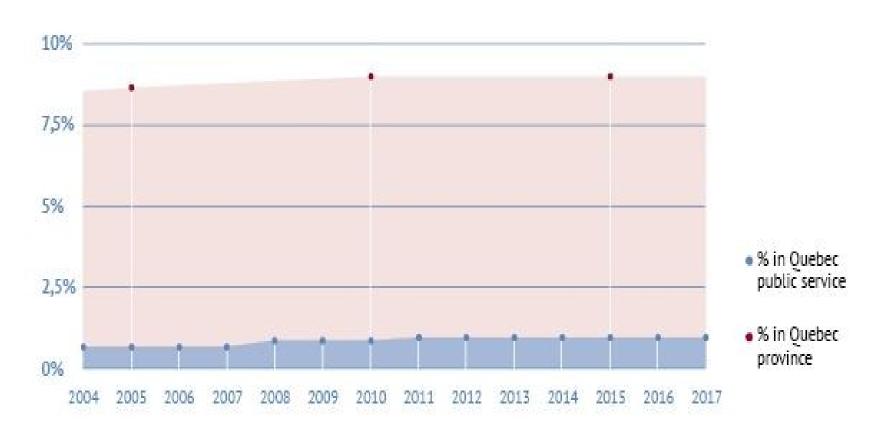
Anglophones: 10.7% and 8.9% (less)

Francophones: 12.4% and 11.4% (more)



...but low numbers in Qc public service...

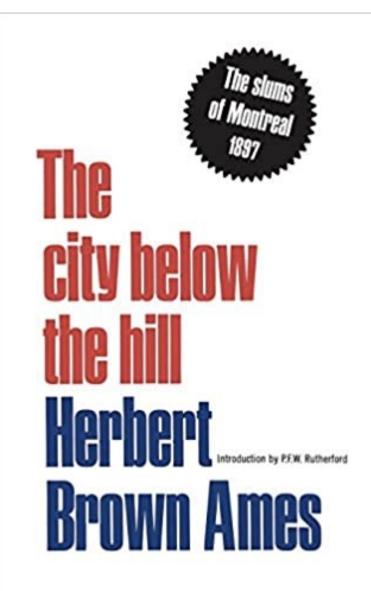
Proportion of MT English in total Qc population and in Qc public service





...plus poverty...

- Historically, ESQ = small elite + many poor
- Living below low-income cut-off (LICO), 2016:
 - ESQ youth: 23.6%
 - French-speaking youth: 14.9%
 - ESQ non-visible minorities: 17%
 - ESQ visible minorities: 37.7%
 - Francophone visible minorities: 39.5%



...and lower income.

- 1. Low income, 2016:
 - Anglophones: 14.1%
 - Francophones: 10.3%
- 2. Median income, 2016
 - Anglophones: \$27,416
 - Francophones: \$30,211



Active in civil society...

- In 2013, the Centre for Community Organizations (<u>www.coco-net.org</u>) identified 800 English-speaking, bilingual and ethno-cultural community groups in 14 regions of Quebec
- 1. Community groups are positive spaces that "negotiate the language frontiers among and between Anglo-Quebecers and the French majority with the ultimate goal of constructing their identities as participatory members of society" *C. Gosselin, 2021*



...but issues interacting with govt.

Issues English-speaking, bilingual and ethno-cultural community groups have in relations with Qc govt (2013):

- ■Communication issues with govt = difficulty obtaining funding:
 - Do not operate as single issue organizations = difficulty in attaching themselves to a home ministry
 - Categorize their work in a different manner than Qc government; do not see their work as fitting into strict government classifications
 - Little contact with government officials
 - Lack of knowledge & info about the policies leading to funding for community groups;
 difficulty grasping the French-only manual's technical terms (Cadre de référence)
- Limits to capacity to work in French = limits to networking with sectoral coalitions having strong link to government
- Lack of government acknowledgement of the distinctiveness of these groups

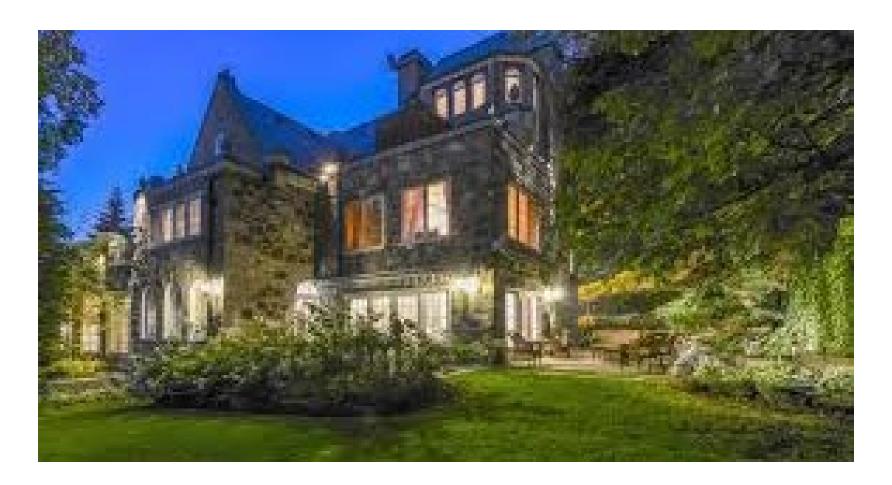


Overall: declining vitality...

- Vulnerable institutions
- High outmigration
- Aging population
- Fragile institutions



...and context of some incorrect perceptions: "rich Anglophones..."





...and "best treated minority in the

world..."



André Turmel... Mainly a matter of independence.

party platform. CORNERSTONE

Turmel said sovereignty is the cornerstone of his campaign. He said he's against Bill 178 and other legislation which weakens Bill 101, the Quebec language law which makes the province officially unilingual.

"Bill 101 was a good law and it should be brought back and reinforced." he said.

"Anglophones have their instaltations and their language. They are the best treated minority in the world."

"The French people have the responsibility to protect their language," Turmel added. "It's not a matter of putting down the English but ensuring the blossoming of our own language."

Vice-president of the PQ Sherbrooke youth wing for the past year and a member of the Sherbrooke area executive, Turmel said he has shown a certain potential and has Sherbrooke Record, Aug. 8, 1989



...but strong vitality organizations.

- •Quebec Community Groups Network <u>www.QCGN.ca</u>
 - = umbrella group with approx. 44 members:
 - Province-wide sector groups (eg., Qc Farmers' Association)
 - Regional associations (eg., Coasters' Assoc.)
 - Specialist groups (eg., St. Columba House, Point St. Charles, Montreal)
- Regional Development Network <u>www.regdevnet.ca</u>
 - = umbrella group with approx. 15 members
 - Mostly regional associations



Conclusion

- Minority in numbers and experiences
- Declining vitality
- Complex issues not helped by public perceptions
- Many assets for stronger future



www.quescren.ca

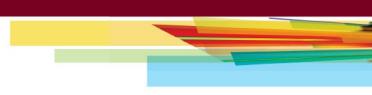
QUESCREN acknowledges our funders:

Secrétariat aux relations avec les Québécois d'expression anglaise

Québec



CONCORDIA.CA







ICRML Institut canadien de recherche sur les minorités linguistiques

Canadian Institute for Research on Linguistic Minorities

CIRLM