

Linking  
Immigrants to  
French and  
English

in Manitoba

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Canada



## Official Languages - The Beginning



### New France and the Fur Trade



*The fur trade opened up exploration in Western and Northern Canada.  
National Archives of Canada, public domain.*

Canada began its modern history in 1534 as a French colony. It was one of five colonies that formed a territory called New France. Canada was the largest and most successful of these colonies.

New France was supported by resources from the land. Goods such as fish, maple sugar, timber and furs, were sold abroad and traded with local Aboriginal populations. Furs were the most sought-after and New France had control over the fur trade. French fur traders began to move farther west, searching for an entry point into the heart of the continent, where the best furs were found.

However they were not the only ones looking. In 1668, a British expedition sailed into Hudson Bay to establish trade there. In 1670, King Charles II of England granted the Hudson's Bay Company (HBC) the rights to trade in the Hudson Bay drainage basin; an area known as Rupert's Land.



*Arms of the Hudson's Bay Company.*



## Official Languages - The Beginning



### Britain vs. France



*The Battle of the Plains of Abraham where Canada was won by the British.*  
National Archives of Canada,  
public domain.

In 1710, the British took control of Acadia, (another French colony), and renamed it Nova Scotia. The Acadians refused to swear allegiance to Britain, and so, beginning in 1755, they were forced to leave their homes. Many of them relocated to Louisiana.

Expelling the Acadians cut off French supply lines. This allowed the British to capture a key fortress (Louisbourg) and block the entrance to the St. Lawrence River.

From 1756 to 1759, the British attacked the French and captured New France in a series of battles (the most famous of these was the Battle of the Plains of Abraham in 1759). In 1763, New France formally became part of British North America.

### Confederation

French language and culture remained dominant in the former New France. However, with the arrival of more and more British colonists, the area was divided into English-speaking Upper Canada (which eventually became Ontario), and French-speaking Lower Canada (which eventually became Quebec).

In 1867, Quebec, Ontario, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick joined together in Confederation and became the country of Canada; a nation with two languages!



*Fathers of Confederation.*  
© McCord Museum  
National Archives of Canada,  
public domain.



## French and English in Manitoba



### Manitoba Joins Confederation

Meanwhile, in Rupert's Land, a new nation was rising - the nation of the Métis. Métis was the name given to the children of Europeans and Aboriginal people. This combination of two cultures made the Métis ideally suited to working in the fur trade and living on the prairies.



*Louis Riel, the Métis leader who brought Manitoba into the Canadian confederation.  
Manitoba Archives,  
public domain.*

A Métis community emerged in the area around the juncture of the Red and Assiniboine Rivers. This became known as the Red River Settlement (now known as the Forks). Part of the settlement was called Saint-Boniface and was home to a large French-speaking population, many of whom were Métis. When a cathedral was constructed, Saint-Boniface became the cultural and spiritual center of the French-speaking community in the Red River settlement.

In 1869 - 1870, the Hudson's Bay Company sold Rupert's Land to Canada. The Canadian government appointed an English-speaking governor, who sent out surveyors to divide up the land in square sections. The Métis people of Red River objected to this, as they had their own system of dividing land, which was based on proximity to the river.

Led by charismatic leader Louis Riel, Métis settlers resisted the Canadian government and established their own provisional government, which was made up of equal numbers of English-speakers and French-speakers. This government created a List of Rights, which included the individual's right to speak whichever language they chose. Based on this List of Rights, the Manitoba Act was drafted; the Province of Manitoba was formed, and it joined Confederation in 1870 and became part of Canada.



## One Nation, Two Languages



As more provinces joined Confederation, Canada remained a country with its roots in two languages and several distinct cultures.

Manitoba was a bilingual province from the start. However, with its entry into Confederation and the completion of the Canadian Pacific Railway, more and more English-speaking settlers came from the East.

In 1890, the Manitoba legislature ruled that English was the only language recognized by the provincial government and its institutions, including schools. In spite of this, many communities in Manitoba remained bilingual and continued to teach French, both in school and at home.

In 1969, Canada adopted its first Official Languages Act and in 1979, language rights were reinstated.

Today, New Brunswick is the only province that is officially bilingual (although all provinces are required to offer certain bilingual services).



Canada's Charter of Rights and Freedoms.



## The Official Languages Act



The 1969 Official Languages Act recognizes Canada's Francophone, Anglophone and bilingual populations as cornerstones of a multicultural Canada.

This symbol is a visual indicator that informs people that they may be served in either of Canada's official languages.

### A few facts - in Canada:

- French and English are the official languages of Parliament;
- French and English are the official languages of the federal courts;
- French and English are the languages of work in all federal institutions, and all employees have the right to use either official language;
- the composition of the workforce in federal institutions should reflect the presence of both official languages;
- the public has the right to request either language when being served in a federal institution;
- Manitoba is home to Canada's third largest French-speaking minority population;
- provinces and territories are responsible for their own legislation with respect to bilingual education;
- the Federal Government of Canada has the obligation to actively promote Official languages.



## Top Ten Reasons to Learn Both of Canada's Official Languages



### 1 Educational opportunities

Bilingual individuals have the option of attending any of Canada's post-secondary institution/universities.

### 2 Lifetime of learning

Research attests that once a person has learned a second language, the acquisition of more languages becomes much easier.

### 3 Enhance vocabulary and comprehension

French and English have over 20,000 words in common.

### 4 Develop critical and creative thinking skills

Bilingual minds create more associations between objects, idea and words, and therefore they have enhanced mental flexibility.

### 5 Employment and earning potential

French and English are required for many positions in the government and private sectors all over the world.



## Top Ten Reasons to Learn Both of Canada's Official Languages



### 6 Compete in the global economy

French and English are the official languages of many prominent organizations, for example the United Nations and International Olympic Committee.

### 7 Appreciate and accept other cultures

French and English are an integral part of many diverse cultures on each continent.

### 8 Enjoy international sporting events

French and English are used in many sports, for example World Cup Soccer and the Tour de France.

### 9 International travel

French and English open the doors to more travel options, cultural experiences and adventures.

### 10 Science, Culture and the Arts

French and English enable better understanding of scientific terminology and the ability to enjoy classic theatre, movies and literature in their original forms.



## The Benefits of Knowing Both of Canada's Official Languages



### Economic Benefits of Bilingualism

- Employment rates are higher for French/English bilinguals than for French or English monolinguals (Canadian Census 2006).
- Individual income is 10% higher for people who speak both official languages than it is for those who speak English only, and 40% higher than it is for those who speak French only (Canadian Census 2001).
- Nearly 60% of parents who enrolled their children in language-immersion programs report that their reasons for doing so include increased job opportunities.
- A survey of 63 Canadian companies representing 156,000 employees revealed that 84% of employers consider knowledge of French and English to be an asset, or said they give preference to French/English bilinguals.

### Cognitive Benefits of Bilingualism

- Enhances critical and creative thinking skills. Bilingual minds encourage mental flexibility, as they can create more connections between objects, ideas and words.
- Lays the foundation for a lifetime of learning. Research has demonstrated that once a person has learned a second language, the acquisition of a third or fourth language becomes much easier.



## The Benefits of Knowing Both of Canada's Official Languages



- Has a positive effect on first language skills.
- Assists in delaying the onset of Alzheimer's and other forms of dementia.

### Social Benefits of Bilingualism

- French and English are widely used in cultural, scientific and artistic communities.
- French and English are spoken worldwide and open many doors to travel options, cultural experiences and adventures.
- Enhances appreciation of other cultures and diversification.
- Allows active participation in the construction of a Canada that appreciates linguistic duality.



*LE FESTIVAL DU VOYAGEUR is an annual winter celebration honoring the fur traders who established the Red River colony. The Festival was founded in 1969. Dan Harper Photography.*



*LE CERCLE MOLIÈRE is a French theatre company in Winnipeg, operating since 1925. It is the oldest running theatre company in North-America.*



# Manitoba's Four School Programs



Manitoba Education recognizes four official school programs:

English



French Immersion



Français



Technology Education



Manitoba schools offer 13 Grade levels, which are divided into three categories:

Grouping	Grades	Approx. Age of Students
Early Years	Kindergarten* to Grade 4	5 to 10 years
Middle Years	Grade 5 to Grade 8	10 to 14 years
Senior Years	Grade 9 to Grade 12	14 to 18 years

*Grade Grouping in Manitoba Schools  
Manitoba Education.*

*\* Kindergarten remains an optional year of schooling.*

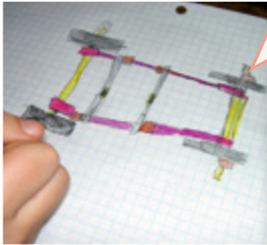


## Manitoba's Four School Programs



Early and Middle Years must demonstrate learning in the four foundation skill areas of:

- Literacy and communication
- Problem solving
- Human relations
- Technology



### Senior Years

- Grades 9 to 12 are organized around a system of credits.
- A credit represents 110 hours of course-specific instruction, or classroom-based learning experiences.
- Students earn credits when they achieve a final mark of 50 percent or more for courses.



# English Program



## English Program Early and Middle Years Recommended Subjects and Time Allotments

Subject Areas		Grades 1 to 6	Grades 7 and 8
<b>Compulsory</b>	English Language Arts	35%	27%
	Mathematics	15%	17%
	Science	10%	13%
	Social Studies	10%	13%
	Physical Education/Health Education	11%	9%
	Arts Education	10%	8%
<b>Optional</b>	e.g., Basic French, Other Languages, Aboriginal Studies, etc.	9%	13%
<b>Total</b>		<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>

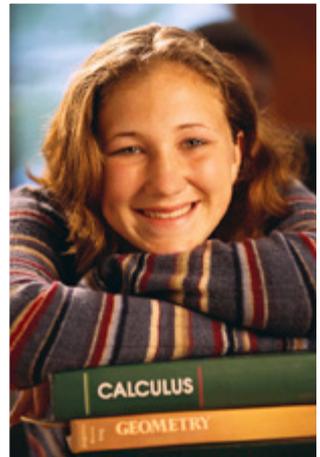
Manitoba Education.

In the English program, lessons are primarily taught in English. Students enrolled in the English program have 2 options to learn French (where available):

### Option 1 - Basic French

Basic French (also known as Core French) is a subject or course taken within the English curriculum. Students have French class several times a cycle. The aim of Basic French is to give students basic French language and communication skills, as well as an appreciation of the French culture.

Basic French courses are offered from Grade 4 to 12 in the English Program. Online Basic French courses are also available.



## English Program



### Option 2 - Intensive French/Enhanced French



Intensive French (also known as Enhanced French) is an extension of Basic French, which is usually introduced in Grades 5 and 6. A minimum of 270 hours over a 5-month consecutive period are devoted to learning French. During this time, core subjects are still taught in English. Students then return to the normal

English language curriculum and teaching method, although they may still have extended French classes.

### English Program Graduation Requirements

To obtain a High School Diploma from the English program, students must complete the required credits for the subjects listed in the table below. Students must also earn 13 elective credits from optional subject areas.

Senior Years Graduation Credit Requirements - English Program	
Subject Areas	Credits
Language Arts (English)	4
Mathematics	4
Science	2
Social Studies	3
Physical Education/Health Education	4
<b>Total Compulsory Credits</b>	<b>17</b>

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# French Immersion Program



French Immersion Program Early and Middle Years Recommended Subjects and Time Allotments			
Subject Areas		Grades 1 to 6	Grades 7 and 8
<b>Compulsory</b>	English Language Arts	20%	14%
	French	15%	13%
	Mathematics	15%	17%
	Science	10%	13%
	Social Studies	10%	13%
	Physical Education/Health Education	11%	9%
	Arts Education	10%	8%
<b>Optional</b>	Options vary from school-to-school	9%	13%
<b>Total</b>		<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>

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In the French Immersion program students are literally immersed in the French language. Almost all subjects are taught in French, with the exception of English Language Arts.

The goal of the French Immersion program is to create fully bilingual graduates, who are able to function comfortably in an all-French environment. This is an intensive, yet gentle approach to second-language learning.

## The French Immersion program:

- is open to all students entering the school system;
- has no entrance requirements;
- uses French as the language of instruction to teach Manitoba curriculum;
- is the most effective in-school method for non-Francophones to become bilingual;
- has over 20,000 students enrolled in Manitoba.



# French Immersion Program



In Manitoba, the French Immersion program has three options for entry: Early, Middle and Late Immersion.

## Early French Immersion

- Begins in Kindergarten or Grade 1 and is intended to continue through Grade 12.
- Is based on research indicating that young children learn languages more easily than older learners (student proficiency is strongly related to the amount of time spent learning and using the language).
- Is the most commonly delivered immersion program in Manitoba.



## Middle or Late Immersion

- Middle Immersion begins in Grade 4 and is intended to continue through Grade 12.
- Late Immersion begins in Grade 7 and is intended to continue through Grade 12.
- Access to Middle and Late Immersion programs is limited to a few schools throughout the province.
- Students quickly acquire French language skills and can usually be integrated into other immersion groups within a few years.



## French Immersion Program



Accessibility to French Immersion programs varies between school divisions. Contact your local school board to see what types of immersion programs are offered.

### French Immersion Program Graduation Requirements

To obtain a High School Diploma from the French Immersion program, students must complete the required credits for the subjects listed in the table below. Students also have to earn 9 elective credits from optional subject areas.

Out of the total of 30 credits (compulsory and optional), a minimum of 14 credits from courses taught in French are required to obtain the provincial diploma in French Immersion.

Senior Years Program Graduation Credit Requirements - French Immersion Program	
Subject Areas	Credits
French	4
English Language Arts - Immersion	4
Mathematics	4
Science	2
Social Studies	3
Physical Education/Health Education	4
<b>Total Compulsory Credits</b>	<b>21</b>

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# Français Program



## Français Early and Middle Years

### Français Program Early and Middle Years Recommended Subjects and Time Allotments

Subject Areas		Grades 1 to 6	Grades 7 and 8
<b>Compulsory</b>	French/English*	35%	27%
	Mathematics	15%	17%
	Science	10%	13%
	Social Studies	10%	13%
	Physical Education/Health Education	11%	9%
	Arts Education	10%	8%
<b>Optional</b>	Options vary from school-to-school	9%	13%
<b>Total</b>		<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>

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\* English is a compulsory subject from Grade 4 to Grade 12.  
Schools have the option to begin teaching it in Grade 3.

In the Français program lessons are primarily taught in French, with English Language Arts being introduced in Grade 3 or 4.

Options may include subjects such as:

- Computer science
- Ethical and Moral Studies
- Family Studies
- Industrial Arts
- Religion Studies
- Languages (other than French and English)
- Arts (other than Industrial)

Kindergarten is optional, however, school divisions that offer kindergarten classes must follow the provincial curriculum.



# Français Program



## Français Senior Years

### Français Program Graduation Requirements

To obtain a High School Diploma from the Français program, students must complete the required credits for the subjects listed in the table below.

Students also have to earn 9 elective credits from optional subject areas.



Senior Years Program Graduation Credit Requirements - Français Program

Subject Areas	Credits
French	4
English Language Arts	4
Mathematics	4
Science	2
Social Studies	3
Physical Education/Health Education	4
<b>Total Compulsory Credits</b>	<b>21</b>

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## Technology Education Program



In the Technology Education program lessons are taught in English. This program is offered in the senior years of secondary schools throughout the province. This program strives to develop a flexible and well educated work force.

Students develop skills that address current industrial and labour-market needs. This program also assists in ensuring that Manitoba remains globally competitive now and in the future.



### Technology Education Graduation Requirements

The Senior Years Technology Education program consists of 16 compulsory credits and an approved cluster of 8 to 14 compulsory technology education credits. Students wishing to graduate from a Senior Years Technology Education Program must fulfill the minimum 30 credit graduation requirement.

#### Senior Years Graduation Credit Requirements - Technology Education Program

Subject Areas	Credits
Language Arts (English)	4
Mathematics	4
Science	2
Social Studies	2
Physical Education/Health Education	4
<b>Total Compulsory Credits</b>	<b>16</b>

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**For more information, contact:**



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