The Benefits of Bilingualism

# Economic Benefits

■ 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

■ Bilingualism enhances critical and creative thinking skills. Bilingual minds encourage mental flexibility, as they can create more connections between objects, ideas and words.

■ It 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 learning of another language as a positive effect on first language skills.

■ Bilingualism assists in delaying the onset of Alzheimer's and other forms of dementia.

# Social Benefits

■ 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.