

Canada has always been known for being one of the few occidental countries with multiple languages, indeed that contributes to shape its image as a land of diversity along with the high immigration rate, these lead us to ask ourselves: "what is the place of languages in Canada, a place of immigration, and how do they fix the issues related to it?". The 3 documents which will help us study this are an infographic about the opinion of Canada on bilingualism and the official languages act presented by the office of the commissioner of official languages (A); a report of the government about an action plan for official languages set up starting 2018 (B); and an article by *Policy magazine* from 2020 talking about an advised revision of official languages act (C). We'll see first what the places of different languages in Canada are, then the perception of languages in the country and lastly the issues regarding the languages and the solutions brought by Canadians.

**The place of languages in Canada:** In doc A, in the bottom right corner it is stated that bilingualism "defines" Canada making us able to affirm that bilingualism (French/English) is a big part of Canada's identity because of its history) moreover the top left corner insists on pushing bilingualism to the government, meaning the country's identity to others = which is a proof that bilingualism is something Canada must be remembered for according to Canadians. A hierarchy of languages can also be noticed: one where French is more valuable than others, as the importance of French is emphasized in doc B "we are committed to" l.1 and the description as "a national strategy" in the title while talking about increasing the number of French speakers in the country. The lines 6 to 8 show that the number of people committed to this program is high too, while in the article it is mentioned that French is getting "a special treatment". However, this supremacy of French isn't total as stated in the article L. 4, and the frequency of French speaking people is low as we can see l. 9-11. Lastly native languages are placed at the bottom of the pyramid: most of them are "endangered or on the verge of extinction" (doc C).

But how are perceived the different languages by Canadians? most Canadians agree with the importance of bilingualism. As we can see by the infographic where "86%" "96%" "8 Canadians out of 10" etc.... agree with bilingualism being necessary. In this case of French and English, as native languages aren't mentioned, showing a possible disinterest toward native languages. Bilingualism is perceived as necessary at the same time because it attracts immigrants (bottom right corner) which is important for Canada's demography and economy. We can maintain by looking at the government report that French is considered as a pillar by the government who mentions "investing in our future" while talking about increasing the number of French speakers, hinting that French IS somehow the future. which is why they want its revitalization. "We have already [...] immigrants" l.4 doc B also highlights the importance of French revitalization for the country who HAS and will keep taking measures. But we can maintain that this perception of French stays fluctuant from one to another, in doc C for example L.11 to 14 justify that: the opposition of French detractors by the author of the article directly counteracting their point of view by mentioning history. We should also consider the natives' opinion; indeed, they wish for more representation of their languages, more than simple recognition l.26-28 of doc C.

And their opinion highlights one of the issues regarding languages in Canada, we can affirm that the Canadian identity is mainly based on French / English bilingualism, proof of the omission of native languages. We can see that in the infographic, which only mentions French and English, while justifying their importance because of the country's history, when natives are obviously as much

**Commented [MR1]:** On peut terminer la phrase ici, puis reprendre à indeed.

**Commented [MR2]:** Il plutôt que that  
That à tendance à reprendre une proposition. Ici puisque nous sommes en début de phrase on préférera it.

Par exemple : The cup that is on the table (that reprend the cup)

**Commented [MR3]:** Les mots clés de la problématique sont parfaits mais il me semble que la tournure est maladroite. On ne peut pas répondre directement à la problématique dans la problématique.

On pourrait dire à la place: to what extent immigration changes the place of languages in Canada and how do they fix the issues related to it?

**Commented [MR4]:** C'est un peu cavalier de commencer un paragraphe avec un titre.

**Commented [MR5]:** Il faut rédiger avec des mots

**Commented [MR6]:** All good!

**Commented [MR7]:** Peut-être un peu trop fort et maladroite. Thesaurus saura vous conseiller ; ) !

**Commented [MR8]:** « How are languages perceived » pour gagner un peu en mots éventuellement

**Commented [MR9]:** À inclure dans une phrase

important in its history. This further contradicts their omission. In doc C L.17-19, the revitalization and protection of native languages is called "an urgent issue" and most of the languages are "endangered or on the verge of extinctions". But more issues are stated in this document, such as the number of French speakers decreasing among the population, this imbalance is highlighted in L.8-9 and is said to have reached a "critical point" L.9-10 because "knowledge of English far outweighs knowledge of French among newcomers". the necessity to have French recognized as one of the official languages is also an issue, as we can see in the top left corner of doc A, where "should" is mentioned multiple times, hinting that it isn't the case yet. The document B mentions the solution brought by the government to fix this French crisis in Canada, mainly through immigration. L.3, L.4-5, L8-10, L. 15, all describe measures that are taken by the government and its collaborators to "support the vitality of francophones." Though these extensive measures don't apply to native languages as we can see in doc C, L.24-28, where the "indigenous language act" doesn't satisfy the natives who wish for government services in their language and not just recognition.

**Commented [MR10]:** Je suis d'accord cet argument marche plutôt bien ici, malheureusement il est déjà présent précédemment. Ce n'est pas trop grave mais dans l'idée si un argument peut aller dans deux parties différentes il faut revoir le plan.

**Commented [MR11]:** Document B

All things considered, we can say that bilingualism is proper to Canada's history and that languages have a specific place in Canada, for example French is more valuable than others symbolically but is still factually a lot less spoken by a major part of the population: immigrants. We can also affirm that native languages are omitted by the population and thus by the government, who doesn't try as hard to revitalize these languages in comparison with French. As for the perception of languages by Canadians, it plays a center role in the way issues are born and the way the government acts upon them.

**Commented [MR12]:** Excellente conclusion qui répond à la question parfaitement !

Néanmoins il me semble qu'il est possible de mettre davantage l'accent sur le paradoxe vis-à-vis du français et des natifs canadiens. Bien qu'ils soient tous les deux historiques le français est en effet mis en valeur, alors que les langues natives sont bien plus historiques que le français !