

Summary of the Evaluation of the Official Languages Support Programs, 2003-04 to 2020-21

Description

The Evaluation of the Official Languages Support Programs (OLSPs) covers the period from 2003-04 to 2020-21. It focuses on the relevance, effectiveness, and efficiency of the OLSPs, with particular attention to the contribution of intermediate and long-term results.



The OLSPs are composed of two programs:

- The Development of Official Language Communities (DOLC), which aims to enhance the vitality of, and support the development of, Official Language Minority Communities (OLMCs)
- The Enhancement of Official Languages (EOL), whose objective is to promote the recognition of both official languages in Canadian society

Relevance

Significant and continuous progress has been made on official languages in Canada since 2003.

The OLSPs have supported:

- the development of OLMCs
- the promotion of linguistic duality
- the learning of both official languages

Some challenges remain:

- access to post-secondary education in the minority language
- a shortage of qualified teaching staff
- opportunities to practise a second language outside the school environment
- consideration of socio-demographic changes

Since 2018, Official Languages represents the fifth core responsibility of PCH.

The OLSPs have remained aligned with PCH's priorities and the Government of Canada's constitutional and legislative obligations.

Effectiveness

The OLSPs are effective in contributing to the desired results.

The DOLC program has helped to:

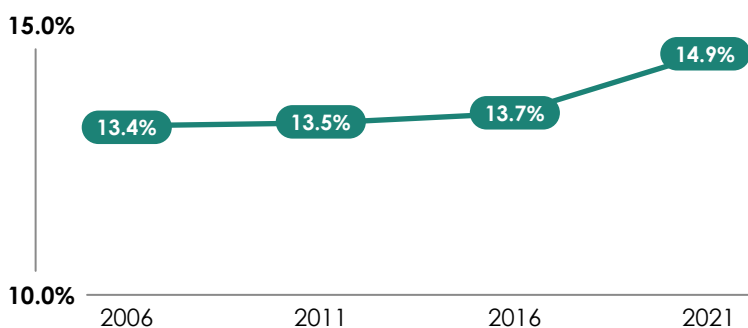
- promote access to infrastructure, programs, and services for OLMCs
- support access to minority-language education

The sustainability of OLMCs remains fragile, particularly for Francophone OLMCs:

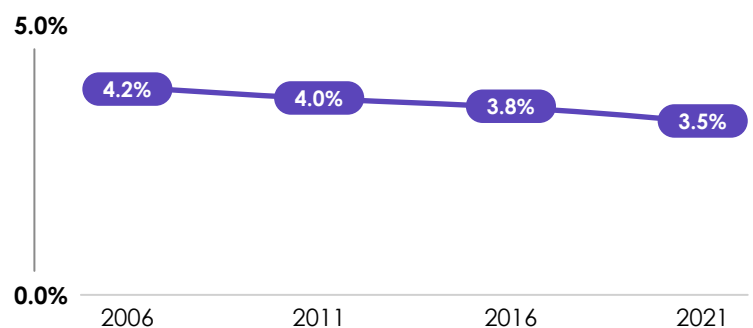
- the demographic weight of Francophone OLMCS is decreasing
- in Quebec, the number of students in minority-language has decreased between 2003-04 and 2019-20

Demographic Weight by First Official Language Spoken in a Minority Context, 2006-2021

English in Quebec



French outside Quebec



Sources: National Censuses 2006 to 2021

The EOL program has contributed to:

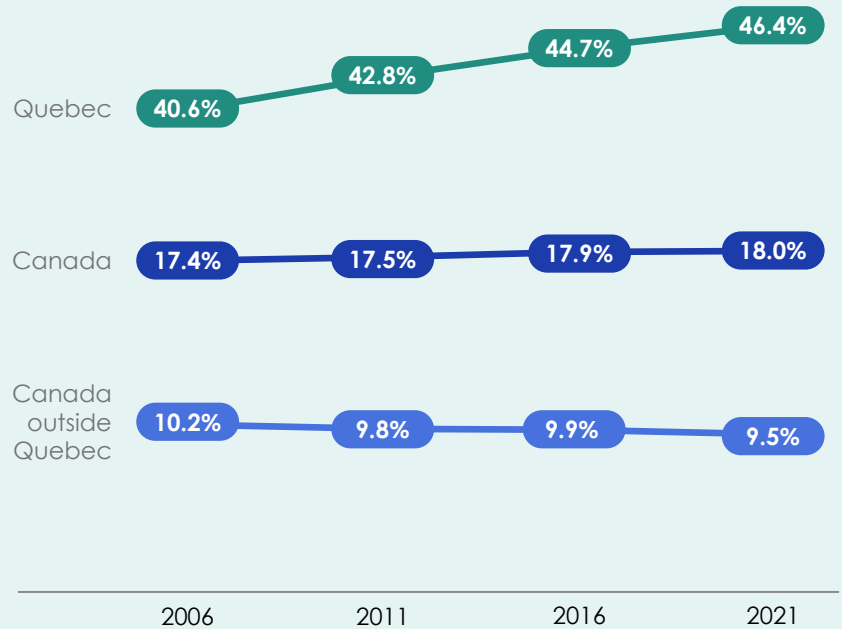
- a better understanding and appreciation of the benefits of both official languages
- learning a second official language



Challenges remain for access to second language learning:

- the number of students in French immersion has increased, but the supply is not keeping up with demand
- the number of students in second language learning programs has increased only slightly between 2003-04 and 2019-20

The Bilingualism Rate (%) of Canadians from 2006 to 2021



Sources: National Censuses 2006 to 2021

- the bilingualism rate of Canadians has increased only slightly between 2006 and 2021
- the rate of bilingualism has increased in Quebec, while it has decreased in Canada outside Quebec between 2006 and 2021



Efficiency

The efficiency of the OLSPs has improved, particularly by adapting reporting and working with the provinces and territories.

Some issues have limited the efficiency of the OLSPs:

- complex structure
- funding has increased only slightly between 2008-09 and 2017-18
- funding is not sufficiently aligned with provincial and territorial needs
- cumbersome reporting for beneficiaries

Recommendations

Based on the findings of this evaluation, it is recommended that the Assistant Deputy Minister, Official Languages, Heritage and Regions:

- 1 Review the structure of the OLSPs, as well as its priorities and objectives, with particular attention to the objectives of the EOL program.
- 2 Analyze the results chain to improve the consistency of the logic model and the indicators associated with it.
- 3 Revise the reporting process and targeted data collection to strengthen informed decision-making.

