

FSL PROGRAMS IN CANADA FACT SHEET

- ✓ FSL refers to the term French as a Second Language.
- ✓ FSL programs teach French to non-native speakers.
- ✓ FSL education in Canada includes Core French, French Immersion, Intensive French, and Extended Core French programs.

Core French (CF)

Core French is the basic form of FSL instruction, in which almost 90% of FSL students in Canada are enrolled. Core French is taught in short periods and referred to as Basic French in Manitoba. Regions with notably strong and/or improved Core French programs are British Columbia, Northwest Territories, Prince Edward Island, and Saskatchewan.

Core French Enrolment (elementary and secondary students) in 2004-05:

Alberta:	116,720
British Columbia:	222,862
Manitoba:	69,592
New Brunswick:	44,592
Newfoundland:	40,810
Northwest Territories:	2,403
Nova Scotia:	60,956
Nunavut:	233
Ontario:	852,703
Prince Edward Island:	9,943
Quebec:	77,092
Saskatchewan:	59,814
Yukon:	<u>2,439</u>
Total enrolment in Canada	1,560,159

(Canadian Parents for French, *CPF State of French Language Education in Canada 2006* report, Ottawa, ON)

“The bad news now is that again we find Core French enrolments in decline across almost all jurisdictions...The exceptions are Alberta, Nunavut, and Quebec (where enrolment is virtually static). The good news is that evidence continues to mount that the annual rate of decline continues to slow.” (CPF Report)

Intensive French (IF)

Intensive French is essentially a literacy-based enrichment of the CF program that is incorporated into CF for 5 months of the school year, usually at the 5th or 6th grade levels. IF offers students intensive French language exposure with three to four times the number of instruction hours.

Initially the IF program started as a three-year research project in two school districts in the province of Newfoundland and Labrador. IF is currently offered in British Columbia, Alberta (one school district only), Saskatchewan, Manitoba, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, and the Yukon. In addition, Prince Edward Island and the Northwest Territories are implementing projects this year, and some schools in Ontario are contemplating IF implementation for September 2007.

Intensive French Enrolment (grades 5 and 6) 2004-05:

Alberta:	90
British Columbia:	119
New Brunswick:	692
Newfoundland:	3,752
Nova Scotia:	174
Saskatchewan:	142
Total enrolment in Canada:	4,969*

(Source: MacFarlane, Alina. (2005) *An Examination of Intensive French: A Pedagogical Strategy for the Improvement of French as a Second Language Outcomes in Canada*. Ottawa, ON.

*Manitoba and the Yukon's IF programs began in the 2005-06 school year

“Evidently, Core French needs to be improved. Based on evaluation outcomes to date, Intensive French has the potential to lead to the accomplishment of these goals: After a 5-month Intensive French intervention, grade 5 or 6 students are able to communicate as well as regular Core French students in grade 9 or 10 (and sometimes grade 11).”
 (MacFarlane)

French Immersion (FI)

In French Immersion, French is the language of instruction for most subjects, and almost the entire school day is spent with both teacher and students speaking entirely in French.

There are various entry points for students into French Immersion. In early immersion, students begin the program in kindergarten or grade 1, while students commence middle immersion in grades 4 or 5. Late immersion begins in grade 6 or later.

The intensity of the program varies. In total immersion, French is used 75% to 100% of the time for the first few years; partial immersion begins with 50% to 75% of class time in French.

Saskatchewan has increased and diversified its FI program, while the Northwest Territories expanded and revitalized its programs.

French Immersion enrolment (elementary and secondary) 2004-05:

Alberta:	30,391
British Columbia:	35,985
Manitoba:	17,429
New Brunswick:	21,868
Newfoundland:	6,477
Northwest Territories:	622
Nova Scotia:	14,181
Ontario:	115,770
Prince Edward Island:	3,923
Quebec:	44,867
Saskatchewan:	8,650
Yukon:	411
Total enrolment in Canada:	300,574

(CPF Report)

“If Core French enrolments are now declining more slowly, French immersion enrolments are now increasing less rapidly. That was the conclusion in our last report and is consistent with the pattern of enrolment changes for 2004/05. In 2004/05 most jurisdictions still showed increases in immersion enrolment from 2003/04, exceptions being Saskatchewan, Quebec, New Brunswick, and Prince Edward Island... The same four provinces also register declines against the three-year average enrolment.” (CPF Report)

Extended Core French

Extended Core French is a more intensive program than Core French, but less than French Immersion. One or more subjects are taught with French as the language of instruction, and so less than 50% of the day is spent following the FI model in which students are “immersed” in French. The extended French program is offered only in Ontario, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, and Newfoundland.

Extended Core enrolment in 2004-05:

New Brunswick:	429
Newfoundland:	1,107
Nova Scotia:	3,041
Ontario:	<u>34,697</u>
Total enrolment in Canada: (CPF Report)	39,274