

### The Anglophone and Francophone Distribution in New Brunswick

**Mother tongue** refers to the first language learned at home during childhood and still understood by the individual at the time of the census.

At census time, most respondents report only one language (single response). However, some report more than one language (multiple response).

To simplify the linguistic analysis, multiple responses were equally distributed among the languages reported. For example, if a given number of respondents provided English and French as their mother tongue, half were assigned to the 'English' category and half to the 'French' category. The same procedure was followed for multiple responses which included an official language and a non-official language.

- New Brunswick is Canada's only officially bilingual province.
- Anglophones continue to make up the majority of the population. In 2006, more than 465,000 New Brunswickers reported English as their mother tongue. They represented 64.7% of the total provincial population, a slight decrease from their 65.0% share in 2001.
- Francophones (those who reported French as their mother tongue) made up about one-third of New Brunswick's population in 2006 (32.7%), down from 33.2% in 2001. The number of Francophones fell 1.7% over this 5-year period, from 239,400 to 235,270.
- People whose mother tongue is neither English nor French (allophones) made up 2.6% of the provincial population in 2006, up from 1.7% five years ago. The number of allophones increased from 12,270 to 18,665 between 2001 and 2006, a jump of 52.1%. This rapid growth is due to increased immigration and the tendency of most immigrants to have a mother tongue other than English or French.

