

I'm learning French because...

...it's a Canadian language

French is the natural second (or third) language for Canadians because it is so widely used and accessible throughout the country! It's the mother tongue of one Canadian in four. In Canada we have the advantage of:

- ✓ internet resources, texts, references, library books prepared for the Francophone market in this country
- ✓ access to role models and activities in Francophone communities throughout Canada
- ✓ access to the French media
- ✓ opportunities to experience French in our national parks and historic sites, through summer camps and exchanges
- ✓ opportunities to enjoy French theatre and music.

...it's a world language

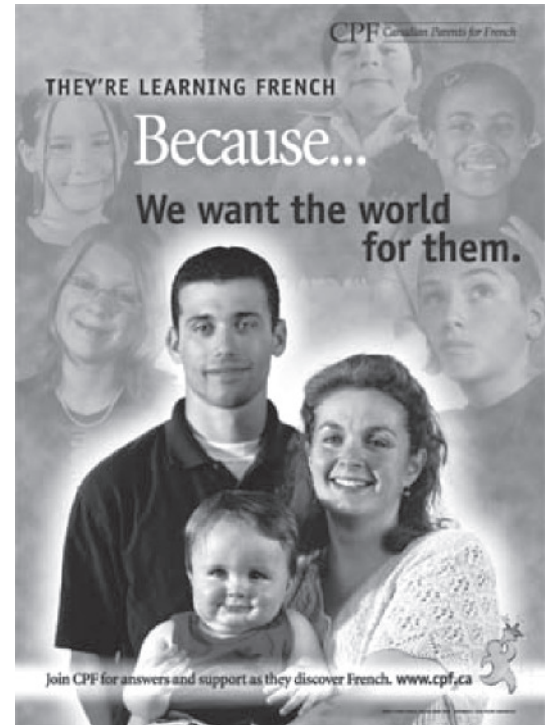
- ✓ Estimates of the number of French speakers around the world range from 100 to 250 million. It is the only language other than English spoken on five continents.
- ✓ La Francophonie is a network of 70 states and governments, of which 32 countries have French as an official language or it is the language of work.
- ✓ French and English are the languages of world diplomacy.
- ✓ French is an official working language of the United Nations, the International Red Cross, the International Olympic Committee, the European Economic Community, NATO and many other organizations.
- ✓ French is the second most frequently taught language in the world. It is the third most prevalent language on the internet.
- ✓ French is the second most frequently known by Europeans in addition to their mother tongue. Nearly one-fifth of non-Francophone Europeans say they know French.



I'm learning French because...

...it opens more doors

- ✓ It helps me to understand more about my province, my country and my fellow Canadians.
- ✓ It gives me a competitive edge in the job market anywhere in Canada and in many other countries.
- ✓ It offers a wider range of postsecondary opportunities, right here in Alberta and in other provinces.
- ✓ There are many bursaries and scholarships open to Canadians studying their second official language.
- ✓ It gives me access to a broader range of reference materials and information sources.
- ✓ It enhances my English skills, especially because it is such a closely-related language.
- ✓ In many communities I have program choices.
- ✓ It makes learning a third language easier.
- ✓ If my family moves, I can continue to study French almost anywhere in Canada.



...in Canada, it's the natural language to teach

- ✓ Educators can rely on this country's decades of research into and experience with French-second-language learning.
- ✓ Teachers have access to a wide range of resources developed in Canada especially for French-second-language programs.
- ✓ There are large numbers of French-speaking teachers.
- ✓ The federal government, through the provincial education ministries, provides financial assistance for the teaching of Canada's official languages.
- ✓ Since 1977, the volunteer support network Canadian Parents for French has been helping parents give their children the gift of a second language.



I'm learning French because I know...

...about program choices

- ✓ By studying French as a subject ("FSL") for several years I will have a good foundation from which to pursue fluency.
- ✓ In 47 cities and towns throughout Alberta I can choose early French immersion, which begins in kindergarten or grade 1 and graduates students who are functionally fluent in French. Some Alberta districts also offer students a second chance at immersion through a late-entry program beginning in grade 6 or 7.
- ✓ Francophone students in Alberta have the opportunity of attending French-first-language schools.

for more: "Learning French in Alberta" at www.cpfalta.ab.ca
<http://education.alberta.ca/parents/educationsys/frenchlanguage.aspx>

...about exchanges and work experience opportunities

- ✓ There are school-year and summer, individual and group, short- and long-term, within-Canada and world-wide exchange opportunities to help me improve my French.
- ✓ Exchanges Canada gives users direct access to information on over 300 existing programs at www.exchanges.gc.ca.
- ✓ Work experience opportunities include Young Canada Works in Both Official Languages, Katimavik, the Odyssey and Accent programs, the House of Commons Page Program, and much more.

for more: "For students" at www.cpfalta.ab.ca

...about internet resources

- ✓ The French sections at www.2learn.ca and www.learnalberta.ca offer support for specific subject areas and/or grade levels.
- ✓ The "Students" section at www.cpf.ca provides links to a wide range of resources, from games and fun in French to help with homework.
- ✓ Alberta-based activities and resources for students can be found under "For students" at www.cpfalta.ab.ca.



I'm learning French because I know...

...about postsecondary opportunities here in Alberta

- ✓ Most universities and colleges in Alberta offer French language courses, both credit and non-credit.
- ✓ The University of Alberta's Campus Saint-Jean offers the opportunity to study in a unique bilingual environment. Offerings include:
 - Bachelor of Arts, including Honors and After Degree programs
 - Master of Arts in Canadian Studies
 - Bilingual Bachelor of Commerce
 - Bilingual Bachelor of Business Administration
 - Bachelor of Science: General, Year 1 of Engineering, Nursing (bilingual), or Environmental and Conservation Sciences (bilingual)
 - Bachelor of Education: Elementary Route, Secondary Route, or After Degree
 - Diploma programs in Education
 - Bachelor of Education/Bachelor of Science (combined program)
 - Master of Education
- ✓ The University of Calgary offers some courses at the undergraduate level taught in French through the faculties of social sciences, humanities, and science as well as a Certificat d'études françaises.
- ✓ Athabasca University offers French courses by distance education.

...and throughout Canada

for more: "Postsecondary opportunities" under "For students" at www.cpfalta.ab.ca

...about financial support

- ✓ The *Explore* program covers the costs of 5-week French programs for students who have completed at least grade 11.
- ✓ The federal government, through the Alberta Scholarship Programs, offers fellowships to students with high academic standing pursuing postsecondary studies in French.
- ✓ Campus Saint-Jean has almost \$50,000 available in bursaries and scholarships.

for more: "Postsecondary opportunities" under "For students" at www.cpfalta.ab.ca

I'm learning French because I have choices...

French second language programs

French as a Second Language or FSL



- known throughout Canada as “core French” or “basic French”
- French taught as a subject for one period each day or a few times a week
- the objective is to provide students with an interest in and appreciation of French culture and with a basic knowledge of French from which to pursue fluency
- the depth of a student’s knowledge of French will vary according to the length and intensity of the program
- Alberta Education is actively encouraging schools to provide second-language instruction to all students beginning no later than grade 4

French immersion

- a program in which French is the language of instruction for a significant part of the school day; that is, several or all subjects are taught in French
- designed for students whose heritage is other than French
- the objective is full mastery of the English language and functional fluency in French as well as an understanding and appreciation of French culture
- the expected outcome in terms of mastery of French is directly related to the total amount of exposure to and use of the language

Early immersion: a program beginning in kindergarten or grade 1

Late immersion: a program beginning in grade 6 or 7, usually but not necessarily after a few years of core French (FSL)

- offered in 47 Alberta cities and towns (for a list go to www.cpfalta.ab.ca and look under “Learning French in Alberta”) and in every province as well as the Northwest Territories and Yukon



French first language education

- French is the language of instruction for all subjects except English language arts from kindergarten through grade 12
- designed for Francophone students (that is, children who have at least one Francophone parent, as defined in Section 23 of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms)
- the objective is full mastery of French as a mother tongue, full fluency in English, and a sense of identity with and belonging to the French community