



The Importance of Language

Why is language so important to our identity and culture?

How can the answers above help us to understand the perspective of Indigenous Nations such as the Haudenosaunee Confederacy in North America? (What could losing a Nation's language mean?)

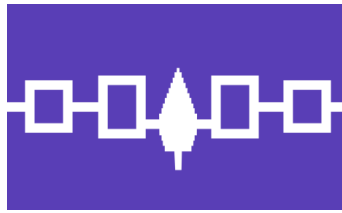
How can the answers above help us to understand the perspective of the Province of Québec in North America?



Populations in 2026



North America
Approx. 389,000,000

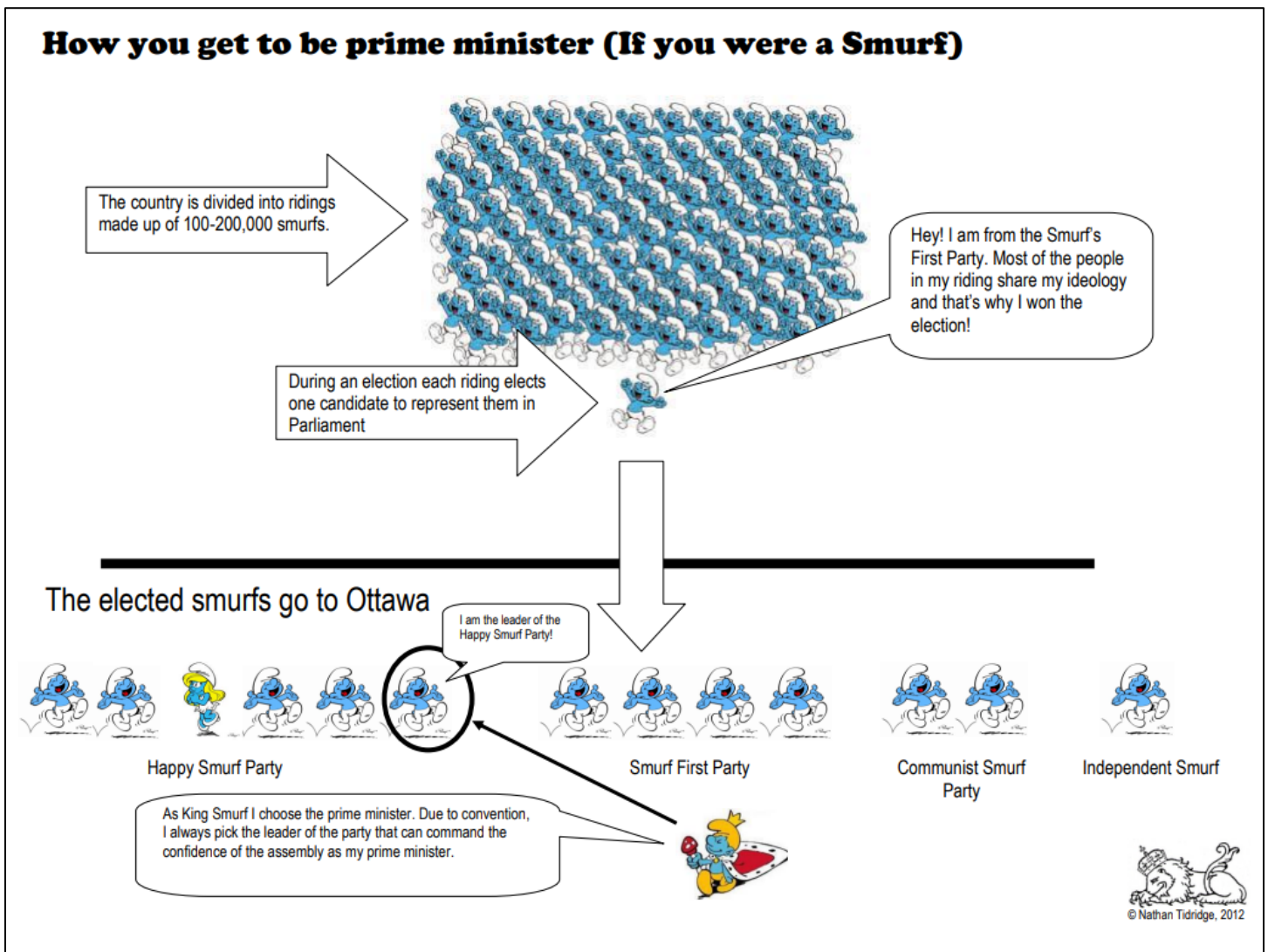


Haudenosaunee Confederacy
Approx. 200 000



Quebec
Approx. 9 000 000

How are Governments formed in Canada?



Seats in the Canadian House of Commons:

YEAR	Total	BC	Alberta	Sask	Man	Ont	Que	NB	NS	PEI	Nfld	Territories
2007	301	36	28	14	14	106	75	10	11	4	7	3
2011	308	43	33	14	14	116	75	10	11	4	7	3
2021	338	42	34	14	14	121	78	10	11	4	7	3
2025	343	43	37	14	14	122	78	10	11	4	7	3

YEAR	TOTAL SEATS IN PARLIAMENT	SEATS NEEDED TO FORM A MAJORITY GOVERNMENT (50% + 1)
2007	301	152
2011	308	155
2021	338	170
2025	343	172

What does this information tell you about who holds political power in Canada?

What could happen in the future?

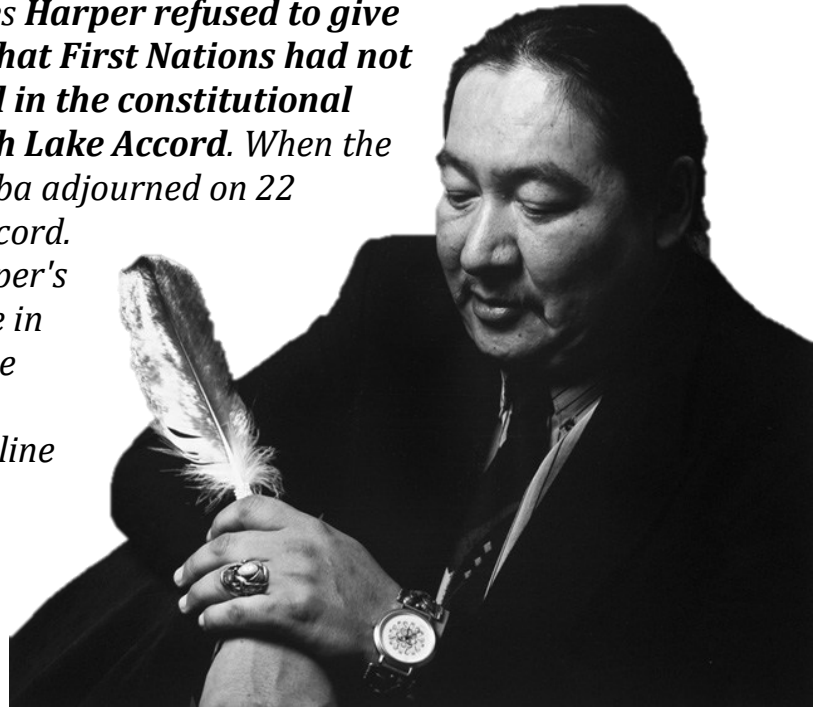
Some important dates in Québec's recent history:

- 1976 – Parti Québécois wins election and forms Québec's government who host a referendum for independence in 1980 – 40.44% of the province votes *oui*.
 - 1977 – Bill 101 becomes law (restricting attendance at English-language schools and banning the use of any language but French on commercial signs).
- November 1981 – The federal government and nine of ten provincial premiers agree to a new constitution. Québec does not approve the deal.
 - Aril 17th, 1982 – Constitution Act is proclaimed in Ottawa.
- 1987 – Meech Lake Accord is finalized by the federal government and ten provincial leaders to get Québec to sign the constitution.



- There was no consultation with Indigenous Treaty partners by the federal or provincial governments which resulted in many First Nations leaders opposing changes to the constitution. Elijah Harper was an Oji-Cree member of the Manitoba legislature (who became a member of the provincial cabinet as Minister of Northern Affairs).

According to McMaster University's Dr. Tabitha de Bruin: *The Manitoba premier, Gary Filmon, needed all MLAs to approve the procedure for ratifying the accord. Eight separate times Harper refused to give his consent, on the grounds that First Nations had not been consulted or recognized in the constitutional discussions around the Meech Lake Accord. When the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba adjourned on 22 June, it had not voted on the accord. Clyde Wells, in response to Harper's initiative, refused to take a vote in Newfoundland, arguing that the situation in Manitoba made it irrelevant. As a result, the deadline passed and the accord collapsed.*¹

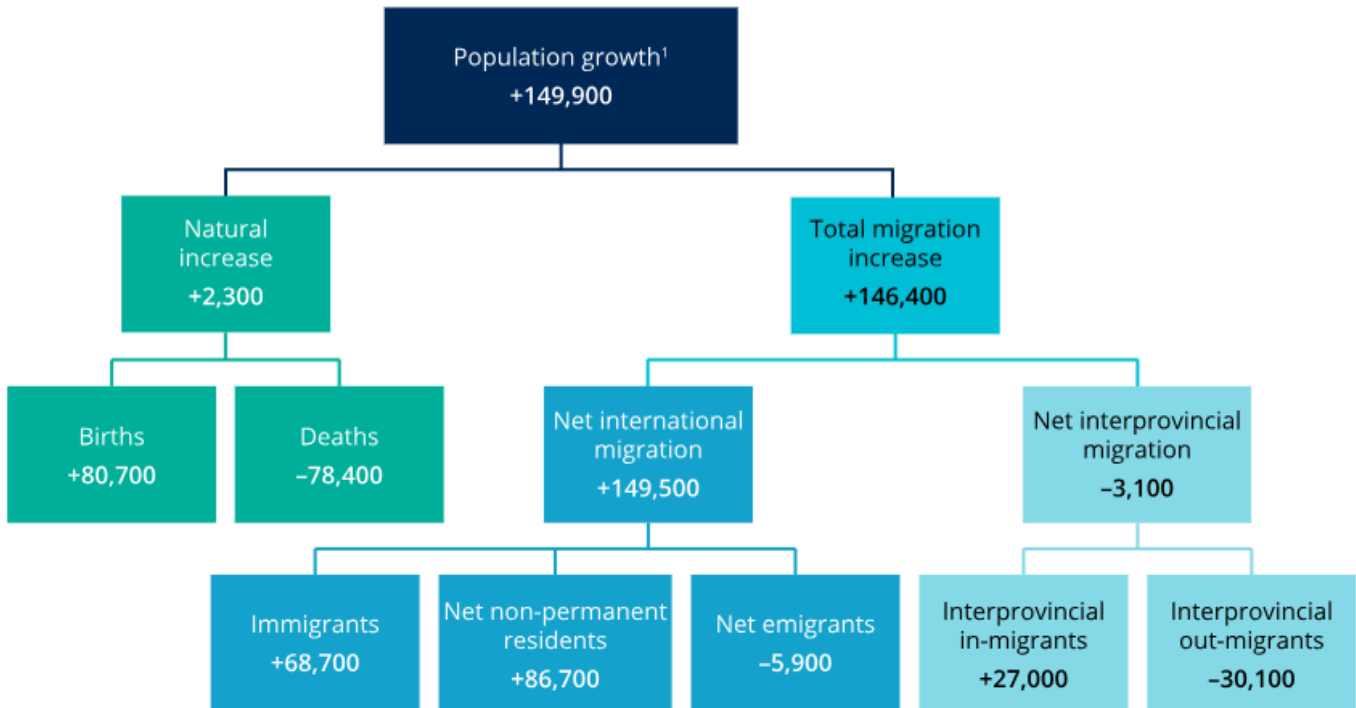


- July 25th, 1990 – The Bloc Québécois is formed by a group of six Québec MPs who elect Lucien Bouchard as their leader.
- 1992 – Prime Minister Brian Mulroney puts forward the *Charlottetown Accord* (another attempt at constitutional reforms). The accord was rejected in a federal referendum.
- October 1995 – In their own referendum, Cree Nations in northern Québec vote 96% in favour of staying in Canada.
- October 30th, 1995 – Québec referendum on independence is held. 49.4% of Québécois vote to separate.

¹ de Bruin, Tabitha. "Elijah Harper." The Canadian Encyclopedia. Historica Canada. Article published July 31, 2013; Last Edited March 04, 2015.



Components of population growth, Québec, 2022^P



1. Différence in population size between January 1, 2023 and January 1, 2022. Combining different demographic component data sources results in a slight residual deviation between total growth and the sum of the components.

Sources

Statistics Canada, Demographic Estimates (March 2023). Adapted by the Institut de la statistique du Québec.

Births and deaths: Institut de la statistique du Québec.

