

For immediate release

Enrolment in French Immersion leaps forward for 10th consecutive year in Ontario

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Enrolment in Ontario's French Immersion programs has reached an all-time high at 200,258 students, a 6.7 percent increase over the previous year.

According to the latest data from the Ministry of Education, the program has experienced an average annual growth rate of 5.7 percent for ten consecutive years and represents 10.5 percent of the total elementary and secondary student body in the sixty English school boards in Ontario.

The Office of the Commissioner of Official Languages just released data from a Nielsen survey showing 84 percent of Ontarians think more efforts should be made so young people can become bilingual (English and French) and 77 percent of Ontarians think the provincial government should make more spaces available in immersion.

"Learning and becoming proficient in French is more than a classroom exercise. It is rooted in our history and culture and today more than ever parents are appreciating its many practical aspects on the Canadian and global stage." stated Betty Gormley, Executive Director of Canadian Parents for French (Ontario).

Increased awareness of the cognitive, cultural, economic, and employment benefits of official language bilingualism has contributed to the popularity of programs like French Immersion that provide a higher intensity of French as the language of instruction in the English school system.

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Source: Ministry of Education, Ontario School Information System (OSIS), 2014-2015 school year.