

The Collectif PL96 - Accessible, high-quality public services for all:

Work to date and reflections

**CONFÉRENCE-CAUSERIE
APRIL 27, 2022**

**BORRI-ANADON, COMBES, CHARETTE,
CLEVELAN & BUTLER**



Collectif PL96

*des services publics de qualité
au Québec pour tous-tes*





Preliminary note

We recognize French as the common language and value its permanence within Quebec society.

The myths of the decline of French and institutional bilingualism

The situation the French language is in, you know, **we can't say it's currently healthy.** (02-02)

What I'm going to tell you is that **currently English is predominant**, and there are no limits, eh? (03-02)

Today, you know, we're in a situation where, for years and years in Quebec, and you know, there haven't been any rules, and it has contributed to **the bilingualization of the Quebec state.** *The report from the Conseil supérieur de la langue française shows it very clearly.* (09-02)

Simon Jolin-Barette, February 2022,
clause-by-clause consideration of the bill



Myths that rest on the opacity and lack of clarity of the available data and the absence of consensus on benchmarks.

According to the "Rapport sur l'évolution de la situation linguistique au Québec" (OQLF, 2019, p. iv):

- "The percentage of people declaring French as their only **mother tongue** declined between 2011 (78%) and 2016 (77%)."
- "The percentage of people with French as the only **language spoken most often at home** also declined. Across Quebec, it declined between 2011 (80%) and 2016 (79%)."

... BUT

The absence of clear benchmarks leads to alarmist conclusions

Again according to the "Rapport sur l'évolution de la situation linguistique au Québec" (OQLF, 2019):

The percentage of the Quebec population speaking multiple languages including French rose from 2.59% in 2011 to 3.25% in 2016 (Table 6, p. 18).

The percentage of people with another mother tongue declaring that they have sufficient fluency in French to carry on a conversation rose from 75,4 % in 2011 to 76,8 % in 2016 (p. 34).

● Decline in the **use of French** or decline of francophones (= mother tongue or only language of use)?
How to define the **Francophone (common language) community of Quebec?** ●

Myths that rest on the opacity and lack of clarity of the available data and the absence of consensus on benchmarks

According to the CSLF (2019), in its study "**Pratiques linguistiques des ministères et organismes publics du gouvernement du Québec**":

- 57.1% of respondents **sometimes use another language** orally and 46.2% in writing.

... BUT

Myths that rest on the opacity and lack of clarity of the available data and the absence of consensus on benchmarks

OTHER CONCLUSIONS COULD BE DRAWN

42.9% never use a language other than French orally

77% use a language other than French orally **once a week or less**

- Bilingualism of the state or **discursive strategy** to reinforce the idea of a **threat from English?**
- What's the distinction between bilingualism of the state and **services in other languages?**
-

Simplistic and assimilationist conceptions about integration and learning French

After six months, you're settled in.(03-02)

Actually, **it's not six months, it's zero months.** The principle is, it's zero months. The Quebec state expresses itself in French to new arrivals from the moment they arrive in Quebec (...) However, what we're doing **for the welcoming** of migrants, we're giving **a six-month grace period** to the Quebec state, which is **quite reasonable** for welcoming.
(03-02)

Simon Jolin-Barette, February 2022,
clause-by-clause consideration of the bill



Simplistic and assimilationist conceptions about integration and learning French

So we have to go upstream. And even before that, the MIFI has tools, notably **online French courses**, while people are abroad, **before they even arrive.** (09-02)

Yes, [the state] benefits from that exception (...), except that you have to bring [immigrants] in a process, you know, **a mechanism to be able to speak French in six months** (09-02)

Simon Jolin-Barette, February 2022,
clause-by-clause consideration of the bill



Simplistic and assimilationist conceptions about integration and learning French

CONCEPTION OF INTEGRATION

as an **individual and voluntary** act that:

- nourishes a **deficiency-based** or **compensatory approach** which puts the onus on the person (**individual responsibility** to integrate)
- doesn't allow us to understand the **realities and experiences of people in minoritized groups**, or the **processes and systemic practices that can contribute to their exclusion.**

(Charette and Borri-Anadon, accepted)

Simplistic and assimilationist conceptions about integration and learning French

Integration is a complex process: it is **bidirectional, gradual and continuous** (but also multidimensional, individualized, regulated)

"An immigrant or refugee needs to find their place, make a place for themselves, and **a place needs to be made for them by the host society**".

Cap sur l'intégration, TCRI (2005)

- How to move beyond assimilation and (re)centre **social participation** within the integration process?
-

Conceptions that are based on an assimilationist ideology

CONCEPTION OF LEARNING FRENCH

"Mechanistic" conception of second-language learning that obscures the impact of linguistic ideologies on the process of learning French (Armand, 2021)

- **Giving everyone the means to participate on Day 1 or waiting until they learn French to be able to participate in society?** ●
-

References

Armand, F. (2021). Enseignement du français en contexte de diversité linguistique au Québec : idéologies linguistiques et exemples de pratique en salle de classe. In M. Potvin, M.-O. Magnan et J. Laroche-Audet & J.-L. Ratel (eds.), *La diversité ethnoculturelle, religieuse et linguistique en éducation au Québec. Théorie et pratique.* (232-244). Montréal : Fides Éducation

Assemblée nationale du Québec (2022). Journal des débats de la Commission de la culture et de l'éducation. 42e législature, 2e session . Étude détaillée du projet de loi n° 96, Loi sur la langue officielle et commune du Québec, le français. <http://www.assnat.qc.ca/fr/travaux-parlementaires/commissions/cce/mandats/Mandat-46505/index.html>

Charette, J. et Borri-Anadon, C. (accepted, March 2022). Intégration et inclusion: évolution des discours et articulation de concepts dans deux domaines éducatifs au Québec. *Periferia*.

CSLF (2019). Pratiques linguistiques des ministères et organismes publics de gouvernement du Québec. Québec: CSLF. www.cslf.gouv.qc.ca/publications/pubf347/f347.pdf

OQLF (2019). Rapport sur l'évolution de la situation linguistique au Québec. Québec: Gouvernement du Québec. <https://www.oqlf.gouv.qc.ca/ressources/sociolinguistique/2019/rapport-evolution-situation-linguistique.pdf>

TCRI (2005). *Cap sur l'intégration*. Québec: TCRI