

Quebec's French Language Laws

BILL 63

- ◆ Introduced in 1969
- ◆ Stated that all parents (or guardians) have the right to choose the school and the language of instruction for their children
- ◆ Many Francophones (French Speakers) hated this law
- ◆ They wanted to force all non-English speakers to learn French in order to ensure the survival of the language despite increased immigration

BILL 22

- ◆ Introduced in 1974
- ◆ Established French as the Official Language of Quebec
- ◆ Forced French as the primary language of government and business (writing contracts, addressing customers, advertising)
- ◆ A student could go to an English school only if they could pass a test showing that they already had knowledge of English

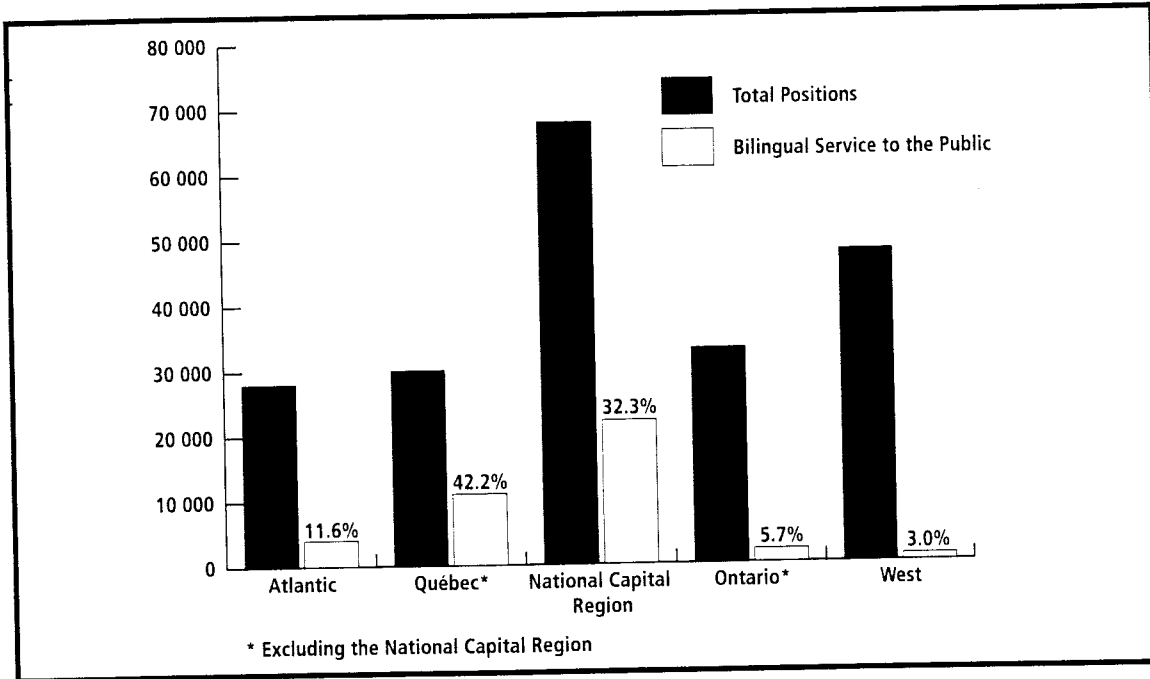
BILL 101

- ◆ Named the Charter of the French Language
- ◆ Introduced in 1977
- ◆ Further established the French Language's dominance
- ◆ All government functions and all laws must be executed in French
- ◆ French became the only language of Government and Business
- ◆ English education was restricted to those already in the system, their siblings, those temporarily posted in Quebec or whose parents had received an English elementary education in the province
- ◆ A fanatical agency enforces this law (nicknamed the Language Police)
- ◆ Loved by Francophone Canadians because it is the strong protection they always wanted

Examining Bilingualism

Name _____ Date _____

Federal Government Bilingual Positions by Region, 1991



Source: Official Languages Information System. Treasury Board, September 1991. Published by the Commission of Official Languages, *Annual Report 1991*. Ottawa: Minister of Supply and Services, 1992, p. 50. Reproduced by authority of the Minister responsible for Statistics Canada, 1993. As reprinted in Robert & Doreen Jackson, *Politics In Canada*, Scarborough: Prentice-Hall, 1994, p. 96.

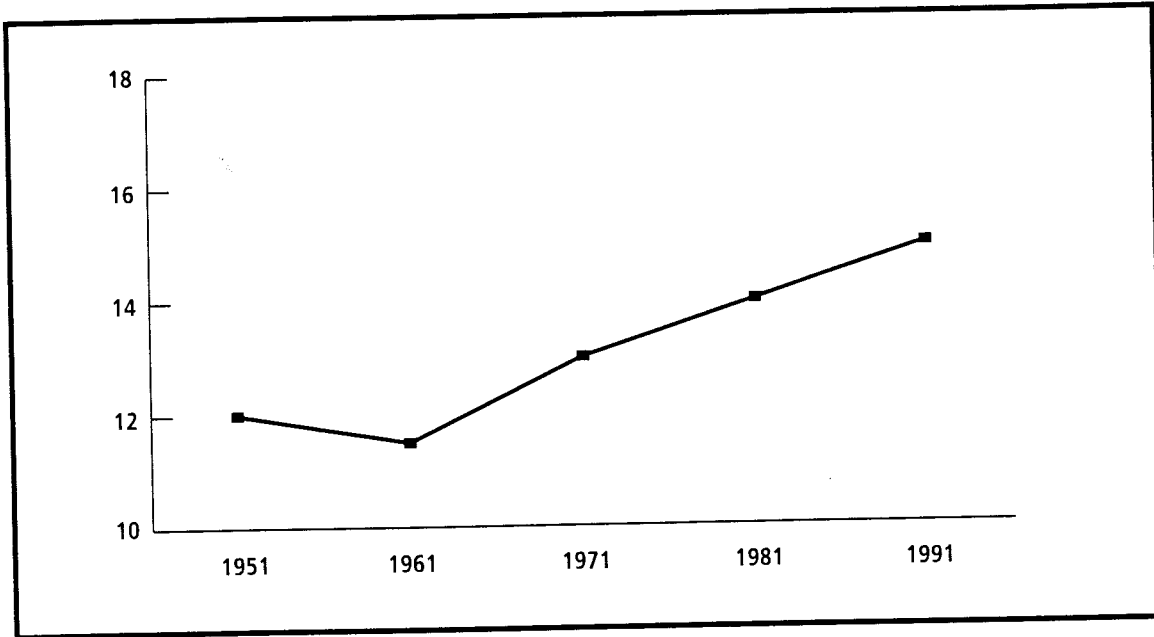
1. Which areas of Canada have the most bilingual positions, which have the least? Rank order the five areas of the country from most to least bilingual positions.

2. Why does the national capital region (Ottawa and area) have the most bilingual positions? Why does Québec have more than Ontario?

3. The West was particularly opposed to bilingualism at first, largely because of the cost involved and the inability of unilingual people to take some government jobs. In your opinion, and considering the figures shown in this graph, should they be opposed?

Name _____ Date _____

Proportion of the Population Able to Conduct a Conversation in Both English and French, Canada, 1951, 1961, 1971, 1981, and 1991



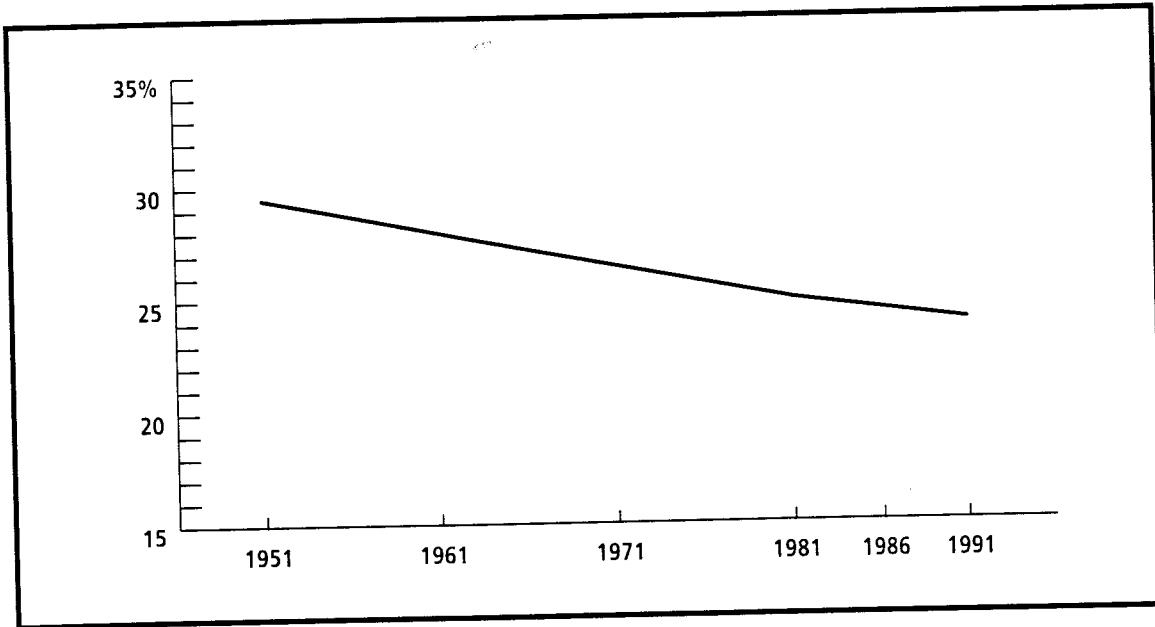
Source: *1986 Census Highlights: The Daily*. Ottawa: Statistics Canada, April 20, 1988, and *1991 Census Highlights: The Daily*. Ottawa: Statistics Canada, January 12, 1993, p. 11. Reproduced by authority of the minister responsible for Statistics Canada 1993. As reprinted in Jackson, p. 95.

1. What trend does this line graph illustrate?

2. What programs other than official bilingualism might explain this trend?

Name _____ Date _____

Percentage of the Population with French as Mother Tongue, Canada, 1951-91



Source: From *1991 Census Highlights: The Daily*. Ottawa: Statistics Canada, September 15, 1992, p. 7.
Reproduced by authority of the minister responsible for Statistics Canada 1993. As reprinted in Jackson, p. 98.

1. What trend does this line graph illustrate?

2. Does it contradict the conclusions you drew from the first line graph?

Summary Conclusions:

Has the Official Languages Act been a success, a failure, or of mixed results? Write a five-line paragraph explaining your position.
