

# Yukon Bureau of Statistics



## Indigenous peoples Census 2021

### Highlights

- In the 2021 Census, 8,810 people representing 22.3% of Yukon's total population, self-identified as Indigenous.
- Yukon's indigenous population as a proportion of Yukon's total population (22.3%) was the third-highest in Canada.
- The median income for Indigenous people in Yukon was \$45,200 in 2021, compared to \$55,600 for non-Indigenous people.
- Of Indigenous people in Yukon, 5.4% reported having an Indigenous mother tongue.

**Note:** All data in this publication represents the population living in private households, unless otherwise specified.

## Indigenous Identity

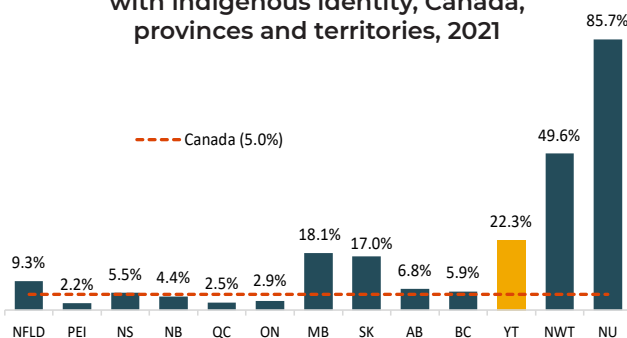
According to the 2021 Census, 22.3% of Yukon's population identified themselves as Indigenous. This was the third-highest percentage in Canada following Nunavut (85.7%) and the Northwest Territories (49.6%).

Of the 8,810 self-identified Indigenous people in Yukon, 78.7% identified as First Nations (North American Indian) (single response); 14.6% identified as Métis (single response); and 3.0% Inuk (Inuit) (single response). Those who reported multiple responses or Indigenous identities not included elsewhere accounted for the remaining 3.7%.

### Indigenous population, Canada, provinces and territories, 2021

	Total	Indigenous Population	Non-Indigenous Population
<b>Canada</b>	<b>36,328,480</b>	<b>1,807,250</b>	<b>34,521,230</b>
Newfoundland and Labrador	502,100	46,545	455,550
Prince Edward Island	150,480	3,385	147,100
Nova Scotia	955,855	52,430	903,430
New Brunswick	759,195	33,295	725,900
Quebec	8,308,480	205,010	8,103,470
Ontario	14,031,750	406,585	13,625,165
Manitoba	1,307,190	237,185	1,069,995
Saskatchewan	1,103,205	187,885	915,310
Alberta	4,177,715	284,470	3,893,245
British Columbia	4,915,945	290,210	4,625,730
<b>Yukon</b>	<b>39,590</b>	<b>8,810</b>	<b>30,780</b>
Northwest Territories	40,380	20,035	20,345
Nunavut	36,605	31,385	5,210

Percentage of total population with indigenous identity, Canada, provinces and territories, 2021



Yukon's percentage of Indigenous people as a proportion of its total population (22.3%) decreased by 1.0 percentage points compared to the 2016 Census (23.3%), and decreased by 0.8 percentage points compared to the 2011 Census (23.1%).

Nationally, the percentage of Indigenous people as a proportion of the population (5.0%) increased by 0.1 percentage point compared to the 2016 Census (4.9%) and increased by 0.7 percentage points compared to the 2011 Census (4.3%).

## Other Census Information

- [2021 Census Topic: Indigenous peoples](#)
- [Statistics Canada's Census Profile: Yukon](#)
- [Geosearch - an interactive tool which helps locate and relate Census data geographically](#)
- [Focus on Geography Series: Yukon](#)

# Indigenous Identity by Age

In 2021, the average age of Yukon's Indigenous population was 35.2 years, 5.7 years less than the average age of Yukon's non-Indigenous population (40.9 years). Nationally, these figures were 33.6 and 41.8 years, respectively.

Of the Indigenous population (single response) in Yukon, Inuit had the the lowest average age (30.4 years), followed by First Nations (35.2 years) and Métis (35.6 years).

Of Yukon's Indigenous population:

- 23.2% were aged 0 to 14 years, compared to 17.2% of Yukon's total population;
- 66.9% were aged 15 to 64 years, compared to 68.3% of Yukon's total population; and
- 10.0% were over 65 years, compared to 14.5% of Yukon's total population.

Indigenous population, by age group, Yukon, 2021

	Total Indigenous Identity Population	Single Indigenous responses			Multiple Indigenous Responses	Indigenous responses not included elsewhere	Single Indigenous Responses as % of Total Indigenous Population		
		First Nations	Métis	Inuit			First Nations	Métis	Inuit
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,810</b>	<b>6,935</b>	<b>1,285</b>	<b>260</b>	<b>190</b>	<b>135</b>	<b>81.7%</b>	<b>15.1%</b>	<b>3.1%</b>
0 to 14	2,040	1,620	270	80	60	10	82.2%	13.7%	4.1%
0 to 4	685	520	105	25	30	0	80.0%	16.2%	3.8%
5 to 9	690	570	60	25	25	0	86.4%	9.1%	3.8%
10 to 14	665	530	105	25	0	10	80.3%	15.9%	3.8%
15 to 64	5,890	4,610	885	170	115	105	81.2%	15.6%	3.0%
15 to 24	1,235	990	165	25	20	20	83.2%	13.9%	2.1%
25 to 34	1,340	1,030	215	55	35	10	79.2%	16.5%	4.2%
35 to 44	1,155	875	200	40	25	15	78.5%	17.9%	3.6%
45 to 54	940	725	160	20	0	35	80.1%	17.7%	2.2%
55 to 64	1,220	990	145	30	35	25	85.0%	12.4%	2.6%
65 and over	885	695	130	15	20	20	82.2%	15.4%	1.8%
Average age	35.2	35.2	35.6	30.4	30.9	45.2	...	...	...

<sup>1</sup> Totals may not equal due to multiple responses and random rounding.

# Income Statistics by Indigenous Identity

In 2020, among Yukon's population aged 15 years and older living in private households, 95.2% of Indigenous people had an income compared to 97.5% of non-Indigenous people, while 76.3% of Indigenous people earned employment income compared to 80.6% of non-Indigenous people.

In 2020, the median income was:

- \$45,200 for Indigenous people, and their median employment income was \$40,000;
- \$57,600 for non-Indigenous people, and their median employment income was \$55,600; and
- \$54,800 for Yukon's total population, and their median employment income was \$52,400.

In 2020, the median income amongst Indigenous identities was the highest for those who self-identified with multiple Indigenous responses at \$67,000, followed by Métis (\$51,200), and Indigenous not included elsewhere (\$48,000). Yukon's First Nations and Inuk (Inuit) both earned a median income of \$44,000, which was the lowest of all Indigenous identities.

The median income for Yukon's Indigenous population (\$45,200) was \$12,400, or 27.4%, less than the median income of Yukon's non-Indigenous identity population (\$57,600).

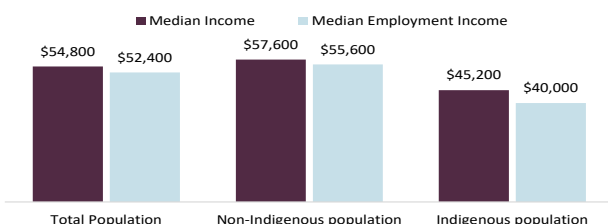
Percentage with income and employment income<sup>1</sup>, by Indigenous identity, Yukon, 2020<sup>2</sup>

	Percentage with income	Percentage with employment income
<b>Total Population</b>	<b>97.1%</b>	<b>79.7%</b>
Non-Indigenous population	97.5%	80.6%
Indigenous population	95.2%	76.3%
First Nations	95.2%	76.2%
Métis	94.9%	76.0%
Inuk (Inuit)	96.1%	77.3%
Multiple responses	96.2%	73.1%
Indigenous not included elsewhere	92.3%	80.8%

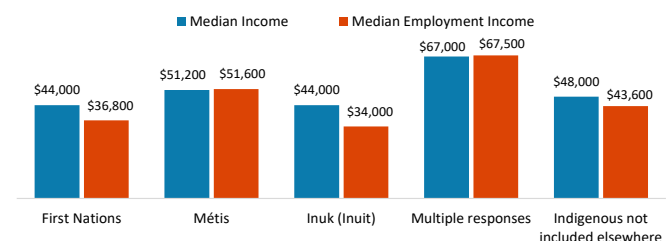
<sup>1</sup> Totals may not equal due to multiple responses and random rounding.

<sup>2</sup> Income statistics reflect data from the 2020 calendar year.

Median income, by Indigenous and non-Indigenous populations, Yukon, 2020<sup>2</sup>



Median income, by Indigenous identity, Yukon, 2020<sup>2</sup>



<sup>2</sup> Income statistics from the 2021 Census reflect data from the 2020 calendar year.

# Registered or Treaty Indian Status

Of Yukon's 8,810 Indigenous people, 6,145, or 69.8%, were Registered or Treaty Indians.

The proportion of Registered or Treaty Indians within Indigenous identity groups was the highest for First Nations (84.1%). The proportion of Registered or Treaty Indians among those who self-identified as Métis was 8.9%, followed by 5.8% who self-identified as Inuk (Inuit).

Registered or Treaty status by Indigenous identity, Yukon, 2021

	Total <sup>1</sup>	Registered or Treaty Indian <sup>2</sup>	Not a Registered or Treaty Indian <sup>3</sup>
<b>Indigenous population</b>	<b>8,810</b>	<b>6,145</b>	<b>2,665</b>
First Nations	6,935	5,835	1,105
Métis	1,285	115	1,170
Inuk (Inuit)	260	15	245
Multiple responses	190	80	110
Indigenous not included elsewhere	135	100	35

<sup>1</sup> Totals may not equal due to multiple responses and random rounding.

<sup>2,3</sup> see [Registered or Treaty Indian Status](#) on page 6.

## Indigenous Ancestry

Indigenous ancestry, Yukon, 2021

	Total responses <sup>1</sup>	Single <sup>2</sup> Indigenous ancestry Response	Multiple <sup>3</sup> Indigenous ancestry Responses
<b>Total Population</b>	<b>39,585</b>	<b>8,115</b>	<b>1,035</b>
North American Indigenous origins	9,145	8,115	1,035
First Nations (North American Indian) origins	7,405	6,375	1,035
Inuit origins	335	240	90
Métis	1,235	1,040	195
North American Indigenous, not otherwise specified	500	460	40
Non-Indigenous origins	34,835	3,960	430

<sup>1</sup> Totals may not equal due to multiple responses and random rounding.

<sup>2,3</sup> see [Indigenous Ancestry](#) on page 6.

Of the 7,405 people who reported having First Nations (North American Indian) ancestry, the most common response was First Nations (not otherwise specified) (3,545 people).

The most commonly specified ancestral origin among people with First Nations ancestry was Dene (2,965 people). People with Dene Ancestry represented 32.4% of Yukon's Indigenous ancestry population, and 40.0% of Yukon's First Nations population.

Of those with Dene ancestry, the most common ancestral origins were Tutchone (910 people), followed by Tlingit (855 people), Gwich'in (540 people), Kaska (645 people), and Tahltan (200 people). There were 380 people with Dene ancestral origins who did not further specify.

In 2021, the most common First Nations ancestry after Dene was Cree (475 people) followed by Anishinaabe (235 people) and Iroquoian (Haudenosaunee) (105 people).

Of the 335 people who reported having Inuit ancestry, 56.7% did not further specify other than Inuit ancestry (190 people) and 40.3% were Inuvialuit (135 people).

There were 500 people who reported having North American Indigenous ancestry, not otherwise specified.

In 2021, 23.1% of Yukon's population reported having Indigenous ancestry (9,145 people). The proportion of Yukon's population with indigenous ancestry was 17.0 percentage points higher than the national average (6.1%).

Of the 9,145 people who reported having at least one Indigenous ancestry, 7,405 had a First Nations (North American Indian) ancestry, 1,235 had Métis ancestry, and 335 had Inuit ancestry.

Indigenous ancestry, by ancestral origin, single and multiple ancestral origins, Yukon, 2021

Ancestral origins	Single and multiple Indigenous ancestry responses
<b>North American Indigenous origins<sup>1,2</sup></b>	<b>9,145</b>
<b>First Nations (North American Indian) origins</b>	<b>7,405</b>
First Nations (North American Indian, not otherwise specified)	3,545
Dene	2,965
Tutchone	910
Tlingit	855
Gwich'in	540
Kaska	645
Tahltan	200
Dene origins, not otherwise specified	380
Cree	475
Cree, not otherwise specified	455
Anishinaabe	235
Algonquin	100
Ojibway	100
Iroquoian (Haudenosaunee) origins	105
<b>Métis</b>	<b>1,235</b>
<b>Inuit origins</b>	<b>335</b>
Inuit, not otherwise specified	190
Inuvialuit	135
<b>North American Indigenous, not otherwise specified</b>	<b>500</b>

<sup>1</sup> Totals may not equal due to multiple responses and random rounding.

<sup>2</sup> Includes groups with at least 100 responses

# Knowledge of Indigenous Languages

In 2021, 8.1% of Indigenous people in Yukon reported having knowledge of at least one Indigenous language (an ability to conduct a conversation in that language), which was 5.0% less than the national average (13.1%).

The proportion of Indigenous people with knowledge of at least one Indigenous language was the highest in Nunavut (80.1%), followed by the Northwest Territories (26.5%), and Quebec (23.9%); Yukon (8.1%) ranked ninth.

Among Yukon's Indigenous population with knowledge of an Indigenous language:

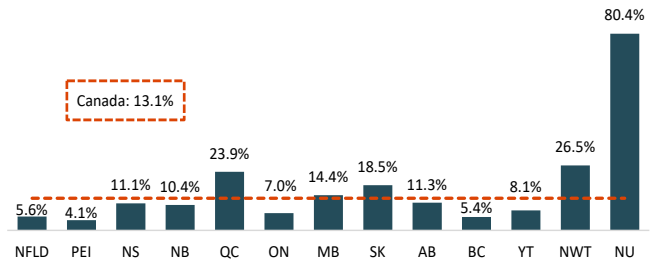
- 670 were First Nations, representing 9.7% of Yukon's First Nations population;
- 25 were Inuk (Inuit), representing 9.6% of Yukon's Inuk (Inuit) population; and
- 20 were Métis, representing 1.6% of Yukon's Métis population.

## Most commonly-known Indigenous languages<sup>1,2</sup>, Yukon, 2021

	# of people with knowledge of Indigenous language		
	Total Population	Indigenous Population	Non-Indigenous Population
<b>Total</b>	<b>815</b>	<b>715</b>	<b>105</b>
Athabaskan languages	705	630	75
Northern Athabaskan languages	565	515	55
Tutchone languages	275	230	45
Northern Tutchone	130	120	0
Southern Tutchone	125	85	40
Tahltan languages	200	195	0
Kaska (Nahani)	195	195	0
Tlingit	95	90	0
Gwich'in	70	75	0
Inuktitut (Inuit) languages	50	25	30

<sup>1</sup> Totals may not equal due to multiple responses and rounding.  
<sup>2</sup> Includes all languages and languages groups with at least 50 respondents in the 2021 Census.

Proportion of Indigenous population with knowledge of an Indigenous language, Canada, provinces and territories, 2021



Knowledge of Indigenous Language<sup>1</sup>, by Indigenous identity, Yukon, 2021

	Total Population	# of people with knowledge of Indigenous language	% of population with knowledge of Indigenous language
<b>Total</b>	<b>39,430</b>	<b>815</b>	<b>2.1%</b>
Indigenous population	8,805	715	8.1%
First Nations	8,480	670	9.7%
Métis	6,935	20	1.6%
Inuk (Inuit)	1,285	25	9.6%
Multiple indigenous responses	260	0	0.0%
Indigenous responses not included elsewhere	190	10	7.4%
Non-Indigenous population	135	105	0.3%

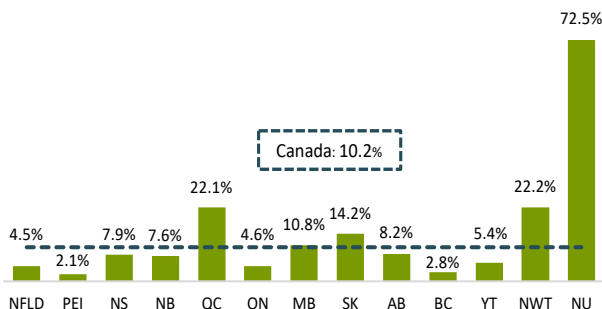
<sup>1</sup> Totals may not equal due to multiple responses and random rounding.

In Yukon, 705 people in 2021 reported having knowledge of an Athabaskan-family language. The most commonly known Athabaskan-family language was Kaska (Nahani) with 195 people, followed by Northern Tutchone with 130 people, Southern Tutchone with 125 people, Tlingit with 95 people, and Gwich'in with 70 people.

Inuktitut (Inuit) languages were the most commonly known non-Athabaskan-family languages (50 people).

# Indigenous Mother Tongue

Proportion of Indigenous population with an Indigenous mother tongue, Canada provinces and territories, Yukon, 2021



Of Yukon's Indigenous population in 2021, 5.4% reported having an Indigenous language as one of their mother tongues, which was 4.8 percentage points less than the national average (10.2%).

The proportion of Indigenous people with an Indigenous language as one of their mother tongues was highest in Nunavut (72.5%), followed by the Northwest Territories (22.2%), and Quebec (22.1%); Yukon (5.4%) had the ninth largest proportion.

## Religion by Indigenous Identity

Of Yukon's 8,810 Indigenous people, 5,700, or 64.7%, reported having no religion and had secular perspectives.

Of those with a religious affiliation, the most commonly reported religion was Christianity, with 2,610, or 29.6% of Yukon's Indigenous population, followed by Traditional (North American Indigenous) spirituality with 300, or 3.4%.

Of the 2,610 Indigenous people who identified themselves as Christian: 910, or 34.9%, identified as Catholic; 860, or 33.0%, identified as Anglican; and 395, or 15.1%, identified as Christian, but did not specify otherwise.

Religious identification of Indigenous people, by religious belief system, Yukon, 2021

	Indigenous Population	Single Indigenous responses			Multiple Indigenous responses	Indigenous responses not included elsewhere
		First Nations (North American Indian)	Métis	Inuk (Inuit)		
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,810</b>	<b>6,935</b>	<b>1,285</b>	<b>260</b>	<b>195</b>	<b>140</b>
No religion and secular perspectives	5,700	4,590	750	160	150	60
Christian	2,610	1,920	490	90	30	70
Catholic	910	615	225	20	10	45
Anglican	860	730	75	30	0	0
Christian, not otherwise specified	395	280	100	10	0	0
Baptist	130	110	0	0	0	10
Other Christian denominations	325	155	85	25	10	20
Traditional (North American Indigenous) spirituality	300	280	15	0	0	0
Other religions and spiritual traditions	190	145	30	10	10	0

<sup>1</sup> Totals may not equal due to multiple responses and random rounding.

## Living Arrangements, by Indigenous Identity

Census Family Structure, by Indigenous Identity, Yukon, 2021

	Indigenous population		Non-Indigenous population	
	#	%	#	%
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,810</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>30,780</b>	<b>100.0%</b>
Married spouses and common-law partners	2,720	30.9%	15,095	49.0%
Married spouses	1,375	15.6%	10,595	34.4%
Common-law partners	1,345	15.3%	4,505	14.6%
Parents in a one-parent family	850	9.6%	1,150	3.7%
Parents in a one-parent family (men+)	195	2.2%	195	0.6%
Parents in a one-parent family (women+)	655	7.4%	655	2.1%
Children in Census Families	3,255	36.9%	7,405	24.1%
Living in a two-parent family	1,655	18.8%	5,840	19.0%
Living in a one-parent family	1,430	16.2%	1,510	4.9%
Living with at least one grandparent and without parents	175	2.0%	55	0.2%
Persons not in Census Families	1,975	22.4%	7,130	23.2%
Foster children	75	0.9%	0	0.0%
Persons living with other relatives	325	3.7%	705	2.3%
Persons living with non-relatives only	340	3.9%	2,030	6.6%
Persons living alone	1,235	14.0%	4,385	14.2%

In 2021, 30.9% of Yukon's Indigenous population in private households were living with married spouses or common-law partners, compared to 49.0% of Yukon's non-Indigenous population.

In Yukon, of the 3,255 Indigenous children living in a Census family in 2021:

- 1,655, or 50.8%, lived in two-parent families;
- 1,430, or 43.9%, lived in one-parent families; and
- 175, or 5.4%, lived with at least one grandparent and without parents.

Of the 7,405 non-Indigenous children living in a Census family in 2021:

- 5,840, or 78.9%, lived in two-parent families;
- 1,510, or 20.4%, lived in one-parent families; and
- 55, or 0.7%, lived with at least one grandparent and without parents.

## Dwelling Condition, by Indigenous Identity

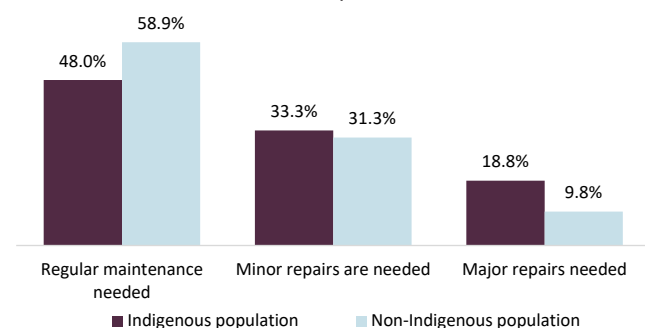
In 2021, of Yukon's Indigenous population:

- 1,655, or 18.8%, lived in dwellings in need of major repairs;
- 2,935, or 33.3%, lived in dwellings in need of minor repairs; and
- 4,225, or 48.0% lived in dwellings in need of regular maintenance.

Of Yukon's non-Indigenous population:

- 3,015, or 9.8%, lived in dwellings in need of major repairs;
- 9,625, or 31.3%, lived in dwellings in need of minor repairs; and
- 18,135, or 58.9% lived in dwellings in need of regular maintenance.

Dwelling condition<sup>1</sup>, by Indigenous Identity, Yukon, 2021



<sup>1</sup> Dwelling condition refers to whether the dwelling is in need of repairs, as reported by residents, not including desirable remodelling or additions.

See Statistics Canada's definition of [Dwelling Condition](#) for more details.



# Census Information

## About the Census

Every five years, Statistics Canada conducts a census of every person in Canada. The information collected is the primary source of comparable, reliable demographic data in Canada; it is used by governments, businesses, associations, and many others in decision-making processes that affect everyone.

All figures presented in this publication were subjected to a confidentiality procedure known as random rounding. This procedure provides strong protection against disclosure without adding significant error to the census data. Under this method, all figures, including totals, are randomly rounded either up or down to a multiple of 5. Totals and individual values are randomly rounded independently, meaning that some differences between the displayed total and the sum of the rounded data may exist in various tabulations, and minor differences can occasionally be expected between tabulations. Similarly, percentages, which are calculated based on rounded figures, may not add to 100%. Users should be aware of possible data distortions when aggregating rounded data.

## Concepts and Definitions

**Indigenous identity:** refers to whether the person identified with the Indigenous peoples of Canada. This includes those who identify as First Nations (North American Indian), Métis and/or Inuk (Inuit), and/or those who report being Registered or Treaty Indians (that is, registered under the Indian Act of Canada), and/or those who have membership in a First Nation or Indian band.

**Indigenous ancestry:** refers to whether a person has ancestry associated with the Indigenous peoples of Canada, that is, First Nations (North American Indian), Métis, and/or Inuit. Ancestry refers to the ethnic or cultural origins of the person's ancestors, an ancestor being usually more distant than a grandparent. A person can have more than one ethnic or cultural origin.

**Indigenous group:** refers to whether the person is First Nations (North American Indian), Métis and/or Inuk (Inuit). A person may be included in more than one of these three specific groups.

**Knowledge of languages:** refers to whether a person can conduct a conversation in that language.

**Registered or Treaty Indian status:** refers to whether or not a person is a Registered or Treaty Indian. Registered Indians are persons who are registered under the *Indian Act* of Canada. Treaty Indians are persons who belong to a First Nation or Indian band that signed a treaty with the Crown. Registered or Treaty Indians are sometimes also called Status Indians.

**Religion:** refers to the person's self-identification as having a connection or affiliation with any religious denomination, group, body, or other religiously defined community or system of belief. Religion is not limited to formal membership in a religious organization or group.

**Mother tongue:** refers to the first language learned at home in childhood and still understood by the person at the time the data was collected. If the person no longer understands the first language learned, the mother tongue is the second language learned. For a person who learned more than one language at the same time in early childhood, the mother tongue is the language this person spoke most often at home before starting school. The person has more than one mother tongue only if they learned these languages at the same time, and still understands them. For a child who has not yet learned to speak, the mother tongue is the language spoken most often to this child at home. A child who has not yet learned to speak has more than one mother tongue only if these languages are spoken to them equally often so that the child learns these languages at the same time.

Additional Census concepts and definitions are available in [Statistics Canada's Dictionary, Census of Population, 2021](#).

February 2023