

# ENGLISH-SPEAKING COMMUNITIES

*of the Gaspésie and Magdalen Islands*



A REGIONAL  
PROFILE

JUNE 2024

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This document was produced in collaboration with the Committee for Anglophone Social Action (CASA), the Council for Anglophone Magdalen Islanders (CAMI) and Vision Gaspé-Percé Now (Vision). It was made possible through financial contributions from the Secrétariat aux relations avec les Québécois d'expression anglaise and the Community Health and Social Services Network.



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**Québec**



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Data is drawn from the 2021 Census of Canada.

The views expressed herein do not necessarily represent the views of Health Canada.

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# PURPOSE *of the document*

This document provides an overview of the English-speaking community in the Gaspésie—Îles-de-la-Madeleine region. Its purpose is to provide information that can be used to create awareness of the English-speaking minority in this region, and to inform the actions of CASA, CAMI and Vision, their partners, and other stakeholders in the region.

## OUR COLLECTIVE APPROACH



### *Access to services and information*

We aim to increase access to services and information for our English-speaking community members.



### *Collaboration and partnership*

We support shared planning and action with relevant stakeholders.



### *Volunteerism and leadership development*

We aim to involve community members and develop their community leadership interests and capacity.



### *Knowledge development and evaluation*

We aim to develop and share knowledge on regional realities to support evidence-based action.

Three community-based organizations in the Gaspésie—Îles-de-la-Madeleine region are pooling their efforts to meet a shared goal:



**BUILD AND STRENGTHEN THE  
VITALITY OF THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING  
COMMUNITY OF THE GASPÉSIE—  
ÎLES-DE-LA-MADELEINE**

# ENGLISH SPEAKERS *in Quebec*

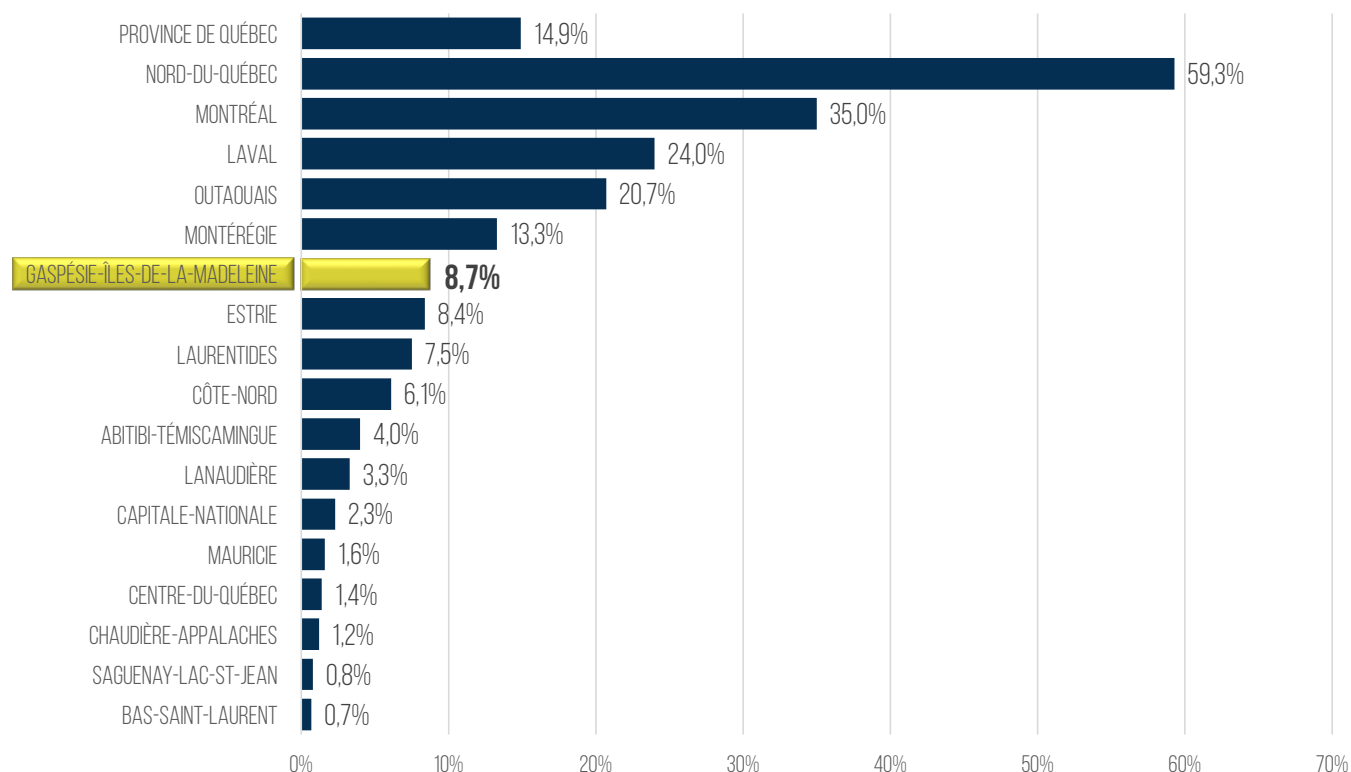
There are over one million (1,253,580) individuals living in Quebec whose first official language is English (an increase of 155,655 since 2016).

Quebec's English-speaking communities comprise 14.9 % of the Quebec population (almost one percent more than in 2016).

Regional populations vary greatly, as does the proportion of the population made up of English speakers, from 35.0% in Montreal to 0.7% in the Lower Saint-Lawrence.

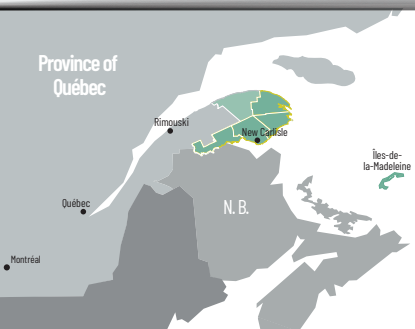
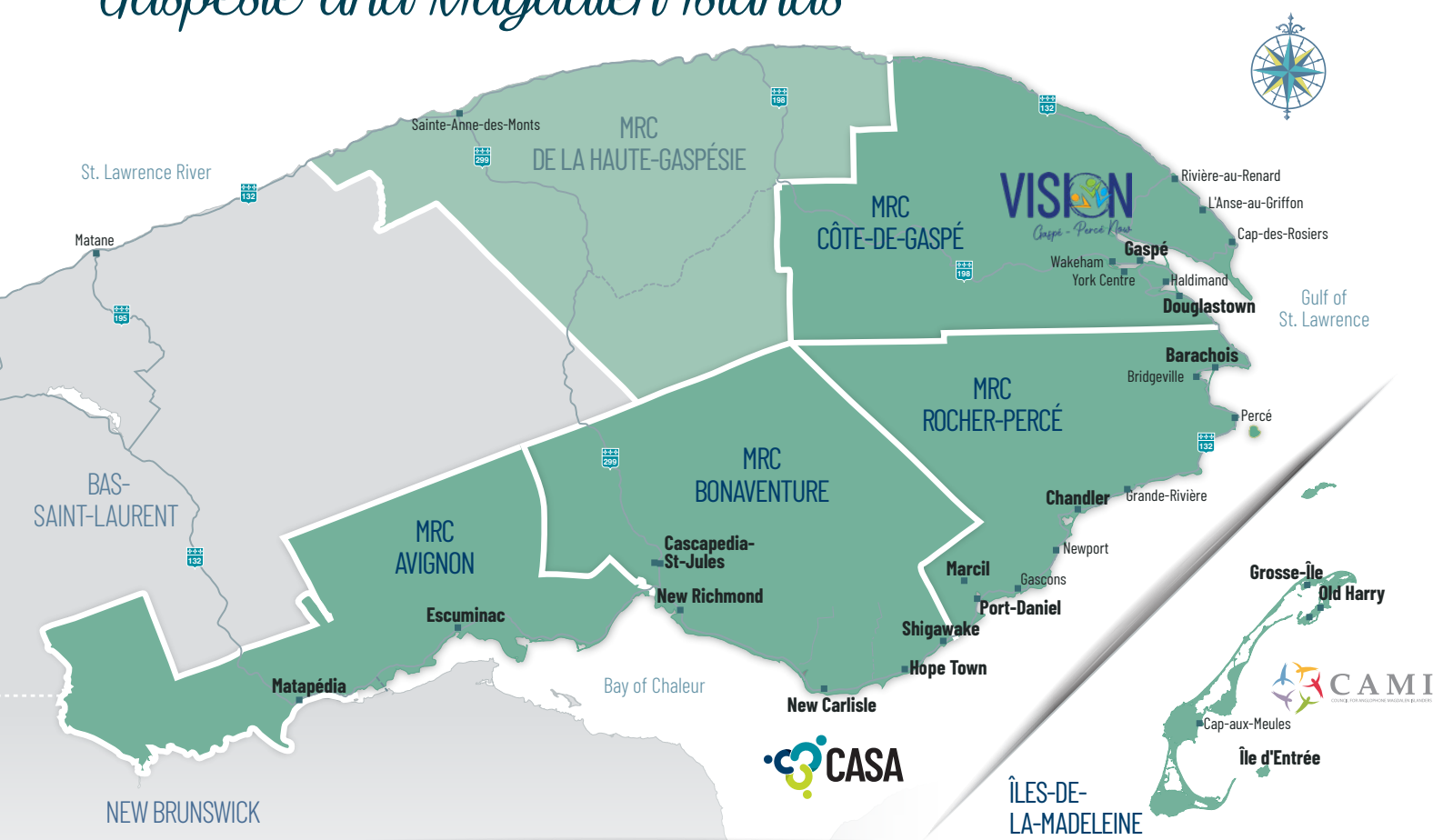
IN THE GASPÉSIE - ÎLES-DE-LA-MADELEINE REGION, THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING COMMUNITY IS COMPRISED OF **7,740** INDIVIDUALS AND MAKES UP **8.7%** OF THE REGIONAL POPULATION.

## PROPORTION OF ENGLISH AND FRENCH SPEAKERS BY ADMINISTRATIVE REGION, 2021



# INTRODUCTION TO THE REGION

## *Gaspésie and Magdalen Islands*



	Total population 2021 <sup>1</sup>	English speaking population		Difference
		2016	2021	
Îles-de-la-Madeleine	12,540	695	665	-30
Rocher-Percé	17,095	1 230	1,330	+100
Côte-de-Gaspé	17,425	1 735	1,760	+25
Bonaventure	17,415	2 510	2,615	+105
Avignon <sup>2</sup>	13,195	2 570	1,300	-1,270
La Haute-Gaspésie <sup>3</sup>	10,865	45	65	20

### DISTANCE

New Carlisle to Gaspé	176 km
New Carlisle to Matapédia	151 km
New Carlisle to Rimouski	328 km
New Carlisle to Quebec	649 km
New Carlisle to Montreal	871 km
Gaspé to Matapédia	323 km

1- Source: JPocock Research Consulting, 2021 Census, Statistics Canada. Total population excluding institutional residents – 100% sample.

2- Excludes census results from certain reserves or settlements where the count was incomplete.

3- The MRC of La Haute-Gaspésie will not be included in the rest of the profile as the English-speaking population is very small and is not part of the of the region that the three organizations cover.



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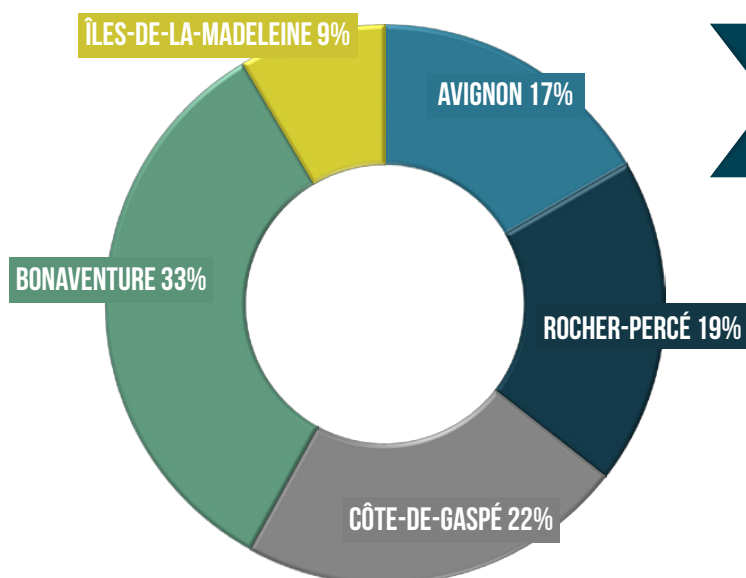
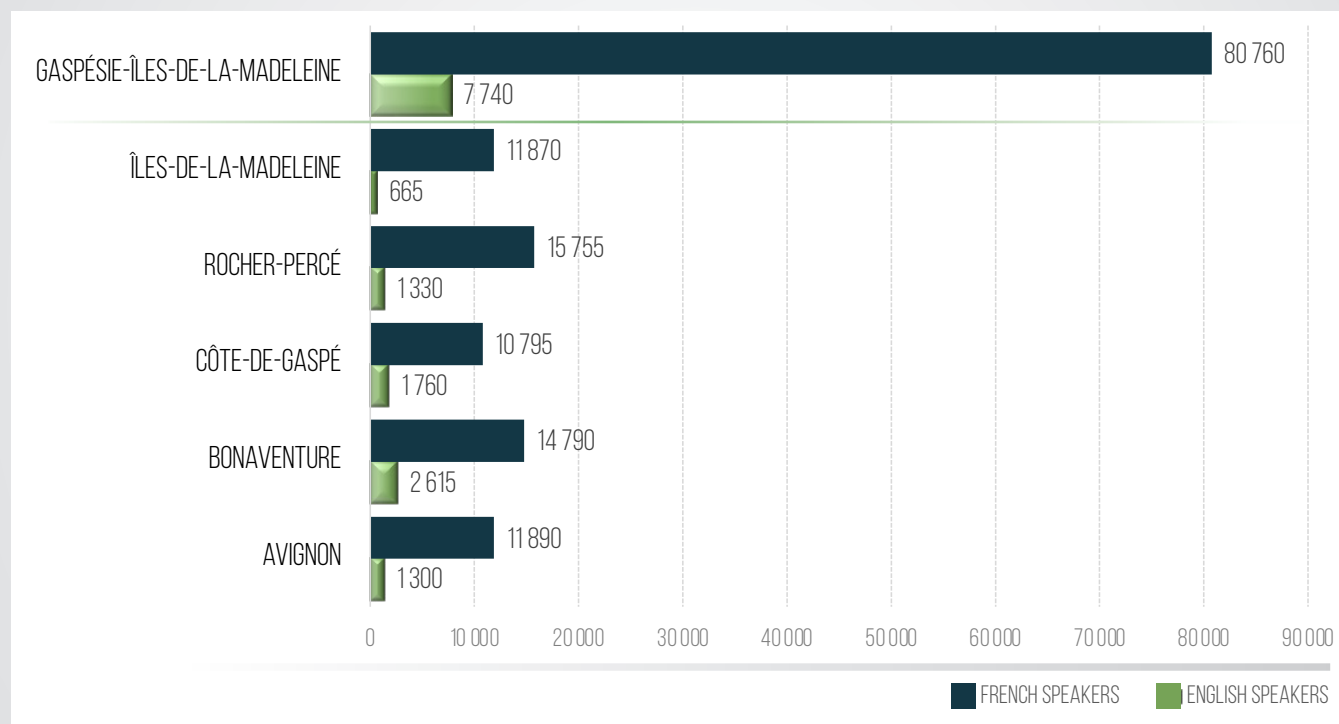
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# English-speaking POPULATION IN GIM

The smallest English-speaking population is in Îles-de-la-Madeleine, whereas the largest is in Bonaventure.

## ENGLISH-AND FRENCH-SPEAKING POPULATIONS BY MRC



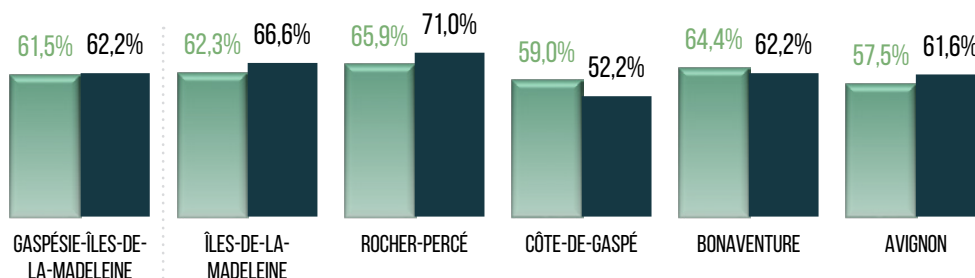
## DISTRIBUTION OF ENGLISH SPEAKERS IN GIM

# Changes from 2016-2021

2016 2021

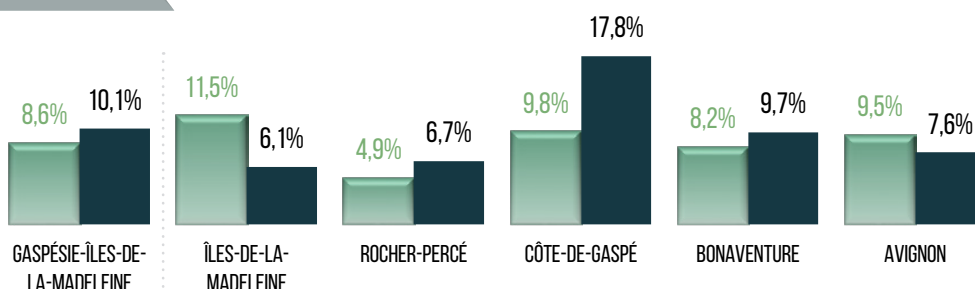
## LOW EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

(high school diploma or less) levels have gone up since 2016 in all MRCs except Côte-de-Gaspé and Bonaventure.



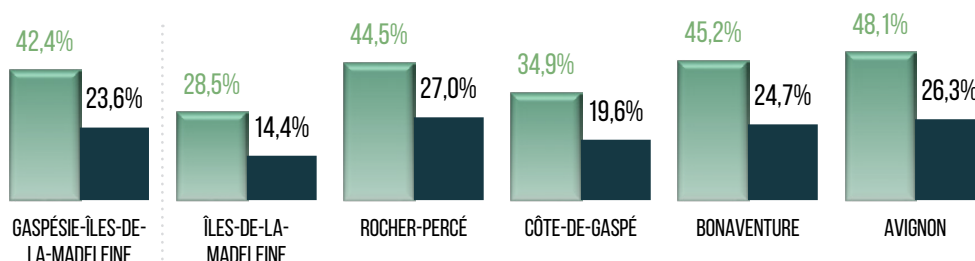
## HIGH EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

(Bachelor's degree or higher): Côte-de-Gaspé has a significant change since 2016, almost doubling its proportion from 9,8% to 17,8% in 2021.



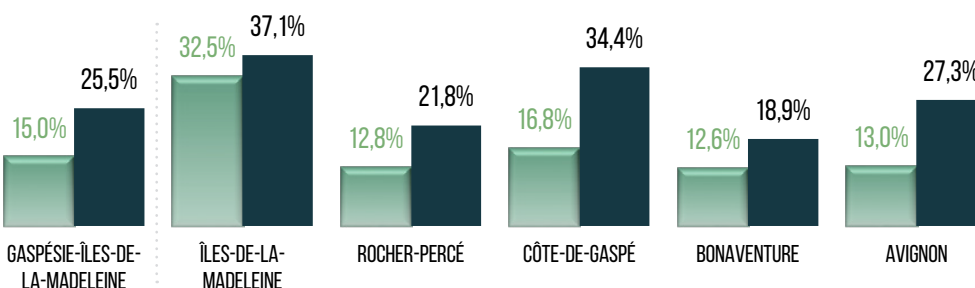
## LOW INCOME

(20K or less) levels decreased in all regions quite significantly since 2016.



## HIGH INCOME

(50K or higher) levels have increased significantly except in the Îles-de-la-Madeleine MRC, where the percentage was quite high in 2016 to begin with.



# TARGET POPULATIONS

## *and our shared goals*



### PRE-SCHOOLERS 0-4

Promote early childhood development such as attachment, early literacy, school readiness and parenting support



### CHILDREN 0-14

Support children in adopting healthy lifestyle behaviours, developing resiliency and school attachment, and discovering their cultural and linguistic identities



### YOUTH 15-24

Motivate youth to become bilingual, increase their sense of belonging, foster social and linguistic integration and promote education and employment



### ADULTS 25-64

Mobilize adults to volunteer and be engaged in community development efforts, including employment and education opportunities and caregiver support.



### SENIORS 65 AND OVER

Provide opportunities for seniors and caregivers to reduce isolation, engage in physical, social and cognitive activities, maintain health and autonomy, and access services.

# EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

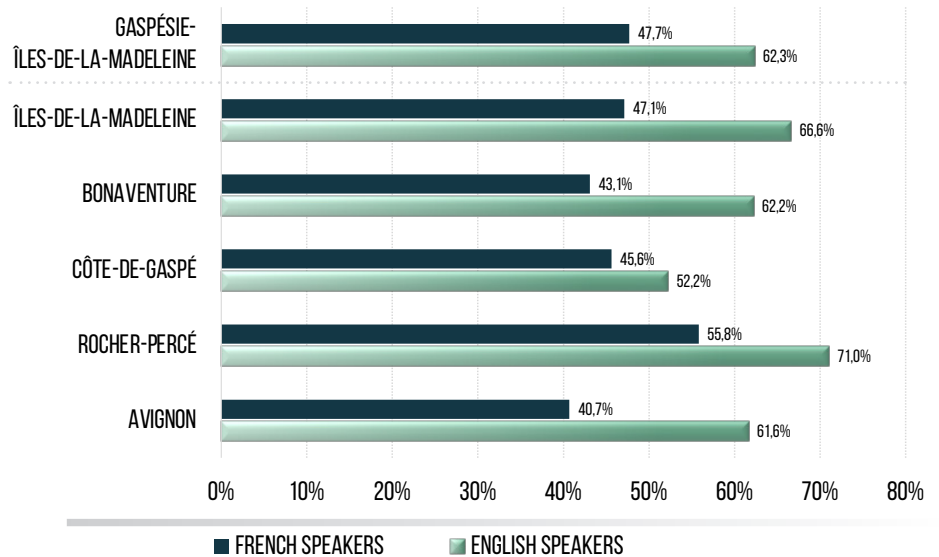
## LOW EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

(% OF POPULATION AGE 15 AND OVER)

At the provincial level, the proportion of English speakers with a high school diploma or less is similar to that of the French-speaking majority population.

In GIM, English speakers are more likely to have low levels of educational attainment. This is true for all territories.

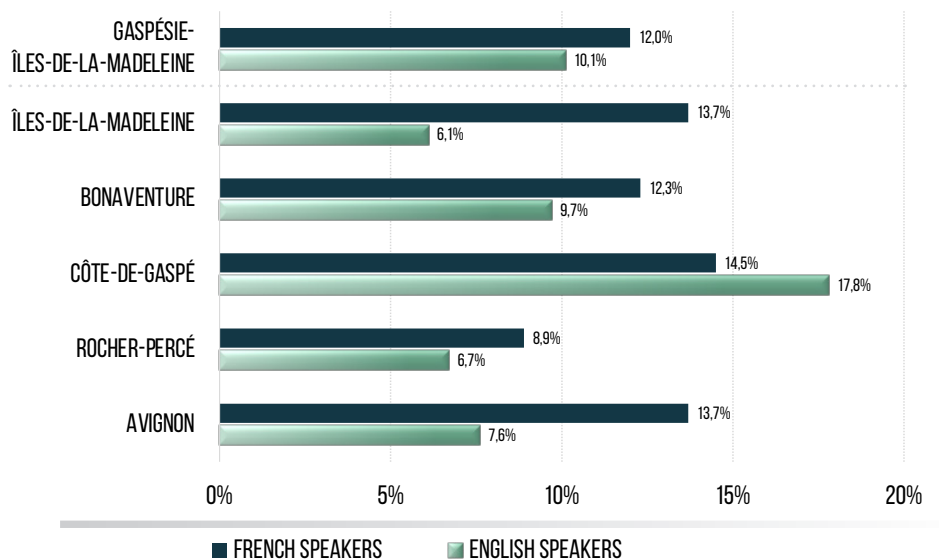
### POPULATION WITH HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA OR LESS



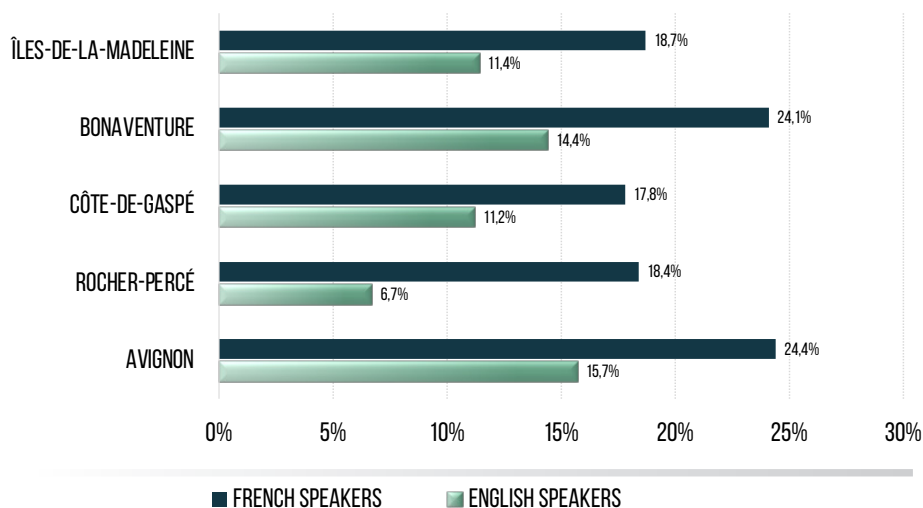
## HIGH EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

Provincially, English speakers are more likely than French speakers to have a high educational attainment. In GIM, however, English speakers are much less likely to attain higher levels of education. This is true of all MRCs, except for the Côte-de-Gaspé.

### HIGH EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT (% OF POPULATION WITH UNIVERSITY B.A. OR HIGHER)



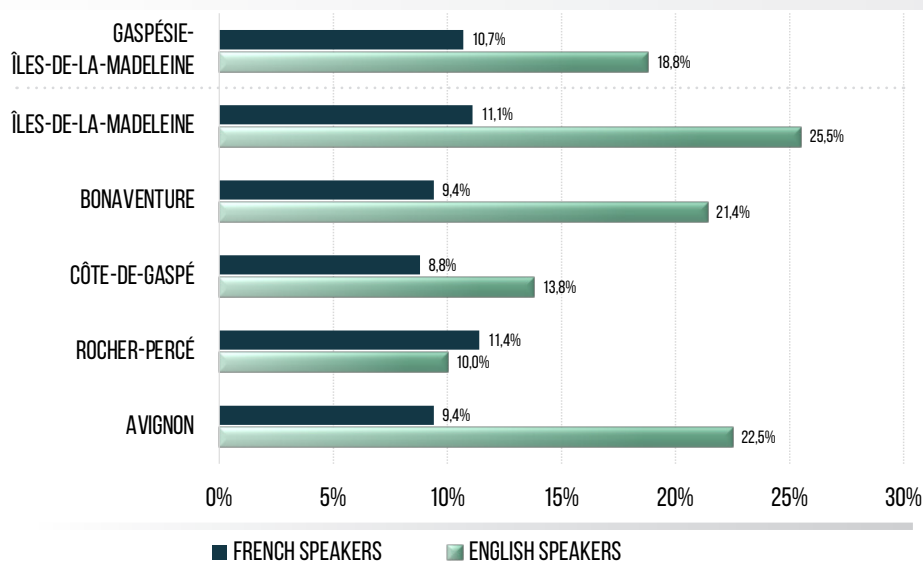
## APPRENTICESHIP OR TRADES CERTIFICATE OR DIPLOMA



## VOCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

Provincially, English speakers are much less likely than French speakers to have a vocational attainment. The same is true for all MRCs in the GIM region.

## UNEMPLOYMENT RATE (POPULATION AGE 15 YEARS +)



## UNEMPLOYMENT

### POPULATION UNEMPLOYED BY LANGUAGE GROUP

In the province of Quebec, the unemployment rate is much higher among English speakers compared to French speakers. The same is true in GIM. This is true for all territories except for the Rocher-Percé MRC.

\* Unemployment rates are affected by seasonal employment such as fishing in this region. These rates may vary depending on the time of the year the census is taken.

# INCOME

## POPULATION WITH LOW INCOME (% EARNING LESS THAN \$20,000)

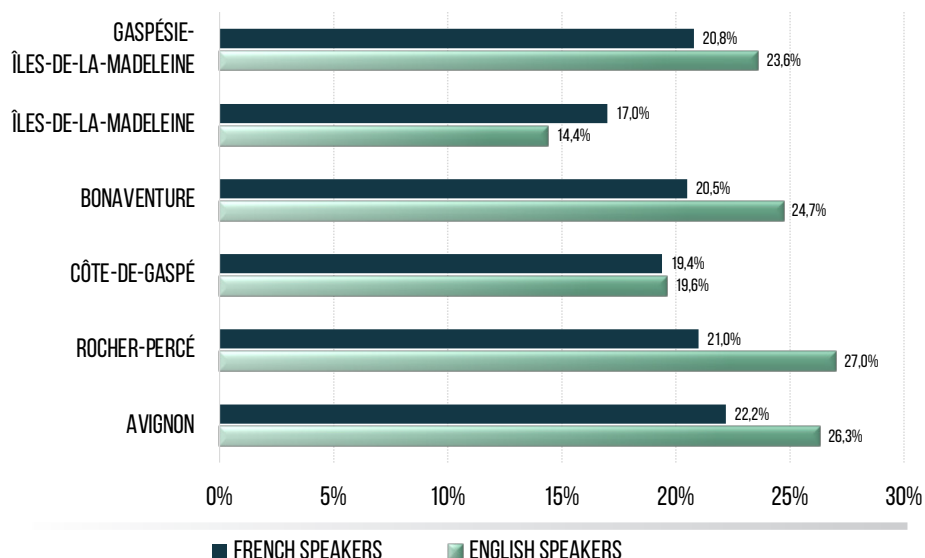
Provincially, English speakers have a greater tendency than French speakers to have low income.

The same is true in GIM. This is true of all territories except for the Magdalen Islands.

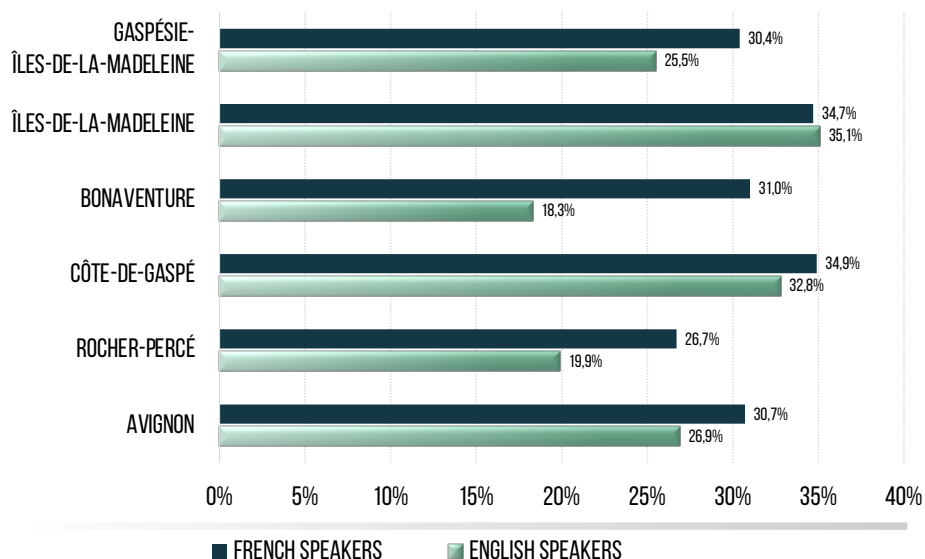
## POPULATION WITH HIGH INCOME (% EARNING \$50,000 AND OVER)

In the province of Quebec, French speakers have a greater tendency than English speakers to be earning a high income. The same is true in GIM. This is true of all territories except for the Magdalen Islands.

### POPULATION WITH LOW INCOME



### POPULATION WITH HIGH INCOME

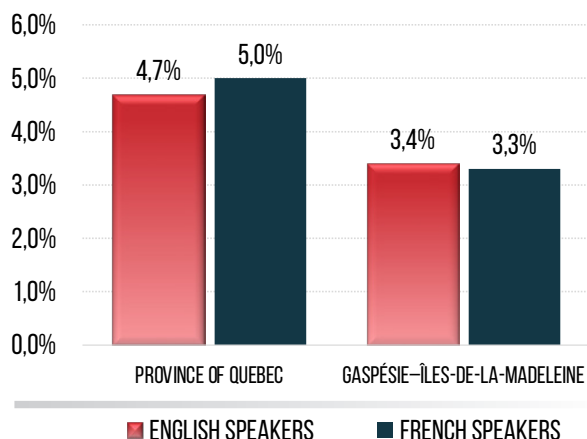


# AGE GROUPS

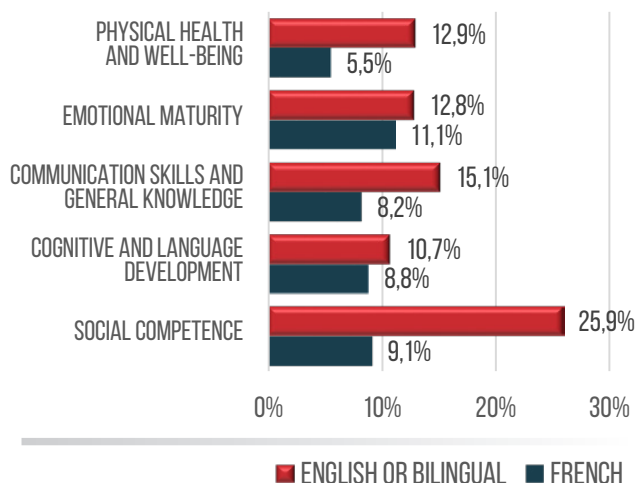
## 0-4 PRE-SCHOOLERS

The proportion of the population between 0-4 years of age is much lower in the region than it is in Quebec as a whole. However, the difference between English speakers and French speakers is minor.

### PROPORTION OF CHILDREN 0-4 IN THE ENGLISH- AND FRENCH-SPEAKING POPULATION



### GASPÉSIE-ÎLES-DE-LA-MADELEINE: PROPORTION OF VULNERABLE CHILDREN IN KINDERGARTEN BY DOMAIN OF DEVELOPMENT AND LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION (2022)



### VULNERABILITY IN KINDERGARTENERS

L'Institut de la statistique du Québec developed the Quebec Survey of Child Development in Kindergarten (*Enquête québécoise sur le développement des enfants à la maternelle, EQDEM<sup>4</sup>*) as a tool to measure the development of kindergarten children.

Child development can be measured using five categories:

1. Physical health and well-being
2. Social competence
3. Emotional maturity
4. Cognitive and language development
5. Communication skills and general knowledge

In the GIM, children attending an English language or bilingual school are more vulnerable than those attending a French language school in all domains, although it is statistically significant only for social competence and the proportion vulnerable in at least one domain.

An updated analysis of the survey results for the GIM region shows that in general, boys, children under 6 years of age, and children who go to an English-speaking school are more vulnerable in at least one of the five areas of development. This points to the need for targeted support for specific subpopulations of pre-schoolers.

4- Ducharme, A., Paquette, J., Daly, S. (2023). Enquête québécoise sur le développement des enfants à la maternelle 2022. Portrait statistique pour le Québec et ses régions administratives. Repéré sur le site de l'Institut de la statistique du Québec [statistique.quebec.ca/fr/fichier/enquete-quebecoise-developpement-enfants-maternelle-2022.pdf](https://statistique.quebec.ca/fr/fichier/enquete-quebecoise-developpement-enfants-maternelle-2022.pdf)

# AGE GROUPS

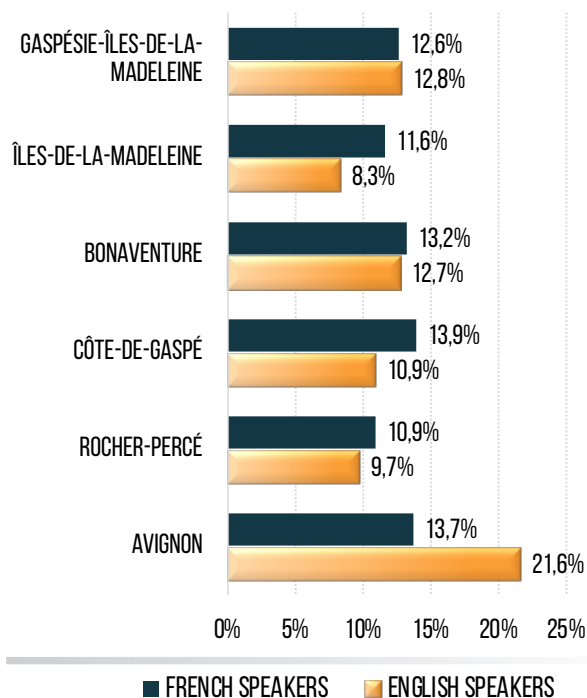
## 0-14 CHILDREN

The proportion of children between 0-14 years of age is generally lower in the English-speaking population compared to the French-speaking population in the region. However, it is much higher among English speakers than among French speakers in Avignon.

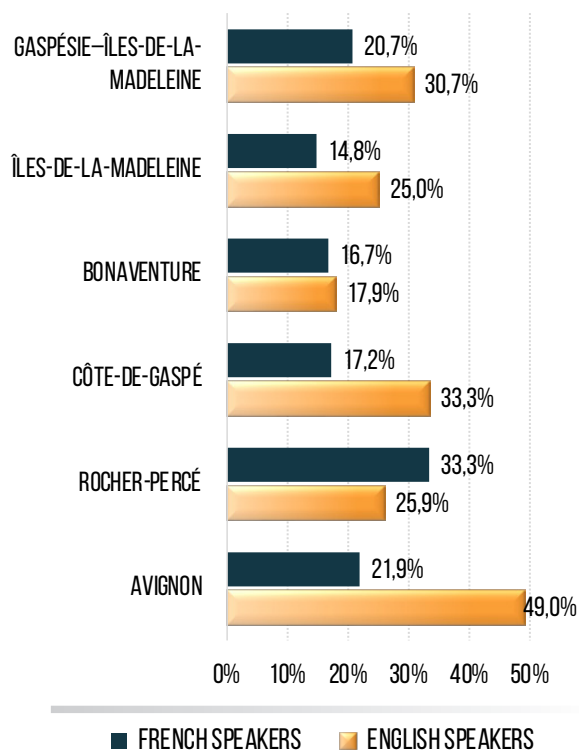
A high proportion of English-speaking children live in lone-parent families (31% overall in GIM compared to 20.7% among Francophones). This gap is smaller than in 2016, when the overall proportion in GIM was 40% for English speakers and 23% for French speakers.



### PROPORTION OF CHILDREN 0-14 IN THE ENGLISH- AND FRENCH-SPEAKING POPULATION



### PROPORTION OF CHILDREN 0-14 LIVING IN LONE-PARENT FAMILIES

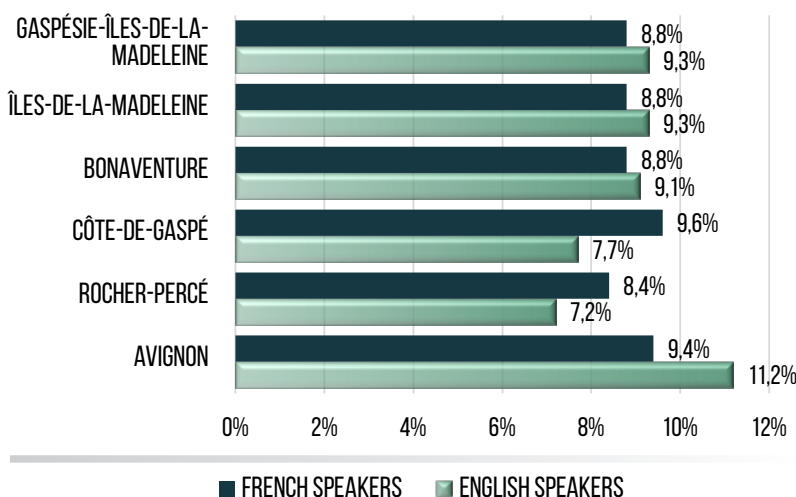


# AGE GROUPS

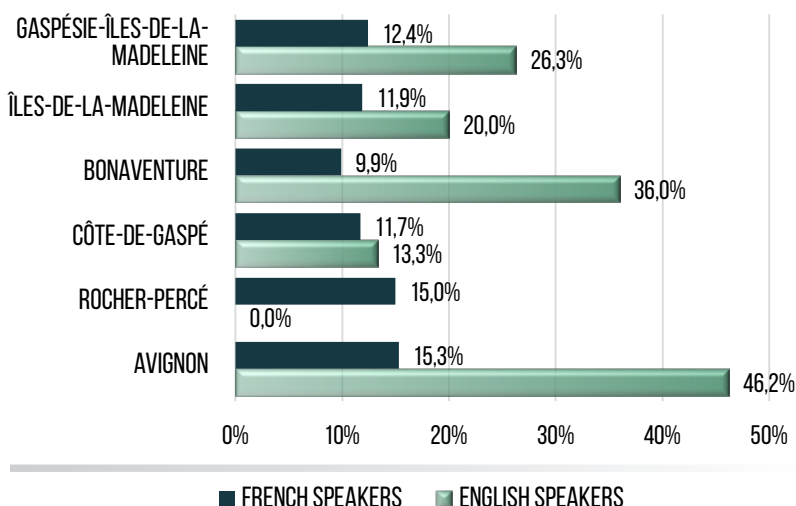
## 15-24 YOUTH

The proportion of youth between 15-24 years of age varies by MRC, but it generally higher in the English-speaking population than among Francophones.

### PROPORTION OF YOUTH 15-24 IN THE ENGLISH- AND FRENCH-SPEAKING POPULATION



### UNEMPLOYMENT RATE AMONG YOUTH AGED 15-24



**Compared to their French-speaking neighbours, English-speaking youth aged 15-24 in GIM are more likely to:**

- have a high school diploma or less (and less likely to have a university degree)
- be unemployed
- be living below the low-income cut-off.

Post-secondary education and training opportunities are very limited in the region. Although there is a CEGEP in Gaspé and an affiliated campus in the Magdalen Islands, there are few programs offered in English language. This means that youth who want to continue their schooling after high school may need to leave the region, often at a relatively young age.

The unemployment rate is much higher among English-speaking youth than among their French-speaking peers for all territories.

# AGE GROUPS

## 25-64 ADULTS

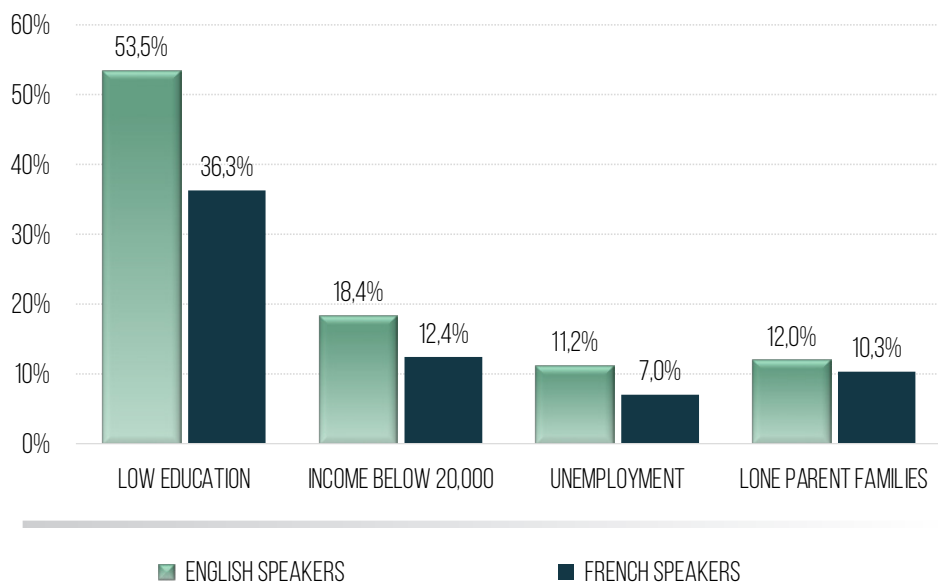
Adults between 25-64 years of age are often parents of young children and sometimes caregivers to older relatives, so their living conditions and quality of life may have a direct effect on those close to them.



Compared to French speakers, English speakers between the ages of 25-64 in the GIM region are more likely to:

- have low levels of education
- have low incomes
- be unemployed
- live in lone parent families (*\*\* the difference here is much lower than in 2016, 30-54 age range*)

### PROPORTION (%) OF ADULTS, AGE 25-64



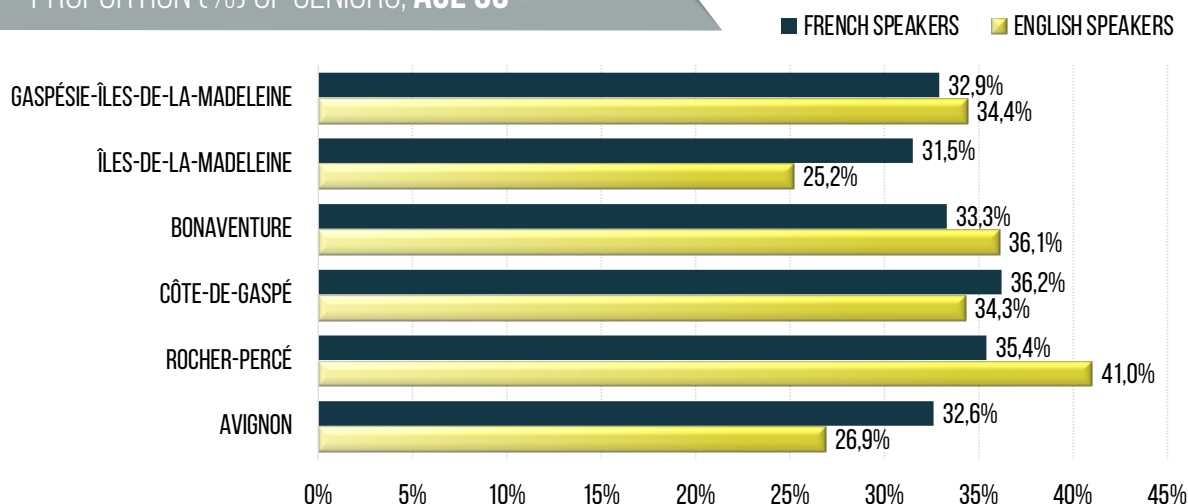
# AGE GROUPS

## 65 AND OVER SENIORS

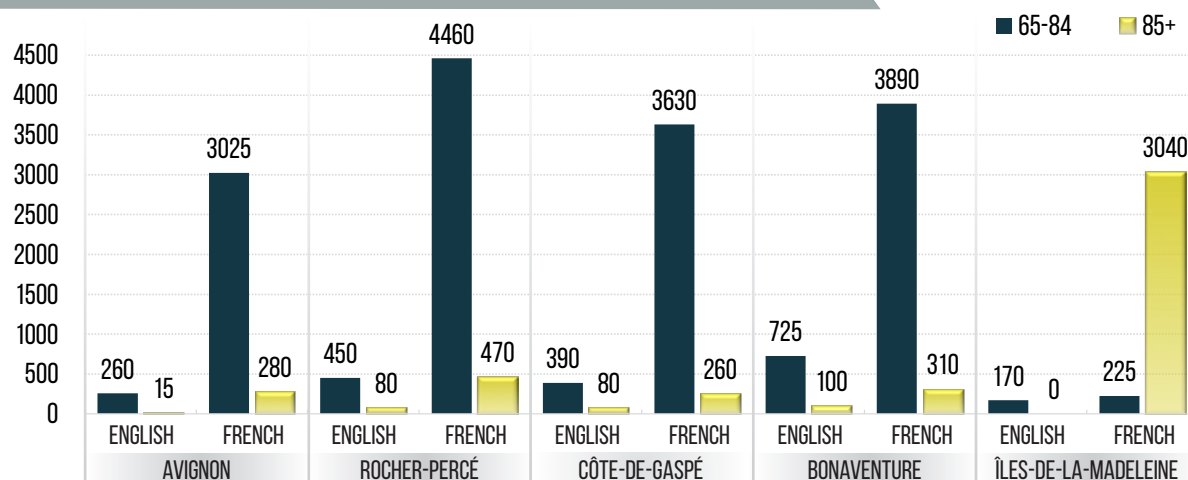
The proportion of seniors in the regional population overall is higher among English speakers than among French speakers, but varies by MRC.



### PROPORTION (%) OF SENIORS, AGE 65 +



### SENIORS, POPULATION BY FIRST OFFICIAL LANGUAGE SPOKEN



# OUR RESPONSE

WORKING WITH LOCAL, REGIONAL AND PROVINCIAL PARTNERS, CASA, CAMI AND VISION COLLABORATE TO OFFER THE FOLLOWING PROGRAMS AND SERVICES:

## BRIGHT BEGINNINGS

This program supports English-speaking children and their families by adapting existing programs and services and creating new services where none exist.

## MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLNESS

The Mental Health Advisory Committee works to increase access to mental health and addiction services for English-speakers and to provide community-based wellness activities.

## SENIORS WELLNESS

Cooperation with partners in adapting and implementing services provides seniors with the opportunities to reduce isolation and maintain health and autonomy.

## *The role of community organizations*

English speakers in Quebec often face challenges accessing services in English. Local community organizations play an important role in linking community members to existing information and services, and they often provide some services in collaboration with local and regional partners, such as the ones listed here. This helps to ensure that English speakers have support for important moments in their lives when they have young children, ageing parents, mental health challenges, health issues, or a loss of autonomy for example.

## HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES NETWORKING AND PARTNERSHIP INITIATIVE

Collaboration and partnerships with the health and social services system ensure that the community has access to the programs, services and information it needs in English.

# SUMMARY

## *Key points*

### SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC VULNERABILITY

The English-speaking population of the Gaspésie—Îles-de-la-Madeleine presents high levels of socio-economic vulnerability. English speakers are more likely than their French-speaking neighbours to have low levels of education, low incomes, and high levels of unemployment. While realities may vary slightly from one MRC to another, on the whole, this region is more disadvantaged in social and economic terms than many other regions of the province.

In addition, the English-speaking population has a higher percentage of seniors (65+) and of youth. English-speaking pre-schoolers are more likely than their French-speaking peers to live in lone-parent families; and youth 15-29 are more likely to have low educational attainment, to be unemployed, and to have low incomes.

### BUILDING COMMUNITY VITALITY

Three community-based associations (CASA, CAMI and Vision) serving English-speaking communities in the Gaspésie—Îles-de-la-Madeleine region are aligned in our collective efforts to build community vitality. These efforts are grounded in the values of identity, inclusion and equity.

Together, we take an approach focused on raising awareness of the situation, developing knowledge, supporting volunteerism, and collaborating with relevant regional partners.

Actions are then developed to address specific issues for different age groups, focusing on improving access to services and supporting community and economic development.

Community engagement is central to all actions, as community members are encouraged to be involved in setting priorities, in taking action and in developing leadership skills.



# COMMUNICATING *our Values*

## *Identity*

Strengthening and promoting the English-speaking community's unique characteristics and assets is an important aspect to ensuring a strong and vibrant Gaspésie-Îles-de-la-Madeleine. Our English-speaking community is rich in culture, language and history, and contributes to the overall social, cultural and economic conditions within our region. Efforts to preserve our identity should be focused on valuing our members and mobilizing them to take leadership in improving the conditions for a healthier future for all Gaspésians.

## *Social Inclusion*

Social inclusion reflects an approach to social well-being that aims to close physical, social and economic distances separating people. This can be supported by French and English communities in the GIM all working together to recognize people's differences, nurturing their capacities, and engaging them in making a positive contribution to our communities. For example, a sense of belonging is fragile for many English-speakers, and efforts to strengthen their attachment to our region would be a significant step towards social inclusion.

## *Equity*

Equity is also an important value for our English-speaking community as we seek to gain a fair share of resources and opportunities. Our government, institution and community partners can play an important role in staying aware of our unique needs and developing policies and programs that specifically aim to address them. Our English-speaking community must also play a proactive role in representation, awareness and advocacy efforts as a way to support our partners in becoming more aware of our community's needs and offering solutions to address them.

# REGIONAL COMMUNITY MOBILIZATION MODEL

## GOAL

Build and strengthen the vitality of the English-speaking community  
of the Gaspésie-Îles-de-la-Madeleine

## KEY ACTION STRATEGIES

Access to services  
and information

Collaboration  
and partnership

Volunteerism  
and leadership  
development

Knowledge  
development  
and evaluation

## DESIGN AND ADAPT INNOVATIVE PROGRAMS AND SERVICES for all age groups in the population



### PRE-SCHOOLERS 0-4

early childhood  
development  
attachment to family  
literacy and school  
readiness  
parenting support



### CHILDREN 0-14

healthy lifestyles  
attachment to school  
resiliency  
discovering cultural and  
linguistic identities



### YOUTH 15-24

bilingualism  
employment and  
educational opportunities  
sense of belonging  
social and linguistic  
integration



### ADULTS 25-64

community  
development  
employment and  
education opportunities  
caregiver support



### SENIORS 65 AND OVER

social inclusion  
health and autonomy  
access to services  
physical, social and  
cognitive activities

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

## VALUES

identity

inclusion

equity

Supported by:



Financial contribution by:



Health  
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Santé  
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