

## STRENGTHENING CAPACITIES FOR A HEALTHY WELCOMING OF FRANCOPHONE IMMIGRANTS PROJECT

### PROJECT INTENTION:

The RÉSEFAN develops alliances and partnerships that bring together the health and settlement sectors in order to foster a healthy welcome for Francophone immigrants to Nunavut.

### PROJECT OBJECTIVES:

To strengthen the ability of professionals working in the settlement sector to provide support to French-speaking immigrants on healthcare issues.

To strengthen our community's ability to meet the healthcare needs of Francophone immigrants, including in the area of mental health.

To increase knowledge of the issues faced by Francophone immigrants and the solutions that could improve their health status.

### PROJECT DURATION:

5 years (November 2020-March 2025)

### INITIATIVES AND BENEFITS FOR OUR COMMUNITY:

- Partners provide flexible and coordinated settlement and community services to foster a healthy welcome for Francophone immigrants to Nunavut, including:
  - The creation or strengthening of working relationships between the settlement and health sectors;
  - The production, updating and improvement of tools used by professionals in the settlement sector and in the community;

- Health and mental health training sessions and workshops that have been adapted to the needs of professionals in the settlement sector and in the community.
- Access to data through participation in the *Étude multiprovinciale/territoriale sur l'état de santé des immigrants francophones dans l'Ouest et les régions éloignées, particulièrement en ce qui a trait à la santé mentale (entre autres : traumatismes, impacts relationnels, abus de substance, suicide), les maladies chroniques et les déterminants de la santé*. This research project includes Nunavut, the Northwest Territories, the Yukon, Alberta, Saskatchewan and Newfoundland and Labrador.

### PARTNERS AND CONTRIBUTORS:

- Carrefour Nunavut
- Commission scolaire francophone du Nunavut (CSFN)
- Association des francophones du Nunavut (AFN)
- Embrace Life Council
- Government of Nunavut Department of Health, Mental Health Division
- Réseau santé albertain

### ACHIEVEMENTS:

- Identified and met requirements, and provided training and tools for key project partners.
- Developed the infographic *Current Situation – For a Healthy Welcoming of Francophone Immigrants to Nunavut* in both English and French (available on our website, under the tab Projets – Accueil en santé des personnes immigrantes francophones: <https://resefan.ca/projet/accueil-en-sante-des-immigrants-francophones/>).

- Developed the document [\*Immigration in Nunavut: For a Healthy Welcoming of Francophone Immigrants\*](#) in both English and French (available on our website, under the tab *Projets – Accueil en santé des personnes immigrantes francophones*: <https://resefan.ca/projet/accueil-en-sante-des-immigrants-francophones/>).
- Took part in the stages of the multi-jurisdictional study.
- Assisted three students from Haiti enrolled in the Master's program in sociology at the University of Ottawa Faculty of Social Sciences School of Sociological and Anthropological Studies as part of a knowledge mobilization course to develop a tool for use in Francophone immigration to Nunavut and the identification of evidence.
- Organized two training sessions:
  - *Mental Health First Aid (MHFA)* online training offered by the Mental Health Commission of Canada on February 17 and March 22, 2022 – 12 participants
  - *Intervening in immigration and ethnocultural diversity* online training offered by the CIUSSS de l'Est-de-l'Île-de-Montréal SHERPA University Institute in February and March 2022 – three participants

**Immigration in Nunavut: For a Healthy Welcoming of Francophone Immigrants**  
Update on situation and statistical data

For the past 10 years, Nunavut has seen its Francophone immigrant community grow significantly. Very often, our territory is a second Canadian location on members of this community choose to live in. Yet, there is only very little evidence available on this new demographic reality and on the state of health of Francophone immigrants in remote regions. This status update aims to highlight some of the contextual elements and some data related to the immigration of Francophones in our territory.

**Breakdown of Francophone immigration in Nunavut<sup>1</sup>**

According to Statistics Canada's data, in 10 years, the general population of Nunavut has grown by 16,240 inhabitants, going from 15,240 in 2006 to 35,580 in 2016 which represents an increase of 84%. In this demographic migration into Nunavut, the Franco-Nunavummiut and immigrant communities have evolved significantly. Between 2006 and 2016, the number of people with French as a first official language spoken (FOLS) increased from 365 to 620, for a total increase of 255 people, or 69.9%.

Additionally, Nunavut's immigrant population doubled from 2006 to 2016, from 440 to 920. With the exception of immigrants from Cameroon, the majority of Nunavut's immigrants hail from countries where English is used more commonly than French. There are 1.5 times more immigrants with French as a first official language spoken, which is an increase from 20 people in 2006 to 50 people in 2016. In 2016, of the 620 people in Nunavut with French as a FOLS, Francophone immigrants represent 8.1% of the population.

Thus, as with Nunavut's population as a whole, the number of residents with French as a FOLS and the number of immigrants living in the territory are on the rise. Also, immigration plays a key role in ensuring the demographic growth of the Francophonie, as it does for the growth of all of Canada, and to contribute to the vitality of the Francophone communities in a minority setting.

**For a Healthy Welcoming of Francophone Immigrants to Nunavut**  
**Current Situation**

**Statistics on immigration<sup>1</sup>**

**2006** FOLS is 1.9% of the total population. FOLS is 1.7% of the total population.

**2016** FOLS is 4.9% of the total population. FOLS is 8.1% of the total immigrant population.

**2006** 19 340 inhabitants of Nunavut 365 have French as their first official language spoken (FOLS)

**2016** 35 580 inhabitants of Nunavut 620 have French as their FOLS

**2006** 440 immigrants in Nunavut 20 have French as their FOLS.

**2016** 920 immigrants in Nunavut 50 have French as their FOLS.

**Place of birth of immigrants in Nunavut in 2016**

COUNTRY	NUMBER	%	RANK
Philippines	185	20.1	1
United Kingdom	80	8.7	2
United States	66	7.1	3
Zimbabwe	35	3.8	4
India	30	3.3	5
Pakistan	30	3.3	5
Bangladesh	25	2.7	7
Nigeria	25	2.7	7
Ethiopia	20	2.2	9
Cameroon	20	2.2	9
China	20	2.2	9
Jamaica	20	2.2	9
Germany	20	2.2	9

**2X** In 10 years, Nunavut's immigrant population has doubled. In 2006, 5.5% of the Francophone population was immigrant versus 8.1% in 2016.

The immigrants from Cameroon are the most important Francophone immigrant population in Nunavut (2.2% of immigrants in 2016).