

# French from the start

## Survey results



The Fédération des parents de la francophonie manitobaine (FPFM) conducted a province wide consultation for multilingual families from October to November 2020, to learn and discover what the biggest challenges are regarding raising francophone children in a multilingual household.

The goal is to develop resources, tools, and services to meet the challenges, needs and wishes of multilingual families in order to better support Manitoba families.

In the last few months, the FPFM has offered this consultation in 3 formats...

### **Survey Monkey:**

The FPFM developed a survey through Survey Monkey to understand the perspective of the francophone and the non-francophone parent. It received 257 replies, 92 from non-francophone parents and 165 from francophone parents.

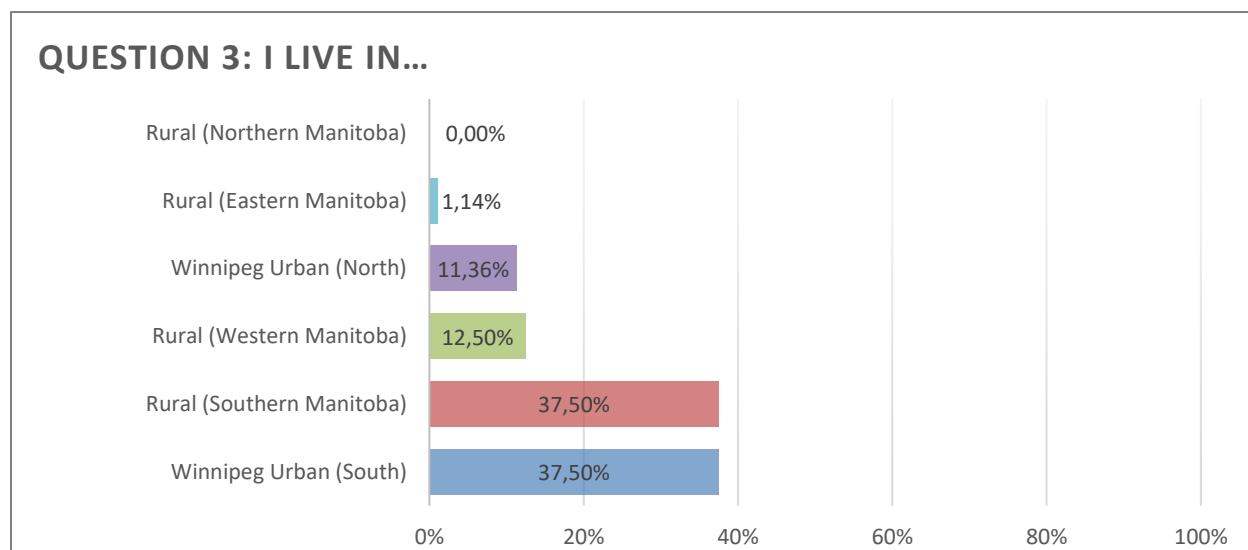
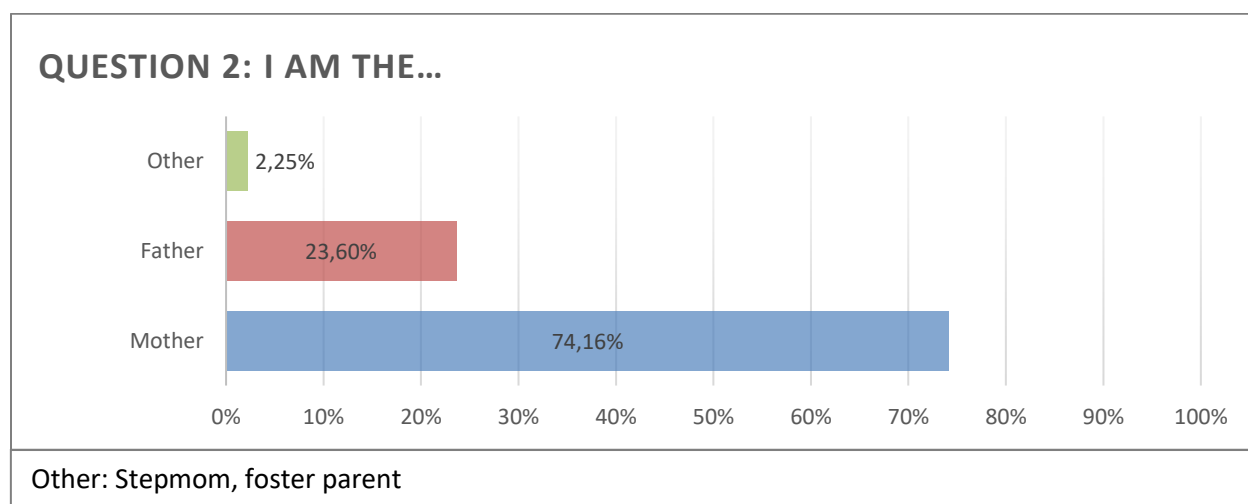
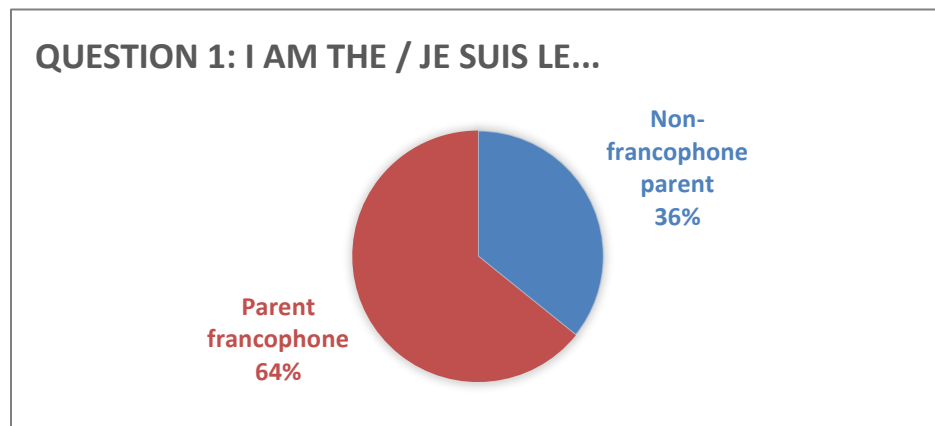
### **Zoom consultations:**

The FPFM conducted 3 separate one-hour Zoom consultations on October 21<sup>st</sup>, October 28<sup>th</sup>, and November 2<sup>nd</sup> to hear the perspective of the English-speaking parent. There was a total of 20 participants, with a mixture of both men and women present.

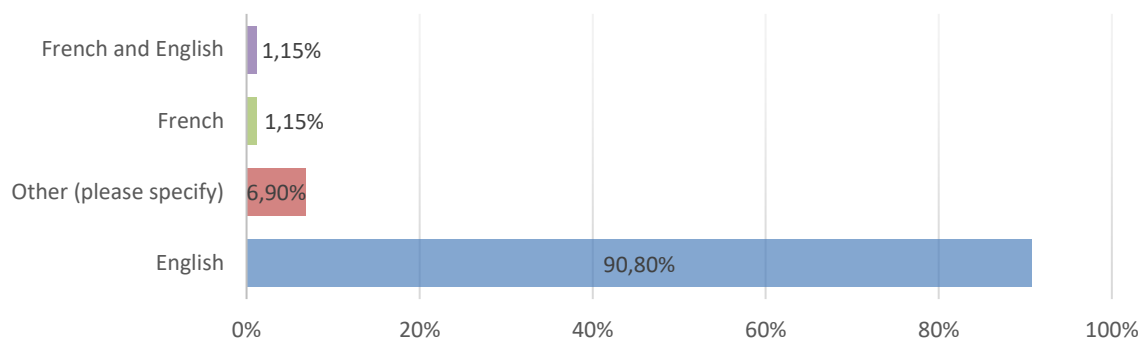
### **1 on 1 consultations:**

The FPFM connected with a dozen non-francophone parents, both men and women, via email, phone or Zoom in order to discuss the challenges related to raising francophone children in a multilingual household.

Here are the results from the survey conducted via Survey Monkey.

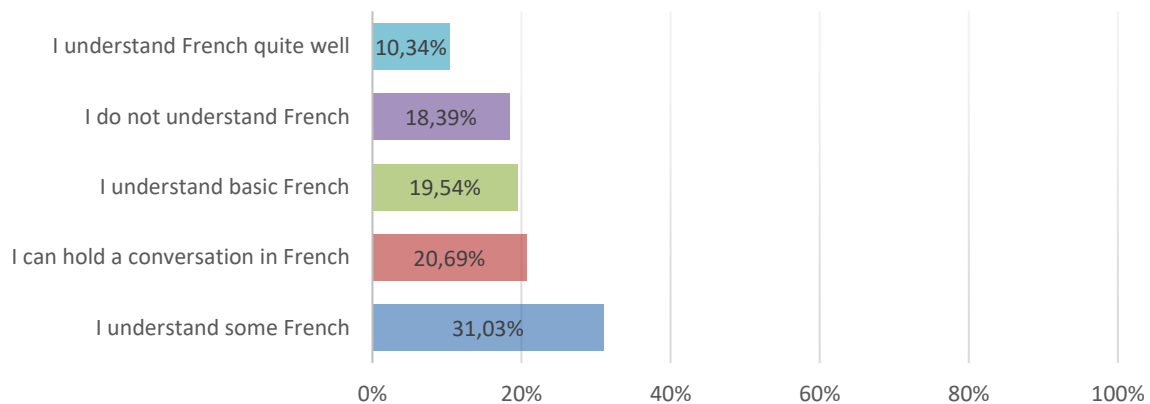


#### QUESTION 4: WHAT IS YOUR FIRST LANGUAGE?

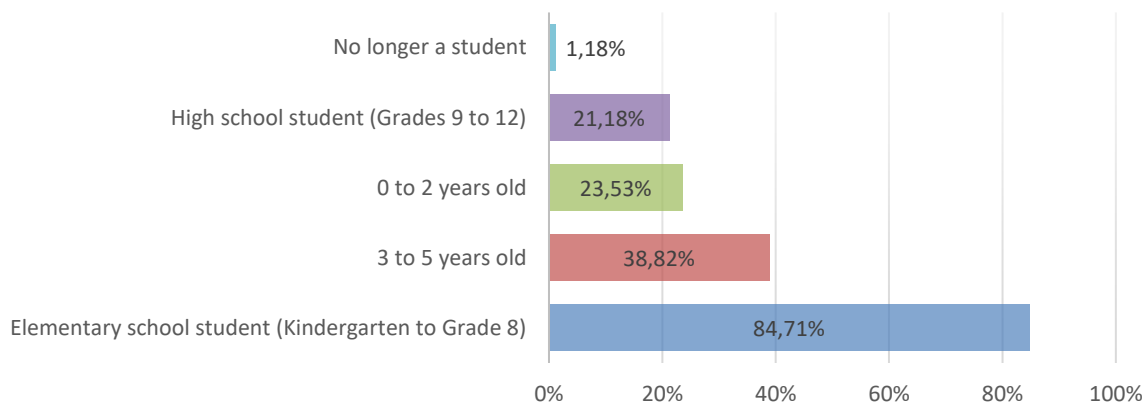


Other: Catalan, Spanish, Mandarin, Bengali

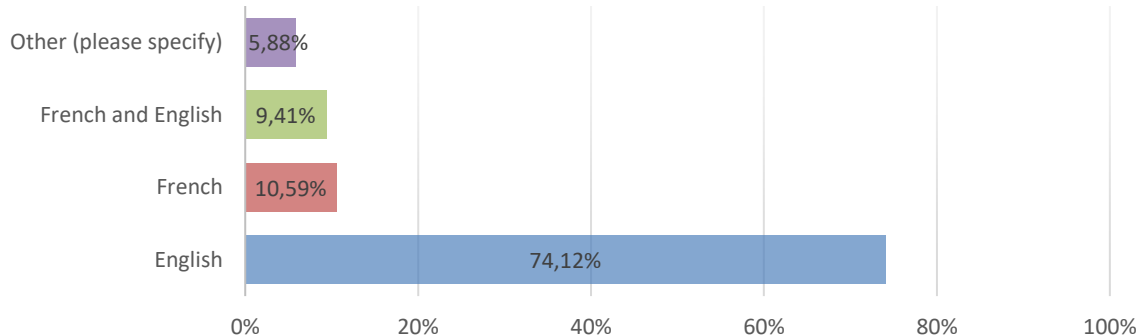
#### QUESTION 5: WHAT IS YOUR LEVEL OF COMFORT IN FRENCH?



#### QUESTION 6: AGE OF MY CHILD(REN)...

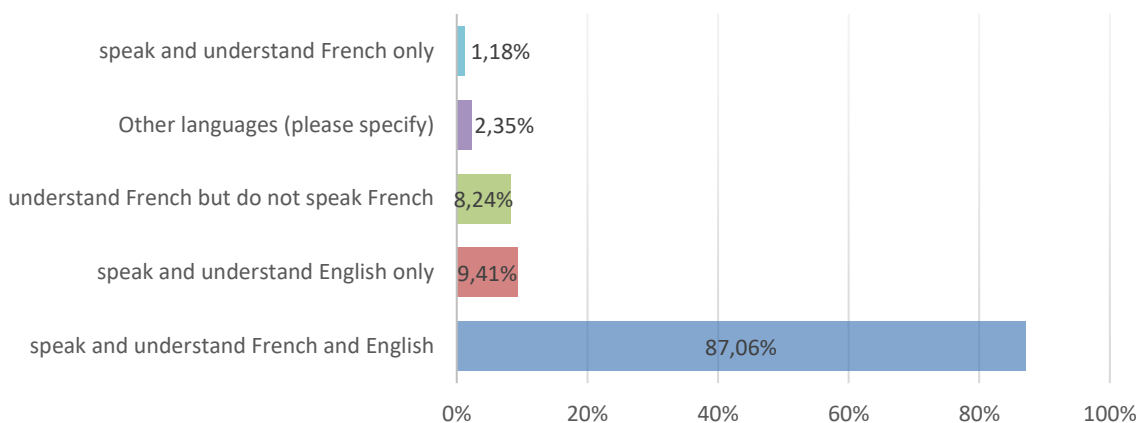


### QUESTION 7: WHAT LANGUAGES DO YOU, THE NON-FRANCOPHONE PARENT, SPEAK TO YOUR CHILD(REN) MOST OFTEN AT HOME?

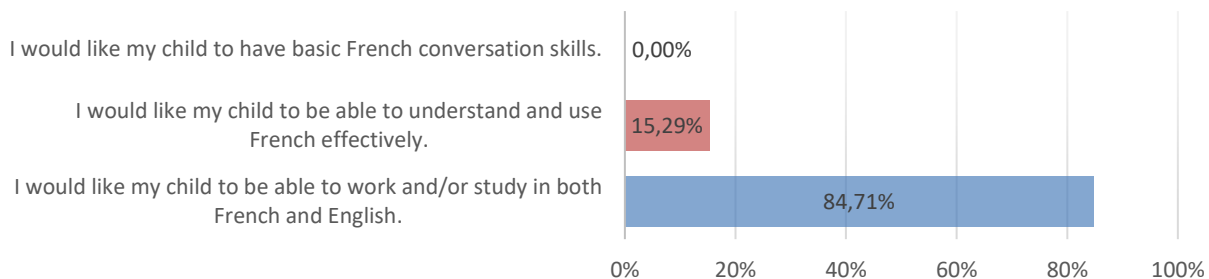


Other: Catalan, Spanish, Mandarin

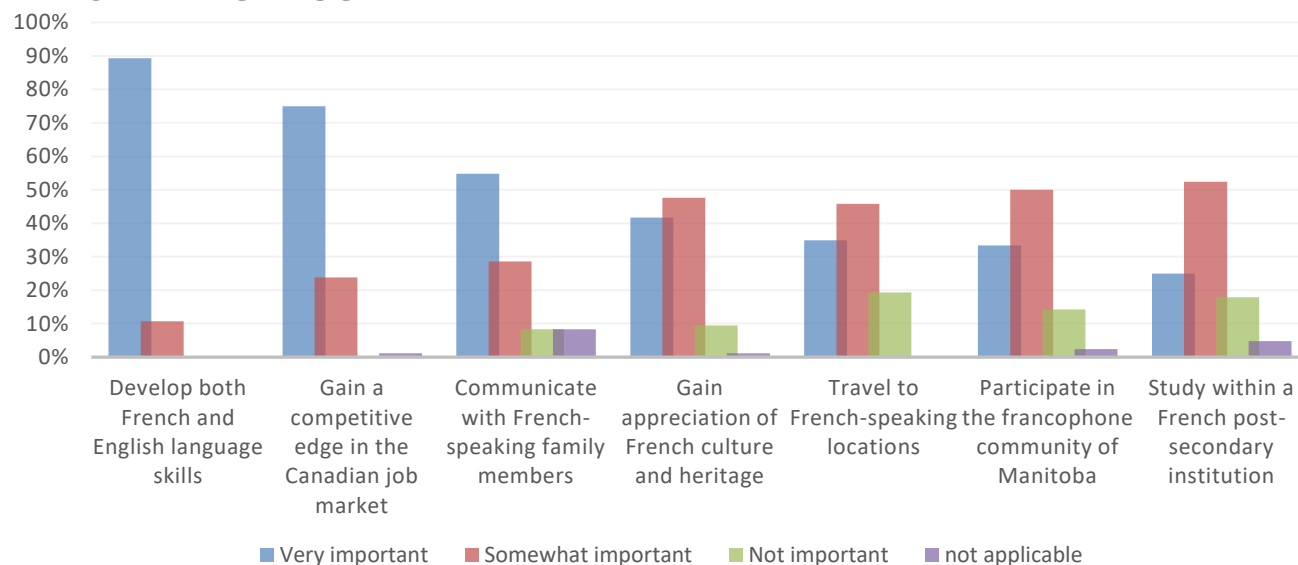
### QUESTION 8: MY CHILD(REN)...



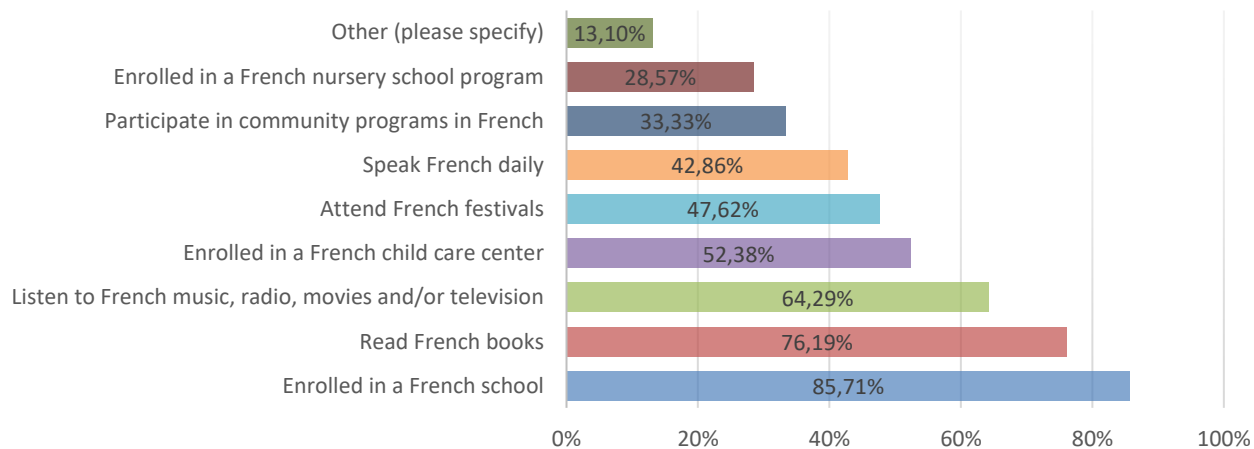
### QUESTION 9: WHAT ARE YOUR EXPECTATIONS FOR YOUR CHILD(REN)'S FRENCH LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY AFTER HIGH SCHOOL?



**QUESTION 10: LEARNING FRENCH CAN OFFER MANY ADVANTAGES FOR YOUR CHILD, PLEASE RATE HOW IMPORTANT THESE ARE FOR YOU.**



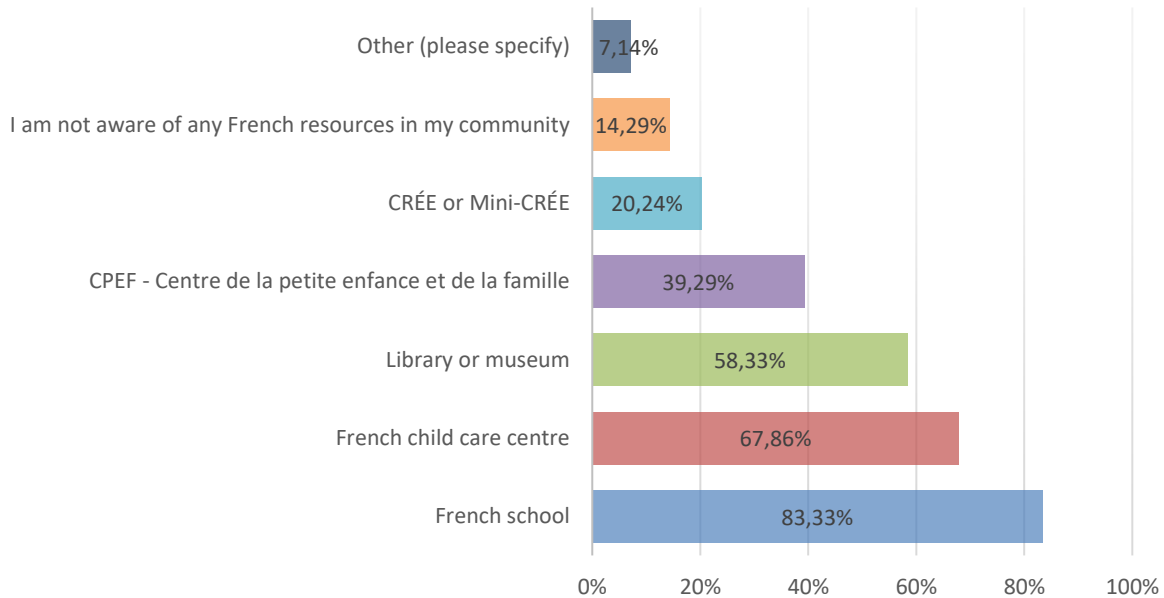
**QUESTION 11: WHAT STRATEGIES HAVE YOU USED OR DO YOU USE TO ENSURE A STRONG FOUNDATION IN FRENCH FOR YOU CHILD(REN)? (SELECT ALL THAT APPLY)**



**Other:**

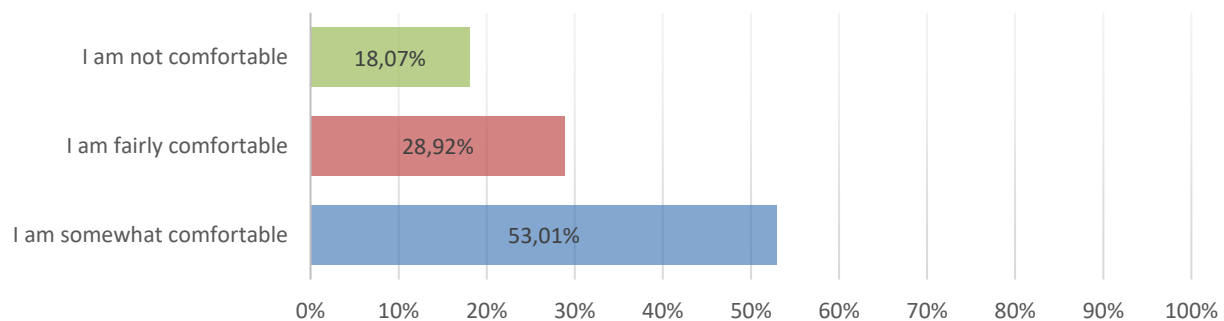
- Teaching my child to respect and learn about cultures, emphasize the importance of everyone's value
- French learning apps on electronic devices
- Hired a French speaking babysitter
- Child attended French classes at Alliance Française
- Children speak in French to francophone grandparents daily
- I accept French to be spoken and I make an effort to speak certain phrases.

**QUESTION 12: WHAT FRENCH SERVICES OR RESOURCES ARE AVAILABLE IN YOUR COMMUNITY? (SELECT ALL THAT APPLY)**



Other: French bookstore, MFRC (Military Family Resource Centre)

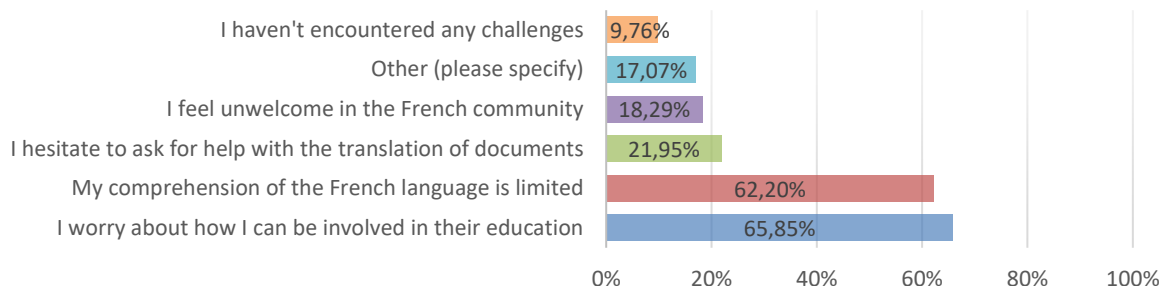
**QUESTION 13: HOW COMFORTABLE DO YOU FEEL IN A FRENCH ENVIRONMENT?**



**(13) Comments:**

- Most people will translate for me
- I feel guilty for not knowing French
- I can understand more than I can speak
- I have a basic understanding of French, and I am getting better all the time
- I am not that comfortable
- People talk too fast in French

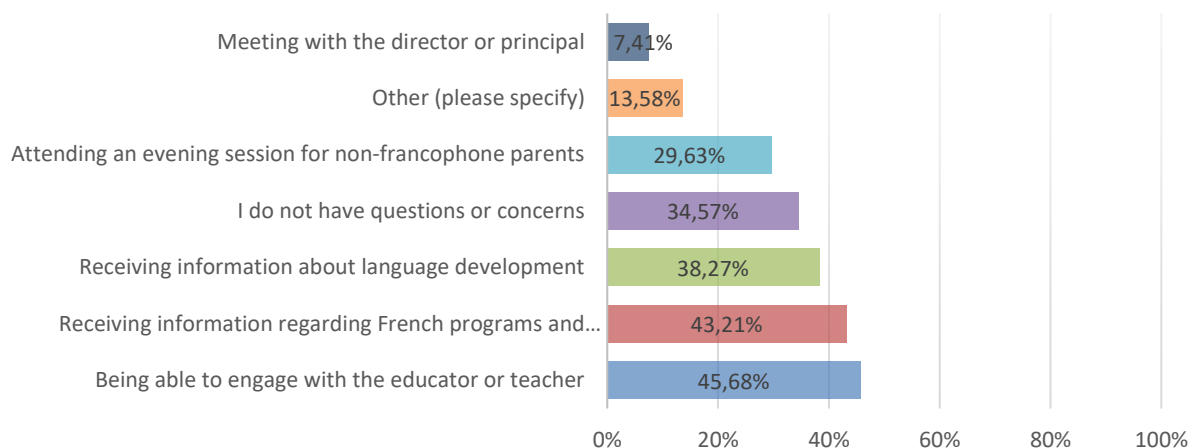
### QUESTION 14: WHAT HAS BEEN YOUR BIGGEST CHALLENGE(S) WHILE RAISING YOUR FRANCOPHONE CHILD(REN)? (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)



#### Other:

- Struggle with speaking French at home consistently
- Access to French speaking families in the neighborhood, access to services in French
- Having to translate documentation from the school or childcare centre
- Not being able to help with homework
- I am not as involved as I would like to be in child's school or child care centre
- Very difficult to get into a French child care centre
- I feel like an outsider
- Having to depend and wait on my spouse to translate French letters.

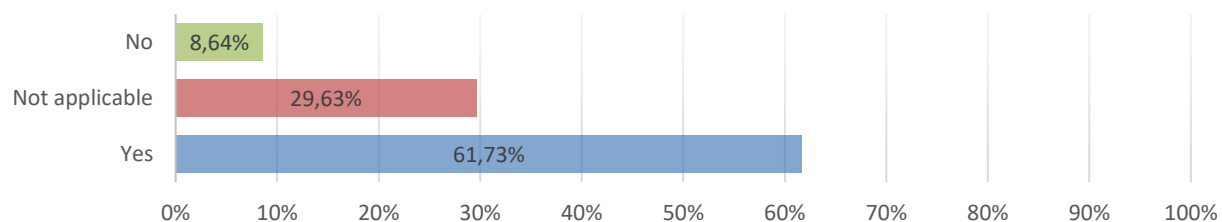
### QUESTION 15: I WOULD LIKE MY QUESTIONS AND CONCERNS AS A NON-FRANCOPHONE PARENT WITH CHILDREN IN A FRENCH CHILD CARE OR SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT TO BE ADDRESSED BY...



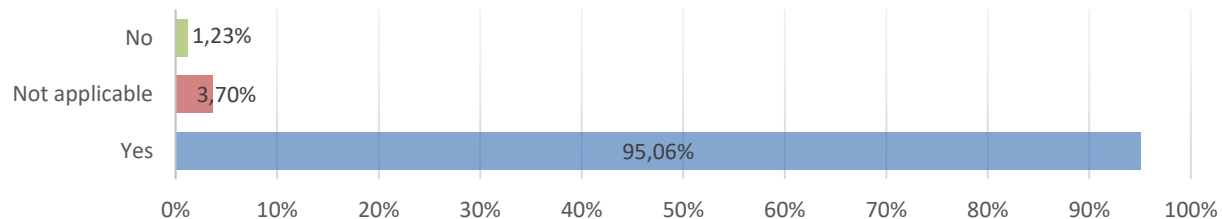
#### Other:

- Make it mandatory for schools to send emails in French and English
- I would like to have courses or online programs available to assist me in learning and growing my French language abilities

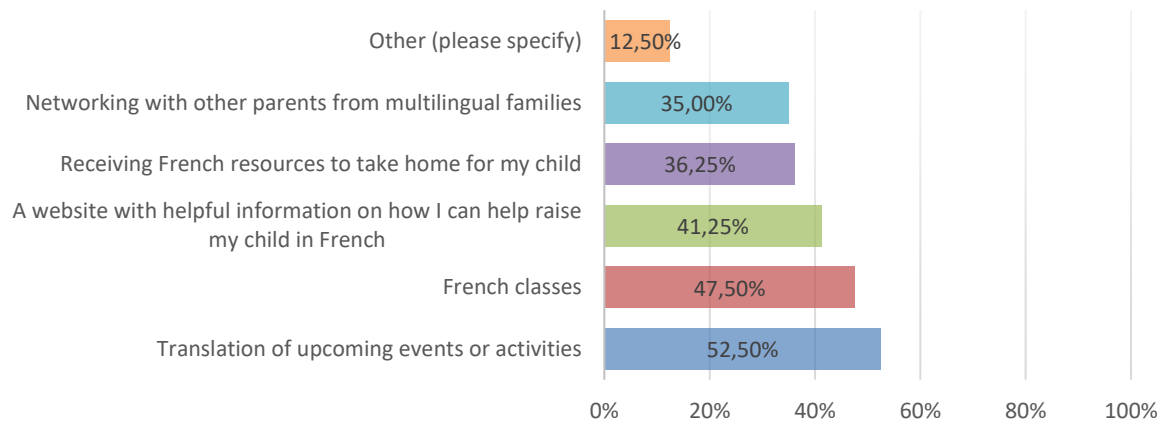
### QUESTION 16: I HAVE CHOSEN FRENCH CHILD CARE FOR MY CHILD?



### QUESTION 17: I HAVE CHOSEN A FRENCH SCHOOL FOR MY CHILD?



### QUESTION 18: WHAT SERVICES, RESOURCES OR SUPPORT WOULD HAVE HELPED YOU OR WOULD CURRENTLY HELP YOU WHILE RAISING FRANCOPHONE CHILDREN?

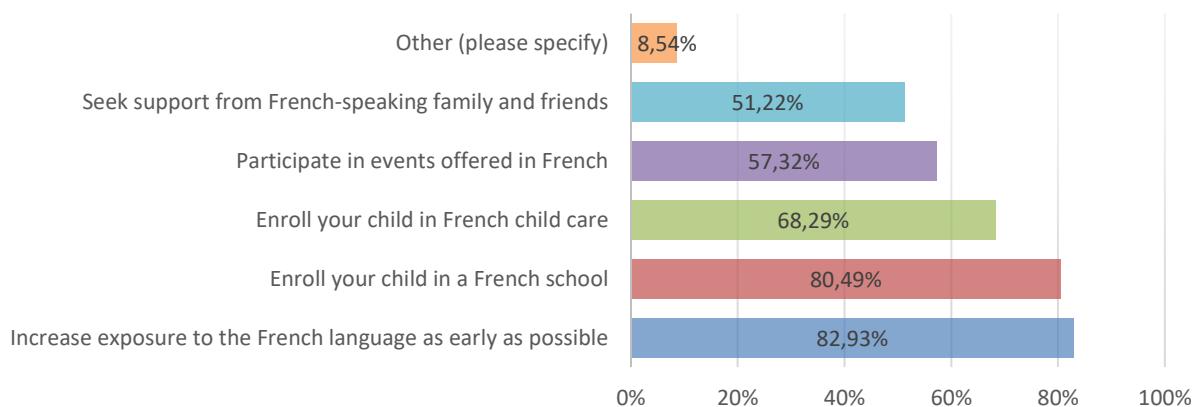


#### Other:

- Opportunities to meet and connect with other francophone families
- Reassurance that because the parents don't speak French then the children are still welcome
- Online French classes
- Better offerings for extra-curricular activities in French (ex: swimming lessons)
- A list of good books in French (not just a translation)



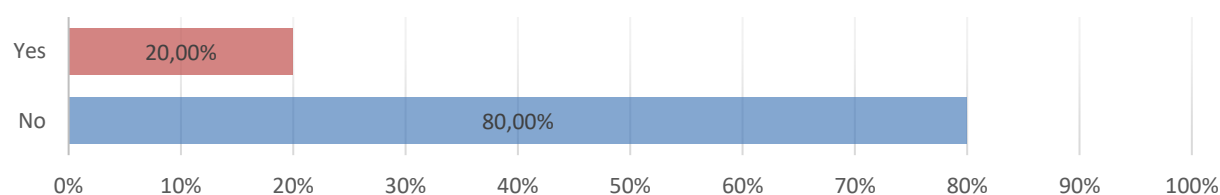
**QUESTION 19: WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE TO PARENTS WHO WOULD LIKE THEIR CHILDREN TO BECOME FULLY FLUENT IN FRENCH?**



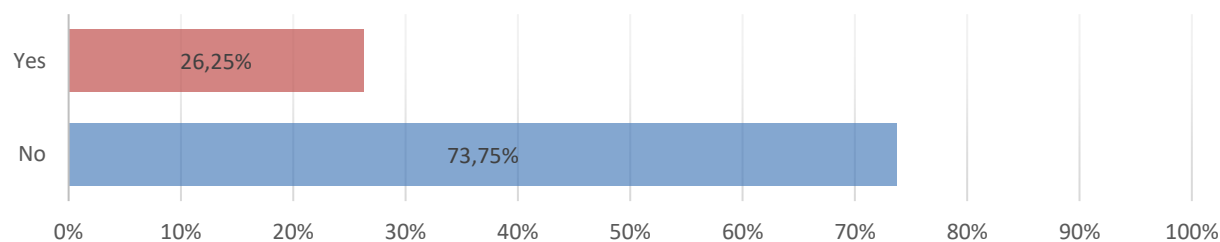
**Other:**

- Learn French if you possibly can
- Immerse self in French (radio, television, etc.)

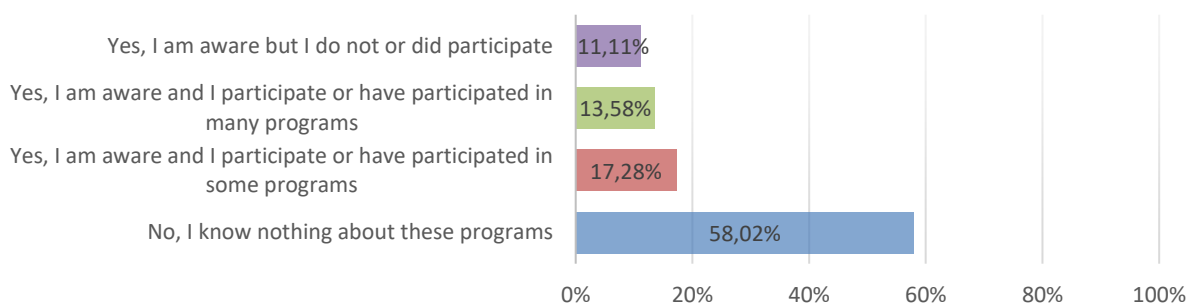
**QUESTION 20: DO YOU KNOW WHO THE FÉDÉRATION DES PARENTS DE LA FRANCOPHONIE MANITOBAINE (FPFM) IS AND WHAT THEY DO TO SUPPORT FAMILIES?**



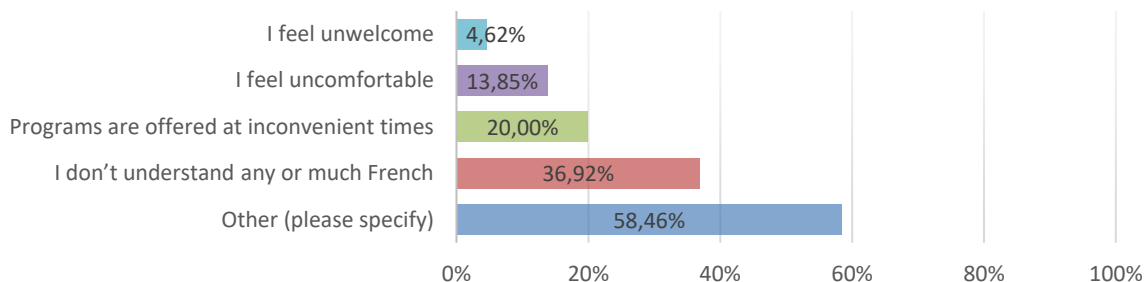
**QUESTION 21: DID YOU KNOW THAT THE FPFM HAS RESOURCE LIBRARY CALLED THE CRÉE WHICH IS FILLED WITH THOUSANDS OF FRENCH RESOURCES SUCH AS BOOKS, GAMES, PUZZLES, MOVIES, AND MORE, THAT YOU CAN BORROW FOR A 3 WEEK PERIOD?**



### QUESTION 22: ARE YOU AWARE THAT THE CRÉE AND CPEF'S OFFER A VARIETY OF PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN ALL OVER MANITOBA AND DO YOU PARTICIPATE?



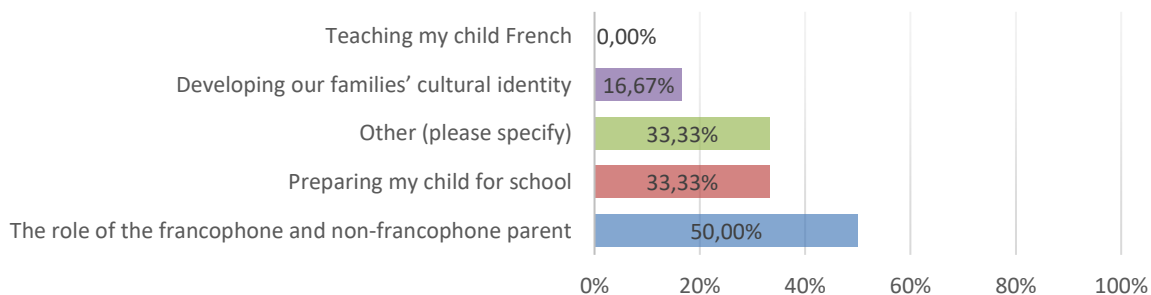
### QUESTION 23: IF YOU DO NOT PARTICIPATE IN THE PROGRAMS, PLEASE TELL US WHY?



#### Other:

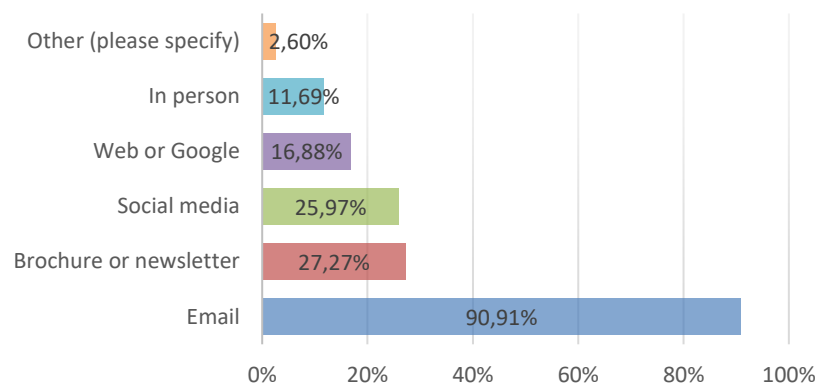
- Wasn't aware about them
- Anxious about not being able to communicate fluently in French
- No time in my schedule
- I cannot always make it because of the ages or needs of my younger children
- Work commitments

### QUESTION 24: WHAT KIND OF WORKSHOPS OR ACTIVITIES WOULD YOU LIKE THE FPFM TO OFFER?



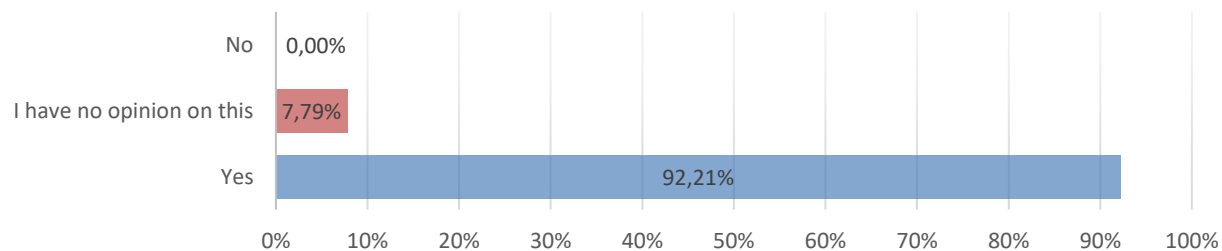
Other: Recreational, even online social for pre-school

**QUESTION 25: HOW WOULD YOU PREFER TO RECEIVE INFORMATION ABOUT PROGRAMS OFFERED BY THE FÉDÉRATION DES PARENTS DE LA FRANCOPHONIE MANITOBAINE?**



Other: In English please

**QUESTION 26: I AM PROUD THAT OUR FAMILY IS BILINGUAL.**



After a thorough analysis of the French from the start consultation, here are some resources, services and support that the PPFM will be developing for multilingual families in the next few months.

- Develop and create new games and activities for families to learn and play together in French at home.
- Find strategies to better promote our existing French services and resources for families.
- Enrich the PPFM website with additional resources for multilingual families.
- Offer networking opportunities for the English-speaking parent.
- Offer workshops for multilingual families.