Social Studies 10-1

Unit 1: Globalization and identity

Language laws and promotion

A language law timeline

- 1969: Parliament passes the Official Languages Act, giving English and French federal status.
- 1977: Quebec adopts the Charter of the French Language, often called Bill 101.
- In 1982, Charter section 23 set minority-language education rights.
- 2019: Parliament passes the Indigenous Languages Act after decades of language loss.



Laws and community judgment

- The Official Languages Act and Charter section 23 give French and English a public legal place in Canada.
- Quebec's Charter of the French Language makes French the public language of that province.
- The Indigenous Languages Act supports revitalization, and First Nations, Métis, and Inuit nations judge whether control sits with them.

Key terms

language law

A language law is a statute that sets where a language must or may be used in public life.

linguistic rights

Linguistic rights are legal claims to use, learn, and receive services in a language.

cultural content rule

A cultural content rule requires a share of media or school time for a language or a nation’s stories.

linguistic revitalization

Linguistic revitalization is organized work to bring a language back into daily use with its speakers and teachers.

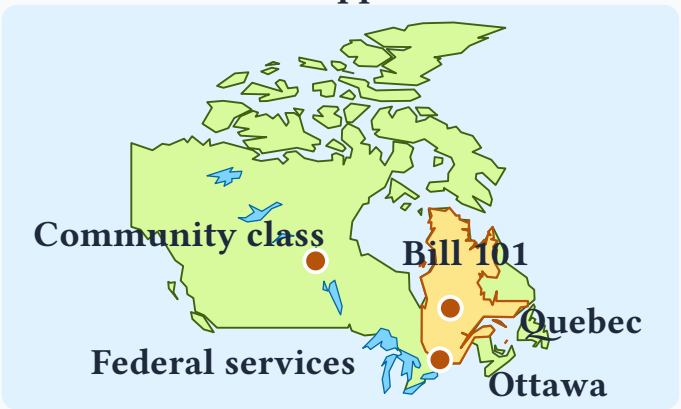
Weighing language laws

- Linguistic rights name who the law treats as a rights holder.
- Public space is the schools, signs, courts, media, or funding the law opens.
- Daily use is evidence that children and workers speak the language there.

Perspectives on language efforts

- Francophone perspective: French needs schools, signs, and media because English dominates continental life. Bill 101 and section 23 are security tools.
- Federal bilingual perspective: English and French are the official languages of Parliament and federal services, a constitutional design since 1969 and 1982.
- First Nations, Métis, and Inuit languages tie people to land and kin.
- The 2019 Act is federal recognition. Nations ask whether teaching and funding follow their authority.

Where each effort applies



Bill 101 covers Quebec. Federal services sit in Ottawa. A community class can sit far from both.

Bill 101

- Bill 101 names French as Quebec's public language, on signs and in workplaces.
- Schools, commercial signs, and public life are the space the law opens.
- English-speaking and Indigenous communities in Quebec have language claims beside this law.

Indigenous Languages Act

- The 2019 Act recognizes Indigenous language rights in federal law.
- Revitalization depends on nations, elders, and teachers.
- A paragraph needs a claim, the instrument, and a limit.



Review

- Section 23 gives some parents the right to minority-language education in French or English.
- A Francophone family outside Quebec is the usual French example.
- The paragraph still needs a limit.

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