

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the
LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY
at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library
<http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib>



Reproduced from electronic originals
(may include minor formatting differences from printed original)

**STATE OF MAINE
125th LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION**

**Final Report
of the
Task Force on Franco-Americans**

December 2012

Staff:

**Karen Nadeau-Drillen, Legislative Analyst
Natalie Haynes, Legislative Analyst
Office of Policy & Legal Analysis
Maine Legislature
(207) 287-1670**

Members:

**Sen. Thomas Martin, Jr., Co-chair
Rep. Kenneth W. Fredette, Co-chair
Rep. Brian D. Bolduc
Severin M. Beliveau
Daniel Deveau
Yvon Labbe
Raymond Lagueux
Juliana J. L'Heureux
James Lemieux
David Madore
Gilman Pelletier
Susan Pinette**

Table of Contents

	Page
Executive Summary	i
I. Introduction	1
II. Background	2
III. Socio-Economic Data on Franco-Americans in Maine	3
IV. Findings and Recommendations	7

Appendices

- A. Authorizing legislation: Resolve 2011, Chapter 102 and Resolve 2011, Chapter 119
- B. Membership list, Task Force on Franco-Americans
- C. Franco-American resource guide list
- D. “Içi on parle français” – Report of the Commission to Study the Development of Maine’s Franco-American Resources, December 1997
- E. “Franco-Americans in Maine: Statistics from the American Community Survey” – a report prepared for the Task Force by James Myall, Coordinator of the Franco-American Collection at the University of Southern Maine, September 26, 2012
- F. Franco-Americans in Maine: A Demographic Study – Preliminary indications based on a public opinion survey conducted by Command Research for the Franco-American Center at the University of Maine, August 2012
- G. Suggested legislation

Executive Summary

The Task Force on Franco-Americans (“Task Force”) was established by Resolve 2011, Chapter 102 and Resolve 2011, Chapter 119 (Appendix A). The Task Force consists of 12 members: four members of the public appointed by the Governor; five members appointed by the Speaker of the House; and four members appointed by the President of the Senate with one Senate appointment left unfilled. A list of Task Force members is included in Appendix B. The authorizing legislation directed the Task Force to seek outside funding contributions to fully fund the cost of the study. On May 15, 2012, the Executive Director of the Legislative Council provided notice that the Legislative Council had accepted contributions of outside funding sufficient for the work of the Task Force.

The duties of the Task Force are set forth in Resolve 2011, Chapter 102 and Resolve 2011, Chapter 119 (Appendix A). The duties are as follows:

- Determine a definition for who is a Franco-American;
- Gather basic data about Franco-Americans, including, but not limited to:
 - How many Franco-Americans reside in the State of Maine;
 - The percentage of the State’s population that is Franco-American;
 - If they speak French;
 - Their educational achievement;
 - Their annual income;
 - Where they live; and
- Find ways to promote and preserve the Franco-American heritage that is shared by a great number of Maine residents.

The Task Force is required to submit a report, with findings and recommendations including suggested legislation, to the Maine Legislature by December 15, 2012.

The Task Force held meetings on June 19, September 26, October 24 and November 28. All meetings were open to the public. The Task Force held two out of four meetings outside of Augusta – the first at the University of Maine’s Franco-American Center in Orono, and the second at the Franco-American Heritage Center in Lewiston. Agendas of Task Force meetings and other information relating to the Task Force can be found online at <http://www.maine.gov/legis/opla/francoamerican.htm>.

The Task Force makes the following findings and recommendations:

Findings and Recommendations

FINDING #1:

Franco-Americans are the single largest ethnic group in Maine. According to the report based on 2010 U.S. Census Bureau data, “Franco-Americans in Maine: Statistics from the American Community Survey,” almost a quarter of all Mainers (24.3%) self-identify as either Franco-American or French Canadian.

Maine has a rich history of French immigration, culture and language, yet the Task Force finds that many of the historical contributions made by Franco-Americans have not been recognized appropriately. The Task Force finds that Maine's educational system should embrace the diversity of cultures in our State and teach all students about the history and socio-economic contributions made by Franco-Americans.

In 1996, the Maine Legislature enacted a law to establish learning standards, now called Maine Learning Results, for all students enrolled in Maine public schools and for students enrolled in private schools that are approved for tuition that enroll at least 60% publicly funded students.

State law (see 20-A MRSA §6209) directs the Maine Department of Education in consultation with the State Board on Education to "establish and implement a comprehensive, statewide system of learning results, which may include a core of standards in English language arts and mathematics for kindergarten to grade 12 established in common with the other states..." That section also provides that: "The department shall establish parameters for essential instruction and graduation requirements in English language arts; mathematics; science and technology; social studies; career and education development; visual and performing arts; health, physical education and wellness; and world languages."

In 2001, the Legislature passed a law requiring Maine Native American history and culture to be taught in all elementary and secondary schools (see 20-A MRSA §4706, sub-§2). This topic is now included in the review of content standards and performance indicators of the Maine system of learning results. Likewise, similar efforts have been made and corresponding legislation has been proposed to include the study of Maine Franco-American history in the statewide system of learning results.

RECOMMENDATION #1:

The Task Force recommends that the study of Franco-American history should be included in the statewide system of learning results, also known as Maine Learning Results.

- The Task Force recommends that the laws governing the educational requirements for instruction in history require the inclusion of Franco-American history and the study of the influence of French intellectual thought on American history (See Appendix G for suggested legislation).

FINDING #2:

According to the report, "Franco-Americans in Maine: Statistics from the American Community Survey," Franco-Americans are less likely to obtain a college degree compared to Maine residents as a group. In Maine, 21.1% of Franco-Americans hold a bachelor's degree or higher compared to 28.5% of all residents.

Likewise, a survey, of 600 Franco-Americans 18 years of age and older in Maine, commissioned by the Franco-American Center at the University of Maine had similar findings. The survey

found that 21% of respondents have college degrees. However, the survey data, when divided into age groups, reveal that 2% of Franco-Americans between the ages of 18 and 25 have college degrees compared to 40% of Franco-Americans between the ages of 26 and 45. The Task Force is troubled by these statistics, particularly those relating to the education of 18 to 25-year-old Franco-Americans.

The Task Force finds that more data is needed to better understand trends related to the educational achievement and aspirations of Maine's Franco-Americans. Improved data and greater understanding will enable policymakers to develop more effective public policy targeting educational attainment and aspirations among Maine's Franco-Americans.

The Department of Education gathers a variety of information on Maine students in order for the State to participate in federal grants and programs. The Maine Statewide Longitudinal Data System is one of several mechanisms used by the Department of Education to track data relating to Maine students. The system is intended to provide information regarding educational histories, placement, employment and other measures of success of participants in state educational programs. Students in public schools are each assigned a permanent unique identifier associated with the current Maine Education Data Management System (MEDMS), which is an information management system linking the Department of Education with local school administrative districts statewide.

The Task force finds that the Department of Education should facilitate the process of tracking Franco-American students in Maine and their educational achievements. This data could be a useful tool for educators interested in addressing the educational aspirations of Franco-American youth.

RECOMMENDATION #2:

The Task Force recommends that the Department of Education require Maine's public and private schools to collect and report Franco-American ethnicity data in order for the department to track their educational achievement.

- The Task Force recommends legislation directing the Department of Education to require the superintendent of each school administrative unit and the administrator of each private school to collect and report the number of Franco-American students attending their schools and, in the case of public schools, the number of Franco-Americans residing in their school district. (See Appendix G for suggested legislation).

FINDING #3:

According to the Command Research survey, 80% of Franco-Americans in Maine between the ages of 18 and 25 obtain a high school diploma; however, only 17% continue their education at a post-secondary institution and only 2% have obtained a college degree. In contrast, approximately 40% of Franco-Americans between the ages of 26 and 45 have earned college degrees according to the survey. The Command Research survey also reveals that 76% of Franco-Americans who have obtained a college degree did not have a parent who attended

college. In addition, 97% of Franco-Americans with a college degree indicate that post-secondary education is important for their children. Conversely, the Command Research survey found that almost as many Franco-Americans (over 80%) between the ages of 18 and 25 are unsure whether higher education is important.

The Task Force finds that the level of educational achievement of Maine's young Franco-Americans between the ages of 18 and 25 should be improved. The Task Force finds that the State as a whole should invest in recruiting Maine residents who are first-generation college students, both Francos and non-Francos. According to the Myall report, approximately 21% of Franco-Americans have obtained a bachelor's degree or higher compared to about 28% of all Maine residents. The Task Force finds that the educational attainment for all Maine residents could be improved.

RECOMMENDATION #3:

The Task Force recommends that the State require its public universities, including all seven campuses under the University of Maine System, and its public colleges, including Maine Maritime Academy and the Maine Community College system, to develop a strategy to recruit first-generation college students from Maine and to improve the post-secondary graduation rate of this population. The Task Force also recommends that the State's public colleges and universities engage Maine's private colleges and other post-secondary educational institutions in developing strategies to attract and increase the enrollment and graduation rate of first-generation Maine students.

- The Task Force recommends legislation directing the University of Maine System, the Maine Community College System and Maine Maritime Academy to convene a working group to develop a long-term recruitment strategy to increase the enrollment and graduation rate of first-generation students who are Maine residents at the State's public universities and colleges. The legislation will also direct the working group to invite the participation of Maine's private post-secondary institutions when developing this long-term strategy. The legislation will require the working group to provide an update on its efforts to the Legislature on an annual basis beginning in 2014 (See Appendix G for suggested legislation).

FINDING #4:

The public opinion survey commissioned by the University of Maine's Franco-American Center affirms that there is a statewide Franco-American community. However, according to Chris Potholm, the president of the polling firm Command Research, the survey results also reveal that there is great diversity within this coherent community. Furthermore, according to the report, "Franco-Americans in Maine: Statistics from the American Community Survey," "...self-identified Franco-Americans are still a significant group in the State, and one that is economically and demographically vibrant."

Interestingly, the analysis of the 2010 U.S. Census Bureau data appears to suggest that a large number of younger Maine residents identify themselves as Franco-American. While it is

important to recognize and acknowledge Franco-American history, the Task Force finds that it is even more imperative that we collectively look ahead to find ways to preserve and promote the Franco-American resource in our State with younger and future generations in mind.

RECOMMENDATION #4:

The Task Force recommends that civic leaders, members of the Franco-American community and interested individuals from both the public and private sector join to create an independent, statewide Franco-American Leadership Council (“Leadership Council”) that would be charged with continuing and building on the work of the Task Force.

The Task Force recommends that the Leadership Council operate as a non-profit organization, independent of any political party affiliation and state government. The Task Force believes that this structure for the Leadership Council would allow the organization to be forward-thinking, nimble and effective in leading the mission to address the socio-economic challenges facing Franco-Americans in Maine today. The Leadership Council’s primary mission would be to lead civic engagement and develop partnerships within the Franco-American community, the Franco-American Center at the University of Maine, the Franco-American Center in Lewiston, the Franco-American Collection at the University of Southern Maine, and other local entities to more effectively promote opportunities statewide for the preservation, promotion and recognition of Franco-American achievements, culture, language and heritage in Maine.

I. INTRODUCTION

The Task Force on Franco-Americans (“Task Force”) was established by Resolve 2011, Chapter 102 and Resolve 2011, Chapter 119 (Appendix A). The Task Force consists of 12 members: four members of the public appointed by the Governor; five members appointed by the Speaker of the House; and four members appointed by the President of the Senate with one Senate appointment left unfilled. A list of Task Force members is included in Appendix B. The authorizing legislation directed the Task Force to seek outside funding contributions to fully fund the cost of the study. On May 15, 2012, the Executive Director of the Legislative Council provided notice that the Legislative Council had accepted contributions of outside funding sufficient for the work of the Task Force.

The duties of the Task Force are set forth in Resolve 2011, Chapter 102 and Resolve 2011, Chapter 119 (Appendix A). The duties are as follows:

- Determine a definition for who is a Franco-American;
- Gather basic data about Franco-Americans, including, but not limited to:
 - How many Franco-Americans reside in the State of Maine;
 - The percentage of the State’s population that is Franco-American;
 - If they speak French;
 - Their educational achievement;
 - Their annual income;
 - Where they live; and
- Find ways to promote and preserve the Franco-American heritage that is shared by a great number of Maine residents.

The Task Force is required to submit a report, with findings and recommendations including suggested legislation, to the Maine Legislature by December 15, 2012.

The Task Force held meetings on June 19, September 26, October 24 and November 28. All meetings were open to the public. The Task Force held two out of four meetings outside of Augusta – the first at the University of Maine’s Franco-American Center in Orono, and the second at the Franco-American Heritage Center in Lewiston. Agendas of Task Force meetings and other information relating to the Task Force can be found online at <http://www.maine.gov/legis/opla/francoamerican.htm>.

II. BACKGROUND

Collectively, French (both Acadian and French-Canadian) immigration, culture and language are an integral part of Maine's history. Franco-Americans have been identified as the largest ethnic group in Maine. According to U.S. Census Bureau data, almost a quarter of all Mainers (24.3%) self-identify as either Franco-American or French Canadian.¹

The Task Force was assisted in its work by several of the organizations that focus on promoting and preserving Franco-American language and culture. The following is a list of several of these organizations:

- *The University of Maine Franco-American Center*: The Center works to introduce and integrate the Maine, regional and United States Franco-American fact in post-secondary academe and in particular the University of Maine. It seeks to develop ways and means of making this population, its identity, contributions and history visible on and off campus through seminars, workshops, conferences and media efforts.
- *The University of Southern Maine Franco-American Collection*: The Collection is one of the largest repositories of Franco-American archival material in the State of Maine. The Collection's holdings cover local history, government, religion, language, education, industry, sports and the arts. The mission of the University of Southern Maine's Franco-American Collection is to preserve and promote the culture and heritage of Maine's Franco-American population. It focuses on Lewiston-Auburn and other areas of Maine, with additional regional materials providing a link to the wider contexts of French North America.
- *The Franco-American Heritage Center in Lewiston*: A performing arts organization that celebrates Franco-American heritage. The Center presents symphonic music, solo instrumentalists, chorales and choirs, and contemporary music. Twenty-five percent of the entire Center's programming is French in nature in order to preserve and keep the rich culture, traditions, music, cuisine, language and heritage alive and to celebrate the "joie de vivre" spirit of the Franco-Americans.
- *Please see Appendix C for a list of additional Franco-American resource guides, genealogical societies and institutes.*

In addition, Maine has several Franco-American educational enrichment programs, like the Maine French Heritage Language Program (MFHLP) that seek to bridge the language and cultural gap between generations. MFHLP is an extension of a program created in New York City and Miami under the auspices of the French-American Cultural Exchange (FACE) Foundation. In response to school budget cuts, the need for elementary foreign language classes and a strong community interest in French, MFHLP has launched projects in Auburn and Augusta schools. Dr. Chelsea Ray, assistant professor of French and comparative literature at the University of Maine at Augusta and Augusta MFHLP coordinator, and Doris Belisle-Bonneau, Auburn MFHLP coordinator, presented information about their program to the Task Force. According to Ray and Belisle-Bonneau, the program seeks to develop connections and a better understanding of Maine's Franco-American heritage and the Francophone world, instill an

¹ "Franco-Americans in Maine: Statistics from the American Community Survey," James Myall, Coordinator of the Franco-American Collection at the University of Southern Maine, presented September 26, 2012, page 2.

appreciation for Franco-American traditions, and encourage a proficiency and respect for variances in the French language. A copy of MFHLP's presentation to the Task Force and a list of core principles for the MFHLP in Augusta and Auburn can be found online at <http://www.maine.gov/legis/opla/francoamerican.htm>.

The Task Force also received information about the upcoming Congrès Mondial Acadien (CMA) 2014 (translation: 2014 World Acadian Congress), which is a celebration of Acadian culture and history. Since 1994, the CMA has been held every five years in different regions populated by Acadians. For the first time, the CMA 2014 will be held in a region spanning two countries, the United States and Canada, including two Canadian provinces and the State of Maine. This territory has been named "Acadia of the Lands and Forest." The CMA 2014 will feature hundreds of events, including, but not limited to family reunions, cultural and heritage events, sporting events, conferences and meetings from August 8 through August 24, 2014. The CMA 2014 will also highlight several "Grand Gatherings," including a Grand Youth Rally for 12-to-25-year-olds; a Women's Summit; and a 50+ Years Summit. According to Jason Parent, president of the Maine delegation organizing the CMA 2014, the event is the cultural Olympics for the Acadian people. The CMA 2014 is expected to draw up to 50,000 visitors and to generate more than \$55 million in economic benefits to the host communities. A copy of Jason Parent's presentation to the Task Force regarding the CMA 2014 can be found online at <http://www.maine.gov/legis/opla/francoamerican.htm>.

III. SOCIO-ECONOMIC DATA ON FRANCO-AMERICANS IN MAINE

Fifteen years ago, the Maine Legislature sought to gain a greater understanding of the Franco-American community by establishing the Commission to Study the Development of Maine's Franco-Americans ("Commission"). The Commission was charged with studying demographic, language, educational and employment trends in Maine's Franco-American community and with identifying economic development opportunities that utilize Franco-American resources in Maine. One of the key recommendations of the Commission's 1997 report, "*Içi on Parle Français*" (translation: "we speak French here") was "to monitor the condition of Maine's Franco resource – its language and people – on a regular basis" and, correspondingly, to establish a database on the Franco-American people. A copy of this report can be found in Appendix D.

Although a Franco-American database has not yet been created, the Task Force reviewed the work of the 1997 Commission and determined that the Commission's underlying goal of developing a greater understanding of Maine's largest ethnic group and recognizing their historical contributions continues to be important and relevant today.

In addition to reviewing prior legislative efforts on this topic, the Task Force focused on its legislative charge to gather socio-economic data on Franco-Americans in Maine. The Task Force requested that the coordinator of the Franco-American Collection at the University of Southern Maine, as well as staff from the Franco-American Center at the University of Maine at Orono assist the Task Force with gathering this data on the Franco-American population with the goal of gaining a better understanding of their language, educational attainment and employment patterns.

The Task Force received two presentations on the data collected on Franco-Americans in Maine. The first presentation, from James Myall, Coordinator of the Franco-American Collection at the University of Southern Maine, provided an analysis of data collected from the U.S. Census Bureau on the Franco-American population in Maine. James Myall's report, "*Franco-Americans in Maine: Statistics from the American Community Survey*," ("Myall report") was presented to the Task Force on September 26, 2012. The American Community Survey (ACS), which is an ongoing survey conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau, samples a small percentage of the population every year. According to the Myall report, the Census Bureau has produced one-year estimates extrapolated from the 2010 decennial census for the State of Maine. Information from the survey is used by Congress and other agencies in determining the needs of federal, State and local populations and agencies. A copy of the report can be found in Appendix E.

The second presentation on September 26, 2012 summarized the results of a public opinion survey of Franco-Americans in Maine that was performed by a national polling firm, Command Research, at the request of the Franco-American Center at the University of Maine at Orono. The survey was conducted of 600 Franco-Americans 18 years of age and older in Maine that self-identified as Franco-Americans. The preliminary findings from the survey were presented to the Task Force by Chris Potholm, founder and president of Command Research and professor of government and legal studies at Bowdoin College, and Tony Brinkley, professor of English at the University of Maine (UM) and senior faculty associate at UM's Franco-American Center. A copy of the preliminary analysis titled, "*Franco-Americans in Maine: A Demographic Study*" can be found in Appendix F. The results of both presentations are discussed below.

Although the Task Force was charged with determining a definition for who is Franco-American, the Task Force determined it had insufficient time within the scope of their meetings to craft a working definition that would accurately reflect the multifaceted history of Franco-Americans and dimension of the Franco-American identity in Maine.

A. Demographics and Family

According to the Myall report, the largest percentage of Franco-Americans in Maine resides in York County (18%).² Cumberland and Androscoggin Counties are second and third with 16% and 13% respectively.³ The counties with the highest proportion of Franco-American residents are Androscoggin and Aroostook Counties, with approximately 32% and 31% of the population respectively.⁴

According to findings from the Command Research survey, there is a coherent statewide community of Franco-Americans and no difference among geographic groups of Francos in Maine. However, according to Chris Potholm, the survey results also show that great diversity exists within the unified community of Franco-Americans.

² Addendum to the report "Franco-Americans in Maine: Statistics from the American Community Survey," James Myall, Coordinator of the Franco-American Collection at the University of Southern Maine, presented September 26, 2012, page 1.

³ Id.

⁴ Id., page 2.

Furthermore, the Myall report states that “Franco-Americans are not significantly different than Mainers as a whole.” Franco-American families are now of similar size to the average (2.91 people compared to the statewide average of 2.90). Additionally, divorce rates for Franco-Americans and non-Francos are similar – 14.1% of Francos were divorced compared to 13.7% of all Maine residents.⁵

However, the ACS data does reveal some distinctions. According to the Myall report, Franco-Americans are younger than non-Francos, which may be attributed to the slightly higher fertility rate among Franco-American women. Franco-Americans had a median age of 39.1 years compared to 43.7 years for non-Francos.

The Myall report does describe briefly that the trends seen in the data regarding family life “suggest a decline in the religiosity of many Francos, and a decline in the influence of the Roman Catholic Church, further study is needed to confirm this suspicion.”⁶ Given that the U.S. Census Bureau is prohibited from asking questions about religious beliefs, the influence of religion and the Catholic Church on Franco-Americans is not discussed at great length in the Myall report. The Command Research survey, however, did ask questions relating to religion, but the results were not available. The Franco-American Center at the University of Maine plans to create a research team to further extrapolate the results on this issue from the Command Research survey data.

B. Education and Employment

According to the Myall report, “Franco-Americans under-perform educationally compared to Mainers as a group.”⁷ The data showed that 21.2 % of Franco-Americans have obtained a bachelor’s degree or higher compared to 28.5% of all Mainers.⁸ Similarly, the Command Research survey results identified in the report reveal that 21% of respondents have college degrees.⁹

However, according to the Myall report, the rates for current college-level enrollment for Franco-Americans and non-Francos are similar – 27.9% and 28.2% respectively.¹⁰ Myall’s report suggests, “...this deficit in college education is a hang-over from an earlier era in which college enrollment was low among Francos.” Supporting Myall’s statement, the Command Research survey results show that “76% of Franco-Americans who have obtained a college degree did not have a parent who attended college.”¹¹

⁵ “Franco-Americans in Maine: Statistics from the American Community Survey,” James Myall, Coordinator of the Franco-American Collection at the University of Southern Maine, presented September 26, 2012, page 2.

⁶ *Id.*, page 4.

⁷ *Id.*, page 3.

⁸ *Id.*

⁹ “Franco-Americans in Maine, a Demographic Study; Preliminary Indications based on a Public Opinion Survey Conducted by Command Research for the Franco-American Center at the University of Maine, August 2012, page 1.

¹⁰ “Franco-Americans in Maine: Statistics from the American Community Survey,” James Myall, Coordinator of the Franco-American Collection at the University of Southern Maine, presented September 26, 2012, page 4.

¹¹ “Franco-Americans in Maine, a Demographic Study; Preliminary Indications based on a Public Opinion Survey Conducted by Command Research for the Franco-American Center at the University of Maine, August 2012, page 2.

The Command Research survey results, when divided into age groups, showed that only 2% of Franco-Americans between the ages of 18 and 25 have college degrees compared to 40% of those between the ages of 26 and 45.¹² Furthermore, 19 percent of survey respondents indicated they were unemployed, and 60% of respondents who identified themselves as unemployed are between the ages of 18 and 25. According to Brinkley, a tentative conclusion may be drawn that the higher unemployment figures for Franco-Americans between the ages of 18 and 25 may correspond with the lower educational attainment of this age cohort.

C. Language and Heritage

The French language may no longer be fundamental to Franco identity. According to the Myall report, 12.3% of respondents 5 years of age or older who identified as Franco-American indicated that they spoke a language other than English, presumably French, compared to 4.9% of non-Francos in Maine.¹³ In contrast, the Command Research survey results show that 28% of Franco-Americans view themselves as fluent in French and an additional 35% feel “they have some French” – for a total of 63% who feel they have some level of competency in French.¹⁴ Despite the much lower numbers relating to foreign language ability in Myall’s report, he identified that a greater openness to foreign languages still exists within the Franco-American community.

According to Chris Potholm, the Command Research survey results reveal that a new cohort has emerged within the Franco-American population for whom French language is not a primary driver of their heritage. The survey also asked respondents about what defines their identity as a Franco-American, such as, language, surname, culture and history, and family and traditions. According to the Command Research survey results, these defining qualities for identity were less significant for 18 to 25-year-old Franco-Americans than for those over the age of 25. Franco-Americans in the 18 to 25-year-old cohort were unsure what defines them as a Franco-American.¹⁵ One of the broad implications of the Command Research survey results, according to Potholm, is that younger and more urban Franco-Americans feel deracinated or separated from their Franco-American roots and identity, which results in a bifurcation of the Franco-American experience.

¹² “Franco-Americans in Maine, a Demographic Study; Preliminary Indications based on a Public Opinion Survey Conducted by Command Research for the Franco-American Center at the University of Maine, August 2012, page 2.

¹³ “Franco-Americans in Maine: Statistics from the American Community Survey,” James Myall, Coordinator of the Franco-American Collection at the University of Southern Maine, presented September 26, 2012, page 4.

¹⁴ “Franco-Americans in Maine, a Demographic Study; Preliminary Indications based on a Public Opinion Survey Conducted by Command Research for the Franco-American Center at the University of Maine, August 2012, page 2.

¹⁵ *Id.*, page 3.

IV. FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

FINDING #1:

Franco-Americans are the single largest ethnic group in Maine. According to the report based on 2010 U.S. Census Bureau data, "Franco-Americans in Maine: Statistics from the American Community Survey," almost a quarter of all Mainers (24.3%) self-identify as either Franco-American or French Canadian.

Maine has a rich history of French immigration, culture and language, yet the Task Force finds that many of the historical contributions made by Franco-Americans have not been recognized appropriately. The Task Force finds that Maine's educational system should embrace the diversity of cultures in our State and teach all students about the history and socio-economic contributions made by Franco-Americans.

In 1996, the Maine Legislature enacted a law to establish learning standards, now called Maine Learning Results, for all students enrolled in Maine public schools and for students enrolled in private schools that are approved for tuition that enroll at least 60% publicly funded students.

State law (see 20-A MRSA §6209) directs the Maine Department of Education in consultation with the State Board on Education to "establish and implement a comprehensive, statewide system of learning results, which may include a core of standards in English language arts and mathematics for kindergarten to grade 12 established in common with the other states..." That section also provides that: "The department shall establish parameters for essential instruction and graduation requirements in English language arts; mathematics; science and technology; social studies; career and education development; visual and performing arts; health, physical education and wellness; and world languages."

In 2001, the Legislature passed a law requiring Maine Native American history and culture to be taught in all elementary and secondary schools (see 20-A MRSA §4706, sub-§2). This topic is now included in the review of content standards and performance indicators of the Maine system of learning results. Likewise, similar efforts have been made and corresponding legislation has been proposed to include the study of Maine Franco-American history in the statewide system of learning results.

RECOMMENDATION #1:

The Task Force recommends that the study of Franco-American history should be included in the statewide system of learning results, also known as Maine Learning Results.

- The Task Force recommends that the laws governing the educational requirements for instruction in history require the inclusion of Franco-American history and the study of the influence of French intellectual thought on American history (See Appendix G for suggested legislation).

FINDING #2:

According to the report, “Franco-Americans in Maine: Statistics from the American Community Survey,” Franco-Americans are less likely to obtain a college degree compared to Maine residents as a group. In Maine, 21.1% of Franco-Americans hold a bachelor’s degree or higher compared to 28.5% of all residents.

Likewise, a survey of 600 Franco-Americans 18 years of age and older in Maine, commissioned by the Franco-American Center at the University of Maine, had similar findings. The survey found that 21% of respondents have college degrees. However, the survey data, when divided into age groups, reveal that 2% of Franco-Americans between the ages of 18 and 25 have college degrees compared to 40% of Franco-Americans between the ages of 26 and 45. The Task Force is troubled by these statistics, particularly those relating to the education of 18 to 25-year-old Franco-Americans.

The Task Force finds that more data is needed to better understand trends related to the educational achievement and aspirations of Maine’s Franco-Americans. Improved data and greater understanding will enable policymakers to develop more effective public policy targeting educational attainment and aspirations among Maine’s Franco-Americans.

The Department of Education gathers a variety of information on Maine students in order for the State to participate in federal grants and programs. The Maine Statewide Longitudinal Data System is one of several mechanisms used by the Department of Education to track data relating to Maine students. The system is intended to provide information regarding educational histories, placement, employment and other measures of success of participants in state educational programs. Students in public schools are each assigned a permanent unique identifier associated with the current Maine Education Data Management System (MEDMS), which is an information management system linking the Department of Education with local school administration districts statewide.

The Task force finds that the Department of Education should facilitate the process of tracking Franco-American students in Maine and their educational achievements. This data could be a useful tool for educators interested in addressing the educational aspirations of Franco-American youth.

RECOMMENDATION #2:

The Task Force recommends that the Department of Education require Maine’s public and private schools to collect and report Franco-American ethnicity data in order for the Department to track their educational achievement.

- The Task Force recommends legislation directing the Maine Department of Education to require the superintendent of each school administrative unit and the administrator of each private school to collect and report the number of Franco-American students attending their schools and, in the case of public schools, the number of Franco-Americans residing in their school district. (See Appendix G for suggested legislation).

FINDING #3:

According to the Command Research survey, 80% of Franco-Americans in Maine between the ages of 18 and 25 obtain a high school diploma; however, only 17% continue their education at a post-secondary institution and only 2% have obtained a college degree. In contrast, approximately 40% of Franco-Americans between the ages of 26 and 45 have earned college degrees according to the survey. The Command Research survey also reveals that 76% of Franco-Americans who have obtained a college degree did not have a parent who attended college. In addition, 97% of Franco-Americans with a college degree indicate that post-secondary education is important for their children. Conversely, the Command Research survey found that almost as many Franco-Americans (over 80%) between the ages of 18 and 25 are unsure whether higher education is important.

The Task Force finds that the level of educational achievement of Maine's young Franco-Americans between the ages of 18 and 25 should be improved. The Task Force finds that the State as a whole should invest in recruiting Maine residents who are first-generation college students, both Francos and non-Francos. According to the Myall report, approximately 21% of Franco-Americans have obtained a bachelor's degree or higher compared to about 28% of all Maine residents. The Task Force finds that the educational attainment for all Maine residents could be improved.

RECOMMENDATION #3:

The Task Force recommends that the State require its public universities, including all seven campuses under the University of Maine System, and its public colleges, including Maine Maritime Academy and the Maine Community College system, to develop a strategy to recruit first-generation college students from Maine and to improve the post-secondary graduation rate of this population. The Task Force also recommends that the State's public colleges and universities engage Maine's private colleges and other post-secondary educational institutions in developing strategies to attract and increase the enrollment and graduation rate of first-generation Maine students.

- The Task Force recommends legislation directing the University of Maine System, the Maine Community College System and Maine Maritime Academy to convene a working group to develop a long-term recruitment strategy to increase the enrollment and graduation rate of first-generation students who are Maine residents at the State's public universities and colleges. The legislation will also direct the working group to invite the participation of Maine's private post-secondary institutions when developing this long-term strategy. The legislation will require the working group to provide an update on its efforts to the Legislature on an annual basis beginning in 2014 (See Appendix G for suggested legislation).

FINDING #4:

The public opinion survey commissioned by the University of Maine's Franco-American Center affirms that there is a statewide Franco-American community. However, according to Chris Potholm, the president of the polling firm Command Research, the survey results also reveal that there is great diversity within this coherent community. Furthermore, according to the report, "Franco-Americans in Maine: Statistics from the American Community Survey," "...self-identified Franco-Americans are still a significant group in the State, and one that is economically and demographically vibrant."

Interestingly, the analysis of the 2010 U.S. Census Bureau data appears to suggest that a large number of younger Maine residents identify themselves as Franco-American. While it is important to recognize and acknowledge Franco-American history, the Task Force finds that it is even more imperative that we collectively look ahead to find ways to preserve and promote the Franco-American resource in our State with younger and future generations in mind.

RECOMMENDATION #4:

The Task Force recommends that civic leaders, members of the Franco-American community and interested individuals from both the public and private sector join to create an independent, statewide Franco-American Leadership Council ("Leadership Council") that would be charged with continuing and building on the work of the Task Force.

The Task Force recommends that the Leadership Council operate as a non-profit organization, independent of any political party affiliation and state government. The Task Force believes that this structure for the Leadership Council would allow the organization to be forward-thinking, nimble and effective in leading the mission to address the socio-economic challenges facing Franco-Americans in Maine today. The Leadership Council's primary mission would be to lead civic engagement and develop partnerships within the Franco-American community, the Franco-American Center at the University of Maine, the Franco-American Center in Lewiston, the Franco-American Collection at the University of Southern Maine, and other local entities to more effectively promote opportunities statewide for the preservation, promotion and recognition of Franco-American achievements, culture, language and heritage in Maine.

APPENDIX A

Authorizing Legislation

Resolve 2011, Chapter 102 and Resolve 2011, Chapter 119

Resolve, To Establish a Task Force on Franco-Americans

Emergency preamble. Whereas, acts and resolves of the Legislature do not become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

Whereas, the Task Force on Franco-Americans is established to find ways to promote and preserve the Franco-American heritage that is shared by a great number of Maine citizens; and

Whereas, the study must be initiated before the 90-day period expires in order that the study may be completed and a report prepared in time for submission to the next legislative session; and

Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now, therefore, be it

Sec. 1 Task force established. Resolved: That, notwithstanding Joint Rule 353, the Task Force on Franco-Americans, referred to in this resolve as "the task force," is established; and be it further

Sec. 2 Task force membership. Resolved: That the task force consists of 13 members appointed as follows:

1. Four members of the public appointed by the Governor;
2. Four members appointed by the President of the Senate as follows:
 - A. One Senator; and
 - B. Three members of the public; and
3. Five members appointed by the Speaker of the House as follows:
 - A. Two members of the House of Representatives; and
 - B. Three members of the public; and be it further

Sec. 3 Chairs. Resolved: That the first-named Senate member is the Senate chair and the first-named House of Representatives member is the House chair of the task force; and be it further

Sec. 4 Appointments; convening of task force. Resolved: That the appointing authorities shall notify the Executive Director of the Legislative Council once all appointments have been completed. After appointment of all members, the chairs shall call and convene the first meeting of the task force. The chairs may call and convene the first meeting of the task force during the Second Regular Session or any subsequent special session of the 125th Legislature. If 30 days or more after the adjournment of the Second Regular Session or any subsequent special session of the 125th Legislature a majority of but not all appointments have been made, the chairs may request authority and the Legislative Council may grant authority for the task force to meet and conduct its business; and be it further

Sec. 5 Duties. Resolved: That the task force, upon determining a definition for who is a Franco-American, shall gather basic data about Franco-Americans, including, but not limited to, how many Franco-Americans reside in the State, the percentage of the State's population that is

Engrossed Version of
RESOLVE Chapter 102, LD 656, 125th Maine State Legislature
Resolve, To Establish a Task Force on Franco-Americans
and
RESOLVE Chapter 119, LD 1601, 125th Maine State Legislature
Resolve, To Amend the Resolve Establishing the Task Force on Franco-Americans

Franco-American, if they speak French, their educational achievement, their annual income and where they live, and shall find ways to promote and preserve the Franco-American heritage that is shared by a great number of Maine citizens. The Franco-American Center at the University of Maine shall work in conjunction with the task force in fulfilling the duties of the task force. The task force may also work with individuals or nonprofit or charitable organizations toward the completion of its duties and responsibilities; and be it further

Sec. 6 Staff assistance. Resolved: That, notwithstanding Joint Rule 353, the Legislative Council shall provide necessary staffing services to the task force, except that the Legislative Council staff support is not authorized when the Legislature is in regular or special session. The Franco-American Center at the University of Maine shall provide necessary staffing services to the task force when the Legislature is in regular or special session; and be it further

Sec. 7 Report. Resolved: That, notwithstanding Joint Rule 353, the final report, including findings and recommendations, must be submitted to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over education and cultural affairs by December 15, 2012. That joint standing committee is authorized to introduce a bill to the First Regular Session of the 126th Legislature related to the subject matter of the report; and be it further

Sec. 8 Meetings; outside funding. Resolved: That the task force is authorized to hold 4 meetings. The task force shall seek funding contributions to fully fund the costs of the study. All funding is subject to approval by the Legislative Council in accordance with its policies. If sufficient contributions to fund the study have not been received within 30 days after the effective date of this resolve, no meetings are authorized and no expenses of any kind may be incurred or reimbursed; and be it further

Sec. 9 Appropriations and allocations. Resolved: That the following appropriations and allocations are made.

LEGISLATURE

Study Commissions - Funding 0444

Initiative: Provides allocations to authorize expenditures for the Task Force on Franco-Americans in the event that funding for the task force is received by the Legislature from outside sources.

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2012-13
Personal Services	\$660
All Other	\$3,485
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	<hr/> \$4,145

Sec. 5 Retroactivity. Resolved: That this resolve applies retroactively to July 6, 2011.

Emergency clause. In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this legislation takes effect when approved.

APPENDIX B

**Membership list
Task Force on Franco-Americans**

Task Force on Franco-Americans

Resolve 2011, Chapter 102 as amended by Resolve 2011, Chapter 119

Tuesday, November 13, 2012

Appointment(s) by the Governor

Raymond Lagueux
7 Macadamia Lane
Lewiston, ME 04240

Public Member

James Lemieux
PO Box 10
Pittsfield, ME 04967
207 341-0599

Public Members

Gilman Pelletier
8 Martin Ave.
Waterville, ME 04901
207 649-7547

Public Members

Susan Pinette
7 Kell Street
Orono, ME 04473
207 866-7713

Public Members

Appointment(s) by the President

Sen. Thomas Martin Jr. - Chair
1308 Clinton Ave.
Benton, ME 04901

Senate Member

Daniel Deveau
P.O.Box 127
Van Buren, ME 04785

Public Member

David Madore
62 Bolton Hill Road
Augusta, ME 04330

Public Member

Appointment(s) by the Speaker

Rep. Kenneth W. Fredette - Chair

P.O. Box 70
Newport, ME 04953

House Member

Rep. Brian D. Bolduc

54 Riverside Drive
Auburn, ME 04210

House Member

Severin M. Beliveau

3 Litchfield Road
Hallowell, ME 04347

Public Member

Yvon Labbe

64 Pritham Ave.
Greenville, ME 04441

Public Member

Juliana J. L'Heureux

1 Turkey Run
Topsham, ME 04086

Public Member

Staff:

Karen Nadeau-Drillen 287-1670
OPLA

Natalie Haynes 287-1670
OPLA

APPENDIX C

Franco-American Resource Guide List

provided by Franco-American Center
6-19-12

Acadian Archives, University of Maine at Fort Kent

<http://www.umfk.edu/archives/>

Franco-American Centre, University of Maine, Orono, ME

<http://www.umaine.edu/francoamerican>

Franco-American Collection, University of Southern Maine, Lewiston, ME

<http://usm.maine.edu/franco>

Franco-American Heritage Center, Lewiston, ME

<http://www.francocenter.org/>

Franco-American Studies Resource Guide, Department of Education, State of Maine

<http://www.maine.gov/education/lres/ss/franco-american/index.html>

Franco-American Women's Institute

<http://www.fawi.net>

The French Connection, Robert Chenard, Waterville, ME

<http://home.gwi.net/~frenchgen/>

Maine Franco-American Genealogical Society, Auburn, ME

<http://www.ancestors-genealogy.com/mfsgs/>

Maine Memory Network, Maine Historical Society, Portland, ME

<http://www.mainememory.net/>

McArthur Public Library, Biddeford, ME

<http://www.mcarthurpubliclibrary.org/>

APPENDIX D

**“Içi on Parle Français”
Report of the Commission to Study the Development of
Maine’s Franco-American Resources
December 1997**

"Ici on parle français"

**REPORT OF
THE COMMISSION TO STUDY
THE DEVELOPMENT OF MAINE'S
FRANCO-AMERICAN RESOURCES**

Chapter 83, Resolves of 1997

December, 1997

F
30
.A2
M2
1997
c.2

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. Purpose and Membership	Page 2
2. The Global Francophone Opportunity	Page 3
3. Current State Initiatives	Page 4
4. The Resource – Maine’s French-speaking population	Page 5
5. Three Long-term Strategies	Page 7
6. Two Immediate Actions	Page 8
<i>Appendix A: French Ancestry by Maine County</i>	<i>Page 9</i>
<i>Appendix B: French Ancestry by Maine Place</i>	<i>Page 10</i>
<i>Appendix C: Resources for Further Research and Reading</i>	<i>Page 11</i>
<i>Appendix D: Acknowledgments</i>	<i>Page 12</i>

1

PURPOSE AND MEMBERSHIP

The Commission to Study Maine's Franco-American Resource was established by an act of the Maine Legislature and Governor in the spring and summer of 1997. The Commission was charged with studying general demographic, language and educational trends in Maine's Franco-American community; and with identifying the unique economic development opportunities which the presence of a strong French-speaking community makes possible for Maine. This is the Commission's report.

Members of the commission include:

Chair

Connie LaPointe Brennan Portland Peoples Heritage Bank

Vice-Chair

Raymond Lagueux Lewiston Forum Francophones des Affaires

Members

Perry Newman	South Portland	International Trade Center
Julie Carrier	Belgrade	Co-Enterprise Maine Chamber & Business Alliance
Madeleine Giguère	Lewiston	Business and civic
Yvon Labbé	Orono	Franco-American Center
Tony Brinkley	Orono	Franco-American Center
Doris Bonneau	Lewiston	K-12 academic community
Rachel desGrosseilliers	Auburn	Tourism
Judy Paradis	Frenchville	Maine Senate
Richard Bennett	Norway	Maine Senate
David Madore	Augusta	Maine House
Patricia Lemaire	Lewiston	Maine House
John Jenkins	Lewiston	Forum Francophones des Affaires
John Martin	Eagle Lake	Aroostook County
Andre Lacasse	Augusta	Kennebec County
Peter Daigle	Bangor	Penobscot County
Susan Huseman	Bangor	University of Maine System
Joyce Hedlund	Bangor	Maine Technical Colleges
Adrian Brochu	Stratton	Forest Products
Severin Beliveau	Augusta	Maine Chamber & Business Alliance
Dean Busque	Millinocket	Business & Industry/Agriculture
Michael Cantara	Alfred	Business & Civic/York County
Edmund Guay	Auburn	Business & Industry/High Technology
Raymond Giroux	Bangor	Academic/Private K-12
Edward Youngblood	Bangor	Business & Industry/Financial Services
Greg Nadeau	Augusta	Ex officio, Governor's Office

Staff

Sharon Boucher Albert Bangor
Frank O'Hara Hallowell

2

THE GLOBAL FRANCOPHONE OPPORTUNITY

The Osher Map Library of the University of Southern Maine has a 1556 map of our region. On it our area is called “La Nuova Francia” – or “New France.” Today, in the aftermath of Wolfe’s victory over Montcalm at the Battle of Quebec in 1759, it is called “New England.”

But culture and civilizations do not change so easily as names on maps. Two centuries after Montcalm’s defeat, French culture remains vital on the entire northeastern corner of our continent – from Quebec and the Maritimes through New England. However, the line that French culture has traveled to get to where it is today, particularly in Maine, has been roundabout. First they came from the east, as Samuel de Champlain led a group of hardy French settlers to an island on the St. Croix River, just below modern-day Calais. This was 1604, three years before the Jamestown settlement. The winter was harsh. The settlers went back across the Bay to Port Royal. Next they came from the south-east, as French-speaking Acadians from the Maritimes were expelled by the English and moved up to the St. John Valley in Aroostook County. This was in the late 1700’s; the winters were still harsh, but this time they stayed. And finally, in the mid to late 1800’s they came from the north, thousands of Quebecois heading south to find work in the expanding mills of Sanford, Saco, Biddeford, Westbrook, Lewiston, Auburn, Rumford, Jay, Augusta, and Waterville. By 1900 French Canadians accounted for almost half of the labor force at Maine’s textile mills.

Today, in all, there are approximately 300,000 Maine residents, or about 25% of the total population of Maine, who have an ancestry which is primarily French¹. Of these, about 80,000 live in a home where French continues to be spoken.

Maine’s story is not that unusual. There are many countries around the world where France once exerted political or cultural dominion, and where the official connection has long since ended, but where, beneath the surface, French language and cultural currents run strong. Such is the case in Caribbean countries like Haiti and French Guyana; in Southeast Asian countries like Vietnam and Cambodia; in Muslim countries of Africa and the Middle East like Algeria, Tunisia, Morocco, and Lebanon; in sub-Saharan African nations of the Congo and Senegal; and even in European countries like Belgium, Luxembourg, and Switzerland.

France itself is a nation of 60 million people. When all of the countries with some French language and cultural ties are added in – the nearly 50 “Francophone” nations – the total population balloons to over 500 million people. Of these, about 130 million speak French. This is a major economic market.

More precisely, the French-speaking countries divide into two different markets. The northern tier, countries like Canada and France and Switzerland, have developed economies. Maine’s trade opportunities with northern tier countries include high-technology goods, business services, and the attraction of “cultural” tourists. The southern tier of countries, like Vietnam and Algeria and Madagascar, have developing economies, often with natural resource bases similar to Maine’s. The opportunities to the south include the export of Maine skills in aquaculture, food processing, wood products, and professional service.

This is how Maine’s participation in the global Francophone network can be a source of important jobs and economic growth.

¹ Unless otherwise noted, all data about the French-speaking population is from the 1990 U.S. Census.

3

CURRENT STATE INITIATIVES

Economic development, at the level of high finance, can be very sophisticated and complicated. Yet, economic development, at its most basic level, is quite simple. Every business trade begins with human communication and trust.

Norm Renaud of the Androscoggin Chamber of Commerce described how it works to the *Sun Journal*. While at a recent meeting with people from Maine and French-speaking parts of Canada, Renaud observed: "I was in a room full of economic developers, and only two of us from Maine spoke French. When the Quebec developers discovered we could speak their language, the tone changed. There was freedom of conversation. The next day I got a call from one of them who said a company wants to relocate in Maine and 'could you help us.' If you speak to someone in their language, you automatically become their friend."

Peter Daigle, a Bangor businessman, had a similar experience. He introduced himself to some Quebec business people in French, and carried on a short social conversation. They immediately relaxed. The conversation didn't go much further – since Peter's French consisted largely of what he remembered from his mother when he was growing up, and she didn't talk too much about business deals. This didn't matter – the connection was already made.

Peter's business connection was made through the Bangor Regional Chamber of Commerce/University of Maine Partnership Project with the region of Beauce in Quebec. The cooperative effort involves providing language immersion experiences – in English for Quebec businesses, in French for Bangor area businesses. In the future, a directory of area businesses who can conduct business in French, an Internet web page, and tourism initiatives around French culture will also be developed.

This is but one instance of many public and private efforts going on in Maine. Statewide, the Maine Chamber and Business Alliance has cooperated with Quebec businesses to sponsor a series of Co-Entreprise conferences in recent years. In the St. John Valley, the Maine Acadian Heritage Council and the St. John Valley Chambers of Commerce are working with their counterparts in New Brunswick to create a unified marketing and tourism attraction program around the theme of "**Experience Our Acadia.**" There are successful and growing annual Franco-American festivals in Biddeford (**la Kermesse**), Lewiston (**Le Festival de Joie**), Jackman, Madawaska (**Acadian Festival**), and Augusta (**la Festival de la Bastille**).

In the private sector, major Maine businesses like UNUM, LL Bean, MBNA, Peoples Heritage Bank, Bangor Savings Bank, the Sitel Corporation, St. Mary's Regional Medical Center, and Central Maine Medical Center have all identified and trained French speakers within their companies to be available to French-speaking customers. Fleet Bank has installed 40 bilingual ATM machines in Maine, and Key Bank has 7-10 bilingual ATM locations.

At the University of Maine, the **Maine Franco-American Center** has been providing technical assistance for three decades to Franco-Americans throughout Maine. Beneficiaries include **Le Club Francais**, **Save Our French**, **the Maine Acadian Preservation Commission**, **the Maine Heritage Council**, and **the Acadian Archives**.

The Franco-American Center and a coalition of Maine business, community, and government leaders have combined forces to establish the offices of the United States Bureau of the Francophone Business Forum, called the **American Association of Forum Francophone des Affaires** (AAFFA), in the Lewiston-Auburn area. The AAFFA is being supported in its start-up by \$45,000 from the City of Lewiston, \$20,000 from the City of Auburn, and \$35,000 from area businesses. AAFFA has the potential to become a valuable partner for the Maine International Trade Center in developing Maine's role in the global market.

The Forum Francophone des Affaires is a global network of businesses and governments in 37 French speaking nations. Its potential is demonstrated by a **trade mission to Vietnam** held in October of 1997. Eleven business, academic, and economic development officials from Maine traveled to Ho Chi Minh City and Hanoi to attend the biennial meeting of FFA and explore potential areas for economic cooperation between Maine and Vietnam.

Among the possibilities identified during the trip, and being pursued at present, are the provision to Vietnam by Maine companies of computerized mapping programs, environmental pollution management services, market research, composite materials development, potato processing, aquaculture, shipbuilding, and legal/banking services. The trip has created the possibility of a long-term, mutually beneficial relationship for Maine with Vietnam, a country of 75 million people.

These efforts are being assisted by the **Maine International Trade Center**. The Center has contracted with French speakers to assist in translation on foreign trade missions, participated in the trade mission to Vietnam, engaged a bilingual business consultant to assist in its Bangor office start-up, assisted in organizing a variety of Maine-Canada trade events, prepared informational packets in French and English, and trained two of its staff in French language studies.

4 THE RESOURCE – MAINE'S FRENCH-SPEAKING POPULATION

French language and culture have come to Maine as a pure gift. The gift may now require a special effort to preserve. The gift is the 300,000 Maine residents of primarily French descent, of whom 80,000 live in homes where French is spoken.

People of French descent live throughout the state. York County has the most, 49,000. Androscoggin is next with 45,000, then Cumberland with 37,000, Aroostook and Kennebec each with 32,000, and Penobscot with 30,000 (Appendix A). The county with the highest proportion of people with French descent is Androscoggin (42%), with Aroostook second at 37%.

Thirty-one cities have more than 1,000 persons of primarily French ancestry. Lewiston, with 23,000, has by far the most. Biddeford is second with 12,000. Other towns on the list are as far south as Springvale, as far west as Rumford, as far north as Fort Kent, and as far east as Presque Isle (see Appendix B). So the language, the people, and culture, stretch all across Maine.

How are they doing? The **language** skill is declining. In 1980, 94,000 Maine residents over 5 years of age spoke French in the home. In 1990, the number was 81,000, a decline of 14%. The reasons,

according to Professor Madeleine Giguère, include the aging of the French-speaking population; an increased out-migration (and declining in-migration) of French speakers; lack of support in the community for using French; lack of transmission of the language between generations within the family; and intermarriage.

This is to be expected. It follows the normal pattern for any non-English speaking ethnic group in the United States. It can best be countered by the schools. However, French language instruction in Maine schools is not at nearly the scale needed to offset the trend.

Of all students in grades kindergarten through senior in public and private high schools in Maine in 1995-96, only *one in eleven* is currently studying a foreign language (source: Don Reutershan, Foreign Language Association of Maine, Department of Education). When considering secondary grades alone, the picture improves. Here 45% take a foreign language, and of these 37.5% study French. Put another way, *one in six* high school students takes French, or 17,000 in all. Considering that not every high school student taking French will remember what has been learned, and not every student who remembers will stay in Maine after high school, this is not a level of instruction which can insure a strong French-speaking presence in Maine in the future.

There are other issues here as well. Commission members report that some educators devalue the French spoken in Maine, and do not hire native French speakers, or teach students the cultural value of their own language. While French is the language taken most often in high school, one Commission member reported that Spanish language study is chosen twice as much by students at his school than is French – even though the students are primarily of French descent. This is not unusual in either Maine or New England. Finally, the recently adopted Learning Results proposes mandatory school district compliance in math, science, and English skills – and only “voluntary” compliance with foreign language skills.

More generally, how are the *people* of French descent doing? In one respect they are doing better than others in Maine; their 1989 median income of \$27,400 (as reported by the Census) was \$500 higher than the rest of Maine’s households. In other respects, however, they are doing less well. Maine people of French ancestry are less likely to have any education beyond high school, and they are less likely to hold executive or professional jobs than other Maine people.

In summary, we still have the gift of the French language, French culture, and families of French descent; but we’re not nurturing them as we should.

5

THREE LONG-TERM STRATEGIES

Our Commission has chosen to recommend three major strategies for the State of Maine. These steps must be implemented in a collaborative partnership, with educators and the business sector and French cultural groups and government all involved, as happened in the case of the Forum Francophones des Affaires (FFA). Our recommended strategies are three:

STRATEGY #1: *Include the French language and cultural heritage of Maine as an integral part of the way we define Maine's economic competitive advantage to the outside world.*

Maine is known for its work ethic, quality of life, natural beauty, access to ocean and forest, low crime, and accessible political leadership. All of these have been a steady part of Maine's economic development message which has been marketed to the outside world over the past twenty years. We now recommend that Maine's French heritage – its bilingual citizens and cultural riches – be marketed as an essential component of that message. As a model for how this might be done, New Brunswick has used its bilingual population, coupled with investments in telecommunications, to establish itself as the telemarketing center of Canada.

Suggestions for implementation:

- a) *Develop French language brochures marketing the state 's bilingual capacity – "Ici on parle Français;"*
- b) *Create a directory of businesses and services with French-language capabilities and interests. This directory will be used to market Maine to businesses and visitors to our state, as well as build a statewide network of French-language capacity businesses;*
- c) *Establish a 1-800 hot line to Maine staffed by people who speak French, for the benefit of tourists and foreign businesses;*
- d) *Implement an advertising strategy for "cultural tourism" to be aired in France and French-speaking Canada;*
- e) *Conduct continued high-level trade missions to Francophone countries; and*
- f) *Assist businesses, such as those in the health fields, by providing French language immersion programs for their staffs.*

STRATEGY #2: *Give a high priority to the preservation of Maine's traditional bilingual capability in French and English by the state's education systems.*

Without a concerted effort, the language capability and advantage Maine presently enjoys will slip away in future years.

Suggestions for implementation:

- a) *Give foreign language learning an equal priority as math or science in the implementation of the Learning Results – and, in particular, focus on beginning language education in the primary grades;*
- b) *Remove any remaining prejudice against the Maine French accent in the teaching of students and the hiring of teachers in Maine's public schools;*
- c) *Expand the role of the University Franco-American Center at Orono to provide services and training for all University of Maine campuses;*

- d) *Build on the very successful St. John Valley Immersion program for preparing bilingual students;*
- e) *Develop a strategy for working with French cultural, religious, and neighborhood organizations to systematically raise the educational aspirations of French ancestry youth;*
- f) *Foster renewed interest in the Franco-American resource by providing a means of obtaining state financial support for various research and culture initiatives in the state.*

STRATEGY #3: *Monitor the condition of Maine's Franco resource – its language and people – on a regular basis. Establish a data-base.*

At present, no statewide survey of French-ancestry people exists outside of the official Census conducted every 10 years. The Census questions are not targeted enough to give clear and precise data about French speakers or French ancestry. A better understanding of the needs, aspirations, and potential of Maine's French-ancestry population is important to developing future strategies to ensure their cultural and linguistic health.

Suggestions for implementation:

- a) *Support a research effort by the Franco-American Center at Orono to develop and implement a statewide survey and to maintain a statewide data base;*
- b) *Attempt to change the Census survey to include more information about French language citizens.*

6

TWO IMMEDIATE ACTIONS

In order to begin the process of implementing the strategies above, we recommend two immediate actions for the Governor and Legislature this year.

ACTION #1: *The Governor should establish by Executive Order a one-year interagency task force to begin the implementation of the above strategies.*

Membership might include the Maine International Trade Center, the Department of Economic and Community Development (both tourism and business development sections), the Department of Transportation (for signage issues), the University of Maine System, the Department of Education, the Maine Chamber and Business Alliance, and others. The group could incorporate the Francophone strategy described above into existing state plans and policies, attraction brochures and literature, and targeted marketing efforts. The task force would not be expected to be permanent; after a year its work should be finished, and further follow-up would be done by individual agencies.

ACTION #2: *The Legislature should allocate the balance of funds not expended by this Commission to Study the Development of Maine's Franco-American Resources back to the Franco-American Center at the University of Maine.*

This Commission has been thrifty in conserving taxpayers' money. The money which now remains in the Commission's account should be allocated to the Franco-American Center at the University of Maine to promote the strategies recommended in this report.

APPENDIX A

French Ancestry by Maine County

Source: 1990 Census

County	1st Ancestry French	Percent of County
Androscoggin	44,502	42.3%
Aroostook	32,243	37.1%
Cumberland	37,373	15.4%
Franklin	5,408	18.6%
Hancock	4,416	9.4%
Kennebec	31,973	27.6%
Knox	3,211	8.8%
Lincoln	3,013	9.9%
Oxford	9,977	19.0%
Penobscot	29,561	20.2%
Piscataquis	3,132	16.8%
Sagadahoc	5,371	16.0%
Somerset	12,174	24.0%
Waldo	3,657	11.1%
Washington	2,686	7.5%
York	48,816	29.7%
MAINE	277,413	22.6%

APPENDIX B

French Ancestry by Maine Place (with more than 1,000 population)

Source: 1990 Census

	1st Ancestry	Percent of Place
Auburn	8,853	36.4%
Augusta	6,585	30.9%
Bangor	5,708	17.2%
Biddeford	12,314	59.5%
Brewer	1,700	18.8%
Brunswick	2,617	17.8%
Caribou	4,081	43.3%
Fort Kent	1,799	84.2%
Lewiston	22,756	57.2%
Lisbon Falls	1,134	24.3%
Madawaska	3,084	84.4%
Madison	1,035	35.0%
Milford	1,061	46.6%
Millinocket	2,207	31.9%
Old Orchard Beach	2,353	30.2%
Old Town	2,833	34.3%
Orono	1,765	18.0%
Portland	8,914	13.9%
Presque Isle	3,010	28.5%
Rumford	2,307	42.8%
Saco	5,922	39.0%
Sanford	4,692	45.5%
Skowhegan	2,075	29.9%
South Portland	3,337	14.4%
South Sanford	1,306	33.2%
Springvale	1,212	34.8%
Topsham	1,191	19.4%
Van Buren	2,266	82.1%
Waterville	6,590	38.5%
Westbrook	4,544	28.2%
Winslow	2,584	47.5%
Maine	277,413	22.6%

APPENDIX C

Resources for further Research and Reading

Archives

Acadian Archives

University of Maine at Fort Kent
Pleasant Street, Fort Kent, ME 04743

Centre Franco Américain

University of Maine
Orono, ME 04469

Franco-Américain Heritage Reading Room

Lewiston-Auburn College
University of Southern Maine
51 Westminster Street, Lewiston, ME 04240

Selected Publications

G. Stewart Doty. *The First Franco-Americans: New England Life Histories From the Federal Writers Project. 1938-1939.* Orono, Maine: The University of Maine Press, 1985.

Hendrickson, Dyke. *Quiet Presence: Dramatic. First-person Accounts – the True Stories of Franco-Americans in New England.* Portland, Maine: Guy Gannet Publishing Company Co., 1980.

Ledoux, Denis. *What Became of Them and Other Stories from Franco-America.* Lisbon Falls, Maine: Soleil Press, 1988.

Steeple and Smokestacks: the Franco-American Experience in New England. Edited by Claire Quintal. Worcester, Massachusetts: The French Institute, Assumption College, 1996.

Roby, Yves. *Les Franco-Américains de la Nouvelle Angleterre. (1776-1930).* Sillery, Quebec: Septentrion, 1990.

Immigrants from the North: Franco Americans Recall the Settlement of Their Canadian Families in the Mill Towns of New England. As collected and written by the Franco-American Studies Class. Edited by James W. Searles. Bath, Maine: The Hyde School, 1982.

Stewart, Alice R. "The Franco-Americans of Maine: A Historiographical Essay." *Maine Historical Society Quarterly*, Vol. 26, No. 3, Winter 1987.



APPENDIX D

Acknowledgements

This report, and the legislative mandate it responds to, are the result of a sequence of developments in the last two years. The developments all stem from one basic recognition – that Maine's Franco-American culture can be an economic resource which can benefit all of the people of Maine.

The resource was formally recognized first in December 1995, when the Bangor Region Chamber of Commerce and the University of Maine signed the Franco-American Partnership Agreement, endorsing a project which (in the language of the agreement) "takes as its premise that Maine's French culture and French language speakers are fundamental resources in developing ties with Quebec, the Maritimes, and France." The Partnership Agreement led in turn to a meeting at the University of Maine in May 1996 in which business leaders from around the state agreed to establish the American Association of the Forum Francophone des Affaires (AAFFA) in Maine. From this meeting came the seeds for a Franco-American Partnership Project in Lewiston (October 1996), for incorporation of the American Association of FFA (January 1997), for the passage of L.D. 1603 (June 1997).

A related event gave added recognition to the resource. In April 1997, at the 3rd annual meeting of Co-Entreprise, Maine's French reality was recognized as crucial to future relations between Maine and Quebec; Governor Angus King and Premier Lucien Bouchard announced the creation of a Maine-Quebec Committee to develop tourism based on the cultural heritage that Maine and Quebec share. Following the passage of L.D. 1603, in September 1997, Lewiston became the site of the national headquarters of the American Association of FFA and pledged \$100,000 to support the Association. At the beginning of October 1997, a delegation from Maine represented the United States in Viet Nam at the biennial world conference of FFA.

This report is simply one further step of an ongoing process.

APPENDIX E

**“Franco-Americans in Maine: Statistics from the American Community Survey” Report
Prepared by James Myall, Coordinator of the Franco-American Collection at the
University of Southern Maine
September 26, 2012**



**Franco-Americans in Maine:
Statistics from the American Community Survey**

**Prepared for the Franco-American Taskforce
September 26, 2012**

James Myall

Introduction:

As per the request of the State of Maine Legislative Franco-American Task Force, the following is an analysis of the Franco-American population in Maine from data collected by the United States Census Bureau. Before proceeding to analysis of the data, a few considerations must be highlighted.

About the American Community Survey:

The American Community Survey (ACS) is an annual survey conducted by the US Census Bureau to provide a broader snapshot of American life than is possible through the decennial census. The statistics gathered by the ACS are used by Congress and other agencies to determine the needs of Federal, State and local populations and agencies. The ACS is collected from randomly selected populations in every state to provide estimates which reflect American society as a whole.

The data for this report was taken from the ACS using the online tool of the US Census Bureau, American Factfinder, <<http://factfinder2.census.gov>>. For the State of Maine, the Census Bureau has produced 1-year estimates extrapolated from the 2010 survey (longer-term estimates are available for smaller population units (e.g. at the county or municipal level). Although the ACS surveys all Americans, the website allows users to filter data by several categories, including ancestry and ethnic origin, thus allowing a comprehensive picture of the Franco population. Where possible, I have added US Census Bureau data on Maine as a whole, for comparison.

'French' and 'French Canadian':

The US Census Bureau's ACS poses the question "What is this person's ancestry or ethnic origin?" It is important to note that the ACS question has several limitations. The most important is that the ACS does not provide discrete answers from which the respondent can choose. Because the question is open-ended, respondents to the ACS in Maine are divided between those who selected 'French' as their ancestry and those who selected 'French Canadian.' Since respondents who identified as French outnumber those who identified as French Canadian by a ratio of more than 2:1, it can be reasonably surmised that many of the 'French' respondents were, in fact, of French-Canadian origin.

Therefore, this report will include aggregated statistics of those respondents who identified as either French or French Canadian. The data will necessarily include both Franco-Americans and French-Americans (a distinction which the Taskforce may or may not wish to draw), but it is reasonable to assume that the proportion of respondents who are immigrants (or descendants of immigrants) from, France is small.

A second issue raised by the use of ACS data is that it depends on respondents to self-identify as Franco-Americans. Therefore, this data can only be said to refer to self-identifying Franco-Americans. On the other hand, one could argue that any survey of an ethnic group would have this limitation.

Additionally, respondents were only permitted to choose a single ancestry or ethnic group in response to this question. So the data necessarily excludes the population of mixed Franco ancestry, most

notably those who may identify more strongly as Irish-Americans or Métis (mixed French and American Indian).

For simplicity, I will use the data for the combined 'French' and 'French Canadian' responses, referring to them below as 'Franco-Americans'

Data for non Franco-Americans was calculated by subtracting the numbers for 'French' and 'French Canadian' respondents from the numbers reported for all Mainers.

Highlights:

The ACS divides its data into several demographic, social and economic categories. In many of these, it can be seen that Franco-Americans are not significantly different than Mainers as a whole. However, there are several points of data which bear highlighting. Charts and tables for these data are each included in the appendix.

Demographics

Those who responded as Franco-Americans numbered 321,994; of which 220,994 (16.6%) responded as 'French', and 101,004 (7.6%) as 'French Canadian'. This represents 24.3% of Maine's population – the largest single ethnic group in the state (those identifying themselves as 'English' comprised 21.6%; 'Irish' 17.5%, and 'American' 8.2%)

Franco-Americans are younger than non-Francos. Maine's median age in 2010 was 42.7 years; Franco-Americans had a median age of 39.1 years, significantly lower than that of non-Francos, which was 43.7 years. This is despite an older audience for Franco-American events and outreach programs.

This statistic may be attributed to a slightly higher birth rate among Franco-Americans (see 'family' below). In addition, it seems likely that younger people, and those with children, are more likely to identify as being Franco-American.

Family

The average family size for Franco-Americans is slightly larger than that of other Mainers. Contrary to historical trends, Franco-American families are now of similar sizes to the average – Franco families contain an average of 2.91 people, while the state-wide average is 2.90 (there is a margin of error of 0.13).

Catholic traditions appear to be similarly in decline when we consider marital status – Franco-Americans are neither more nor less likely to be divorced than Mainers as a group. 14.1% of Franco-Americans were divorced, compared to 13.7% of Mainers as a group – once again, this is within the margin of error (of 2.11%).

The fertility rate is slightly higher among Franco-Americans women. Of all women aged 15 to 50, 5.35% had given birth in the past year, compared to 4.62% of Mainers as a whole. This would seem to reinforce the impression given by the marginally larger family size for Franco-Americans.

It is also possible that Franco-Americans are more likely to give birth while unmarried – 43.3% of births were to unmarried couples, as opposed to 36.6% of births among all Maine couples. However, this finding is problematic, due to the high margin of error in these statistics (16.5%, due to a very small sample size).

Education and Employment

In several categories, Franco Americans under-perform educationally compared to Mainers as a group. Franco-Americans are especially less likely to hold a bachelor's degree or higher qualification. Only 21.1% of Francos hold such qualifications, compared to 28.5% of all Mainers.

However, the data for educational enrollment reveals that Franco-Americans are not significantly less likely to be *currently* enrolled in education at the college level – 27.9% compared to 28.2% - which suggests that this deficit in college education is a hang-over from an earlier era in which college enrollment was low among Francos.

In terms of employment, Francos reflect the trends of the state as a whole. The exception is that Franco-Americans are slightly less likely to be engaged in management, business or service occupations, and more likely to be involved in sales, production, and natural resource-based occupations. This may be a reflection of the general lack of education among Franco-Americans.

Reflecting historical trends, Franco-Americans are slightly more likely to be engaged in farming or manufacturing than their peers statewide. The increased proportion of Francos engaged in farming, agriculture and fishing may be a result of the clustering of Franco populations in the Saint John Valley in rural Aroostook County. The marginally larger proportion of Francos engaged in manufacturing reflects a real change from historical trends, in which these jobs were the mainstay of the community. This is probably the consequence of the general decline in manufacturing in the state – it now represents only 8.8% of all jobs; 10.5% of Franco occupations (within the margins of error).

Franco-Americans are more likely to remain in the labor force than non-Francos. 36.2% of non-Francos aged 16 and over were out of the labor force in 2012; for Francos this figure was only 33.2%. Franco-Americans are more likely to be employed (61.1% of the over-16 population) or unemployed (5.6%) compared to non-Francos (58.2% and 5.2% respectively). This is probably accounted for by the lower median age of Franco-Americans, but perhaps also by a stronger work ethic and reluctance to fully retire.

Mean earnings for Franco-Americans are lower, but comparable to those of Mainers - \$58,014 to \$61,648 – while the Median household income is higher among Franco-Americans. This represents a relatively small number of low-earning Franco-Americans skewing the mean earnings negatively. The higher median income shows that in many cases, Franco-Americans earn a little more than their peers in other Maine communities.

Mean retirement income and social security income is lower for Francos. Retired Franco-Americans earn \$16,164 compared to Mainers' \$19,984, or 80.9%. This reflects an historical trend towards lower earnings for Franco-Americans, which adversely affected their Social Security contributions.

Immigration

Contrary to their history as an immigrant group, Franco-Americans more likely to be native-born as other Mainers. 98.5% of Franco-Americans were native-born Americans, as were 95.9% of all Mainers.

Among the foreign-born Franco population, Franco-Americans are more likely to be naturalized. 66% of foreign-born Francos are naturalized, compared to 55% of other foreign-born Mainers. This is explainable due to Canadians' proficiency with English, and the length of stay of most Franco immigrants.

Franco-American immigration is mostly an historic phenomenon. As above, only 1.48% of all Franco-Americans are foreign-born; and these 4,778 immigrants represent just 10.5% of the total number of foreign-born Mainers. The data also show that 88.0% of Franco immigrants arrived in the United States before 1990.

Language

The French language is no longer central to Franco identity. Of those 5 years and older, who identified as Franco-American, only 12.3% of respondents said that they spoke a language other than English, presumably French. Furthermore, only 2.3% of respondents reported that they spoke English 'less than very well' (i.e. were monolingual Francophones). This still reflects a greater openness to foreign languages than non-Francos, 4.9% of whom speak a language other than English, and 1.5% of whom speak English 'less than very well'.

Conclusions

The findings from this analysis of the 2010 American Community Survey refute a number of preconceptions and stereotypes that are widely held among the non-Franco community. By and large, they also show deviations from historical trends among the Franco community, especially in regards to family, work and language. However, the data do highlight that access to education, especially adult education, is still a concern in this community.

Given that the US Census bureau is forbidden from asking questions about a person's religious convictions, this is perhaps the biggest omission from this analysis. Although trends in family life suggest a decline in the religiosity of many Francos and a decline in the influence of the Catholic Church, further study is needed to confirm this suspicion. It would also be helpful to study the effects of some of these changes to Franco society, especially their political affiliations. Overall, however, the study shows that self-identified Franco-Americans are still a significant group in the state, and one that is economically and demographically vibrant.

Appendix: Charts and Tables

Demographics

Table 1 - Ancestry of Maine Population, 2010

Ancestry	Estimate
Total population	1,327,567
English	21.60%
Irish	17.50%
French (except Basque)	16.60%
American	8.20%
French Canadian	7.60%
German	7.50%
Italian	5.60%
Scottish	5.40%
Polish	2.10%
Scandanavian (Swedish, Norwegian, Danish)	3.10%
Scotch-Irish	1.70%
Subsaharan African	0.60%
Other	5%

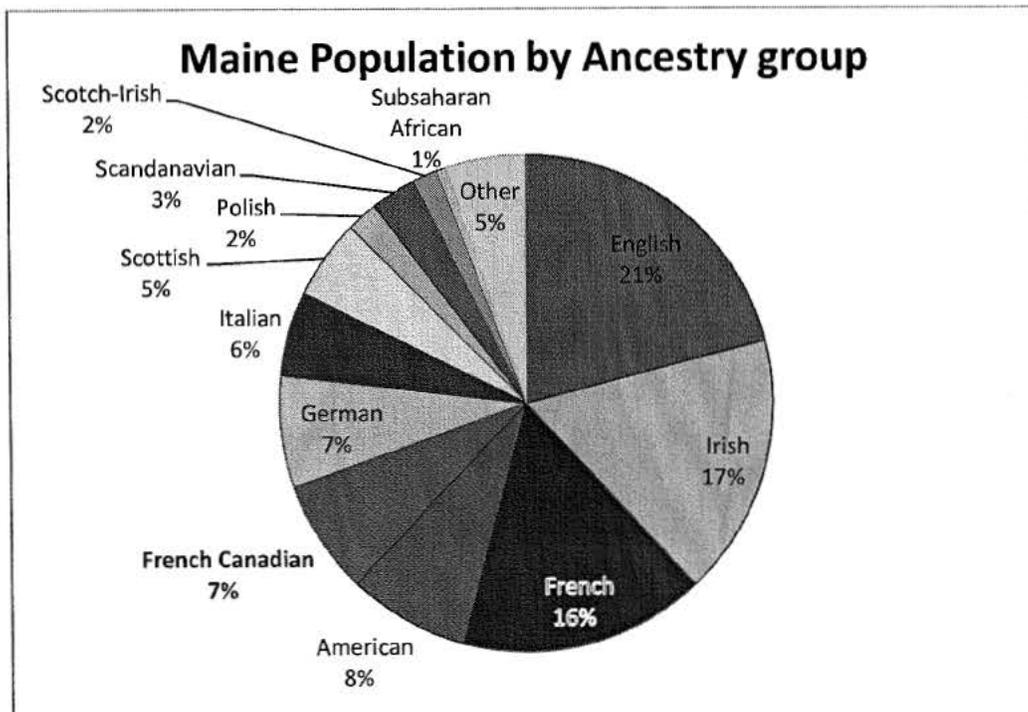
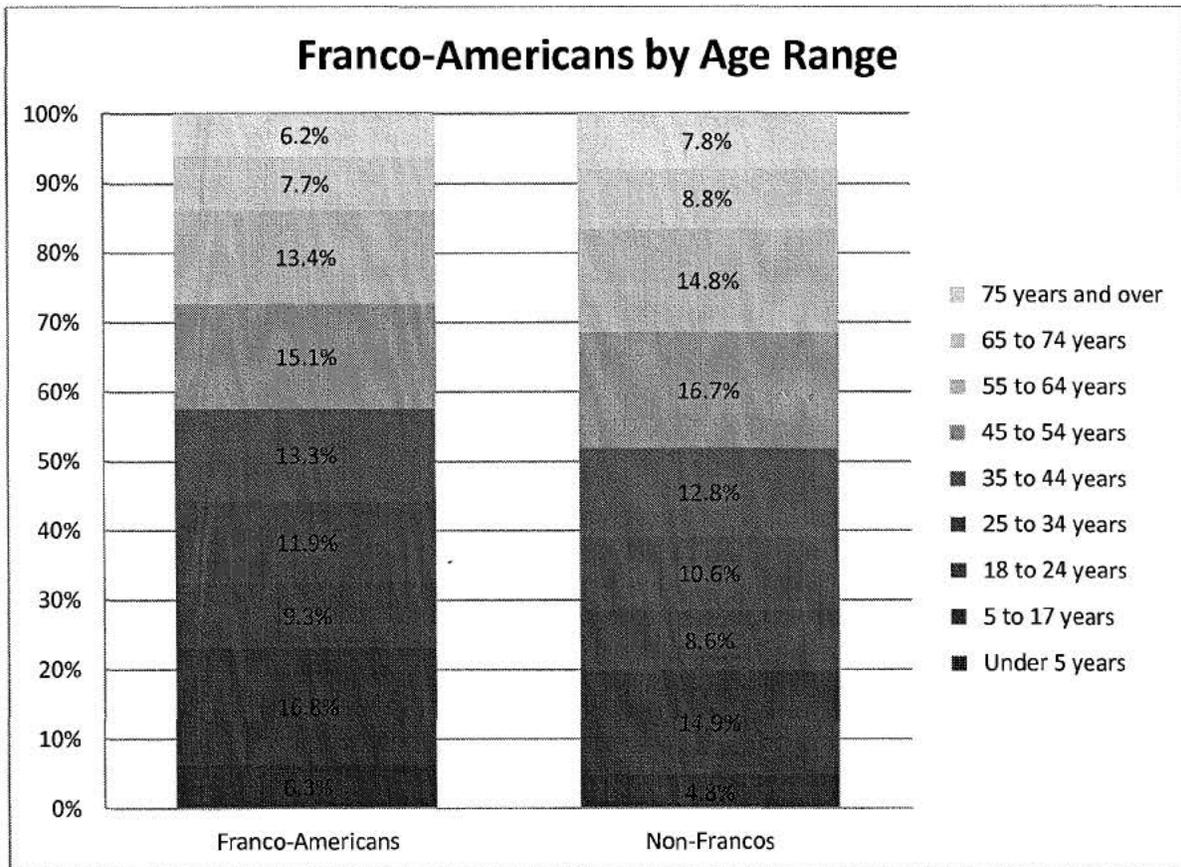


Table 2 - Age of Maine's Franco-American Population, 2010

SEX AND AGE	Franco-Americans		Non-Francos	
	Estimate	MoE	Estimate	MoE
Total population	321994	10603	1005573	10603
Male	47.9%	2.47	49.2%	2.47
Female	52.1%	2.47	50.8%	2.47
Under 5 years	6.3%	1.48	4.8%	1.48
5 to 17 years	16.8%	2.00	14.9%	2.00
18 to 24 years	9.3%	1.70	8.6%	1.71
25 to 34 years	11.9%	1.75	10.6%	1.75
35 to 44 years	13.3%	1.80	12.8%	1.81
45 to 54 years	15.1%	2.11	16.7%	2.11
55 to 64 years	13.4%	1.89	14.8%	1.89
65 to 74 years	7.7%	1.44	8.8%	1.45
75 years and over	6.2%	1.22	7.8%	1.22
Median age (years)	39.1		43.7	



Family

Table 3 - Household Sizes of Maine's Franco-Americans, 2010

HOUSEHOLD SIZE	Franco-Americans		Non-Francos	
	Estimate	MoE	Estimate	MoE
Households	131031	5298	414386	7692
With own children under 18 years	27.3%	2.94	24.7%	3.05
Average household size	2.38	0.11	2.37	0.11
Average family size	2.91	0.13	2.90	0.13

Table 4 - Marital Status of Maine's Franco-Americans, 2010

MARITAL STATUS	Franco-Americans		Non-Francos	
	Estimate	MoE	Estimate	MoE
Population 15 years and over	260158	8098	844597	8213
Now married, except separated	50.2%	3.19	51.0%	3.29
Widowed	6.1%	1.36	6.6%	1.39
Divorced	14.1%	2.05	13.7%	2.11
Separated	1.3%	0.72	1.4%	0.75
Never married	28.5%	2.72	27.2%	2.79

Table 5 - Fertility of Maine's Franco-Americans

FERTILITY	Franco-Americans		Non-Francos	
	Estimate	MoE	Estimate	MoE
Women 15 to 50 years	80452	3534	227764	3978
Women 15 to 50 years who had a birth in the past 12 months	4305	1005	9939	2159
Fertility Rate	5.35%	1.25%	4.36%	0.95%
Unmarried women 15 to 50 years who had a birth in the past 12 months	1865	710	3636	1445
As a percent of all women with a birth in the past 12 months	43.3%	16.50%	36.6%	14.54%

Education and Employment

Table 6 - Educational Attainment of Maine's Franco-Americans, 2010

EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT	Franco-Americans		Non-Francos	
	Estimate	MoE	Estimate	MoE
Population 25 years and over	217631	7393	719383	7598
Less than high school diploma	11.5%	2.19	9.1%	2.25
High school graduate (includes equivalency)	36.8%	3.47	33.7%	3.56
Some college or associate's degree	30.4%	3.24	28.7%	3.32
Bachelor's degree	14.9%	2.78	18.0%	2.84
Graduate or professional degree	6.3%	1.50	10.5%	1.58
High school graduate or higher	88.5%	2.19	90.9%	2.25
Bachelor's degree or higher	21.1%	3.28	28.5%	3.35

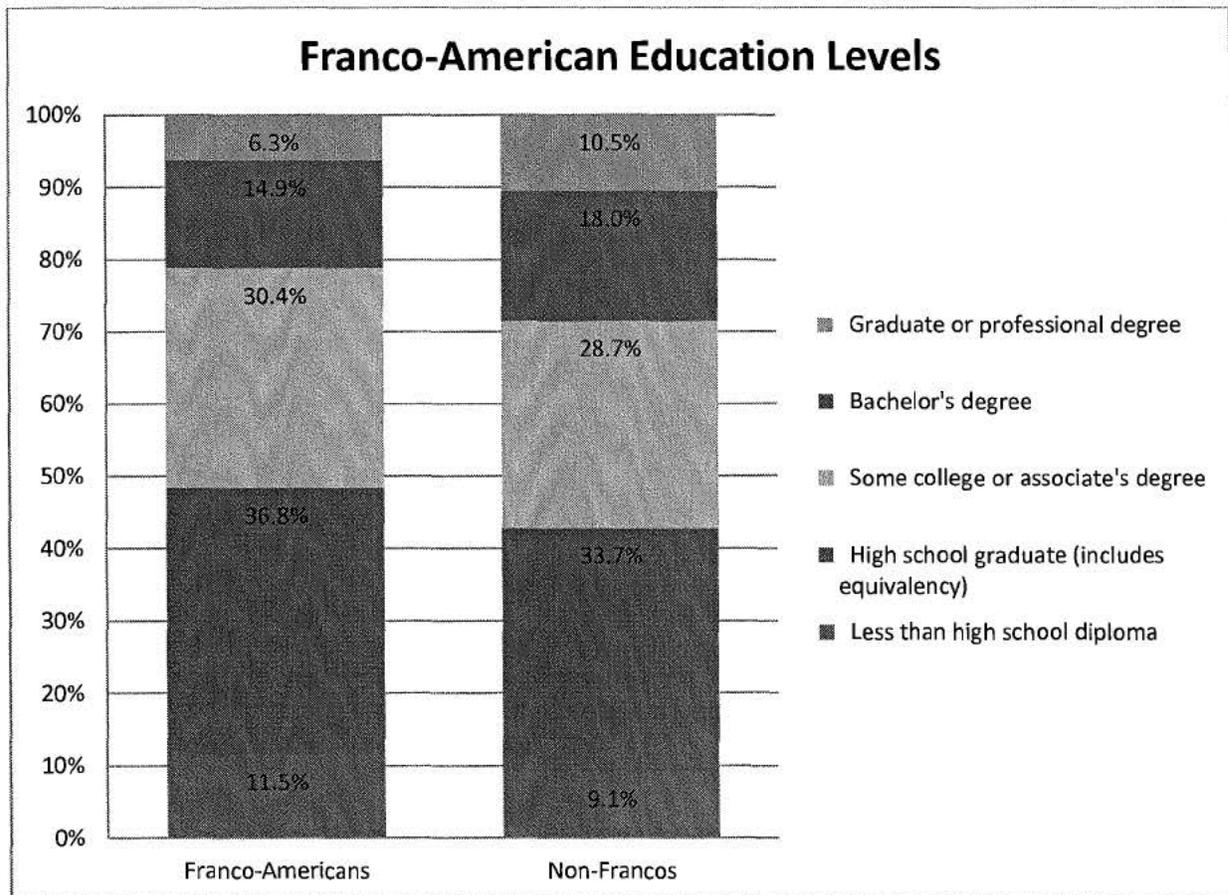


Table 7 - Occupations of Maine's Franco-Americans, 2010

OCCUPATION	Franco-Americans		Non-Francos	
	Estimate	MoE	Estimate	MoE
Civilian employed population 16 years and over	156264	5939	485401	8915
Management, business, science, and arts occupations	32.7%	4.00	36.9%	4.12
Service occupations	17.2%	2.69	17.9%	2.81
Sales and office occupations	25.7%	3.69	23.2%	3.77
Natural resources, construction, and maintenance occupations	11.8%	2.34	10.6%	2.42
Production, transportation, and material moving occupations	12.7%	2.55	11.4%	2.60
Male civilian employed population 16 years and over	75438	4163	244791	6433
Management, business, science, and arts occupations	27.2%	5.30	31.6%	5.43
Service occupations	11.5%	3.66	13.5%	3.77
Sales and office occupations	17.5%	4.52	17.1%	4.61
Natural resources, construction, and maintenance occupations	23.7%	4.39	19.9%	4.53
Production, transportation, and material moving occupations	20.2%	4.61	17.8%	4.72
Female civilian employed population 16 years and over	80826	3830	240610	5668
Management, business, science, and arts occupations	37.8%	5.35	42.3%	5.53
Service occupations	22.6%	3.91	22.3%	4.12
Sales and office occupations	33.3%	5.17	29.3%	5.33
Natural resources, construction, and maintenance occupations	0.7%	1.24	1.1%	1.25
Production, transportation, and material moving occupations	5.6%	2.56	4.9%	2.61

Table 8 - Industry of Employment of Maine's Franco-Americans, 2010

INDUSTRY	Franco-Americans		Non-Francos	
	Estimate	MoE	Estimate	MoE
Civilian employed population 16 years and over	156264	5939	485401	8915
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting, and mining	1.6%	0.64	2.7%	0.67
Construction	7.3%	1.91	6.5%	1.97
Manufacturing	10.5%	2.56	8.8%	2.60
Wholesale trade	2.7%	1.71	2.7%	1.73
Retail trade	15.1%	2.86	12.5%	2.92
Transportation and warehousing, and utilities	3.0%	1.28	4.0%	1.34
Information	1.7%	1.14	2.0%	1.18
Finance and insurance, and real estate and rental and leasing	6.9%	2.08	6.0%	2.12
Professional, scientific, and management, and administrative and waste management services	7.5%	2.25	9.3%	2.33
Educational services, and health care and social assistance	27.7%	3.66	28.4%	3.75
Arts, entertainment, and recreation, and accommodation and food services	7.7%	2.22	8.5%	2.30
Other services (except public administration)	4.5%	1.35	4.2%	1.38
Public administration	3.8%	1.42	4.6%	1.48

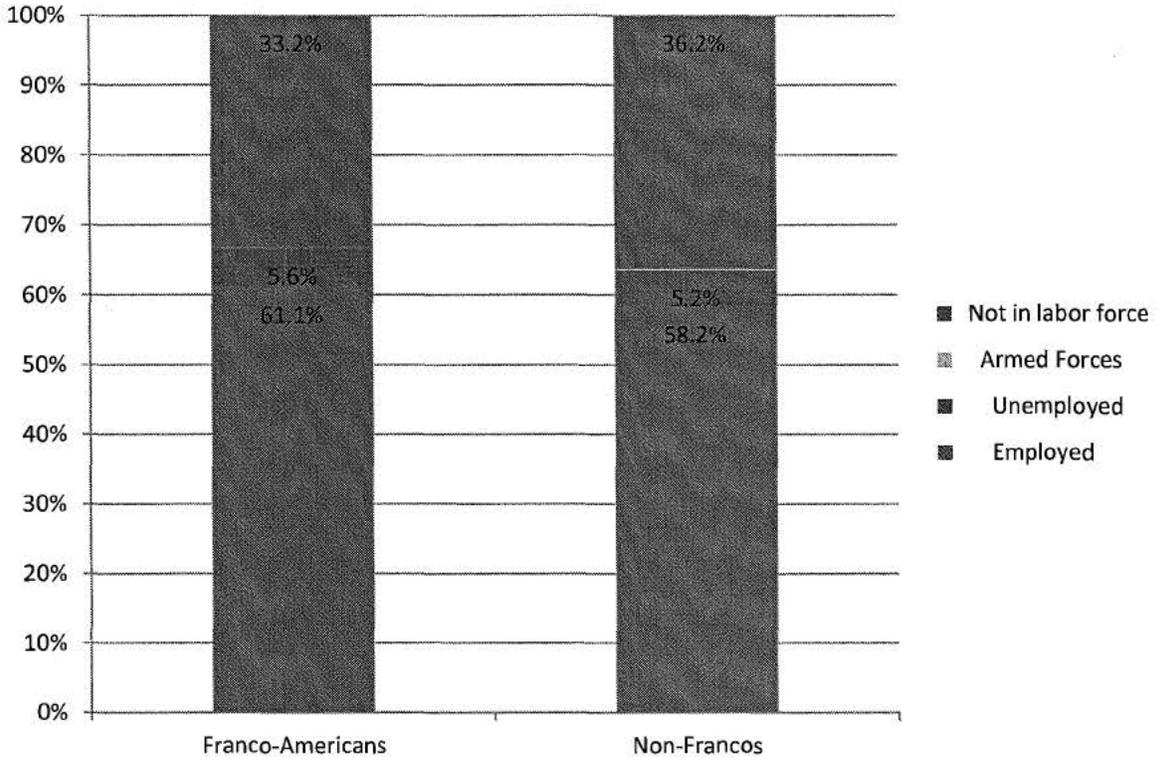
Table 9 - Income over the past 12 months of Maine's Franco-Americans, 2010

INCOME	Franco-Americans		Non-Francos	
	Estimate	MoE	Estimate	Moe
Total:	135543	2415	409874	6077
Less than \$10,000	9344	625	29421	2427
\$10,000 to \$14,999	8476	561	29735	3191
\$15,000 to \$19,999	8267	610	24163	2792
\$20,000 to \$24,999	7925	596	27939	2830
\$25,000 to \$29,999	7563	542	25370	2633
\$30,000 to \$34,999	7789	560	22308	2803
\$35,000 to \$39,999	7705	564	22542	2550
\$40,000 to \$44,999	7092	527	22732	2359
\$45,000 to \$49,999	6917	553	16926	2125
\$50,000 to \$59,999	11903	665	32299	3373
\$60,000 to \$74,999	16066	815	48659	3583
\$75,000 to \$99,999	18125	782	46518	3457
\$100,000 to \$124,999	9131	580	25693	2442
\$125,000 to \$149,999	4010	392	14422	1999
\$150,000 to \$199,999	2988	337	12479	2003
\$200,000 or more	2242	292	8668	1250
Median Income	\$42,610		\$40,215	
Mean Income	\$58,014		\$61,648	

Table 10 - Employment Status of Maine's Franco-Americans, 2010

EMPLOYMENT STATUS	Franco-Americans		Non-Francos	
	Estimate	MoE	Estimate	MoE
Population 16 years and over	255929	8024	832676	8240
In labor force	66.8%	2.72	63.8%	2.79
 Civilian labor force	66.7%	2.72	63.6%	2.79
 Employed	61.1%	2.72	58.2%	2.79
 Unemployed	5.6%	1.28	5.2%	1.32
 Percent of civilian labor force	8.5%	1.84	8.2%	1.91
 Armed Forces	0.1%	0.14	0.2%	0.17
Not in labor force	33.2%	2.72	36.2%	2.79

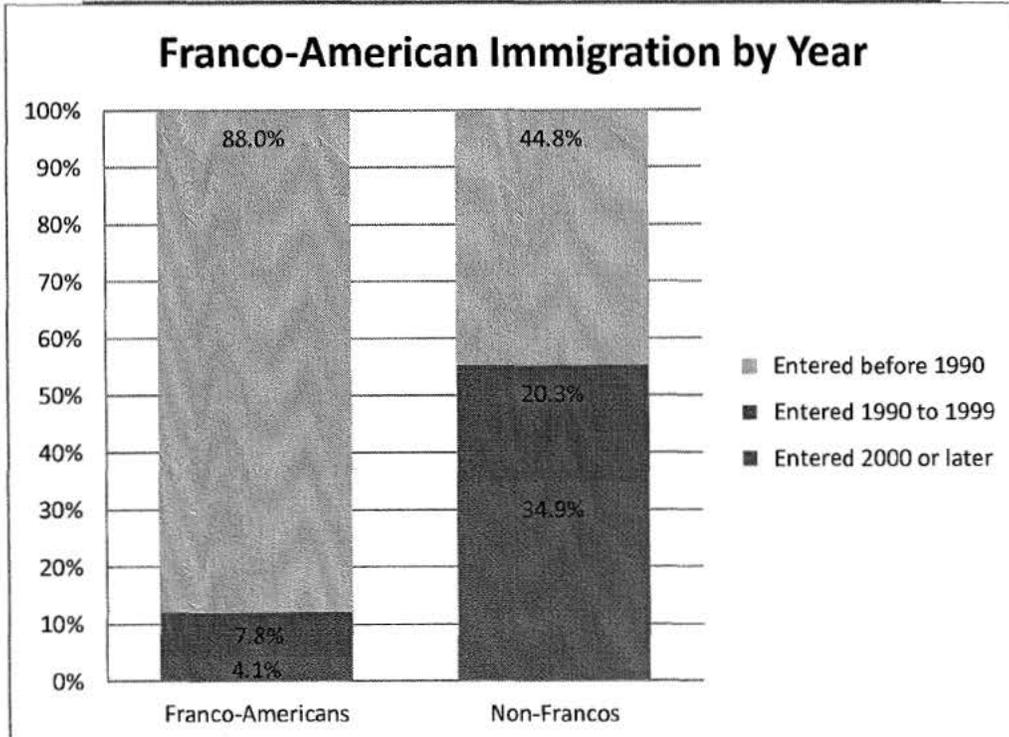
Employment status



Immigration

Table 11 - Immigration Status of Maine's Franco-Americans, 2010

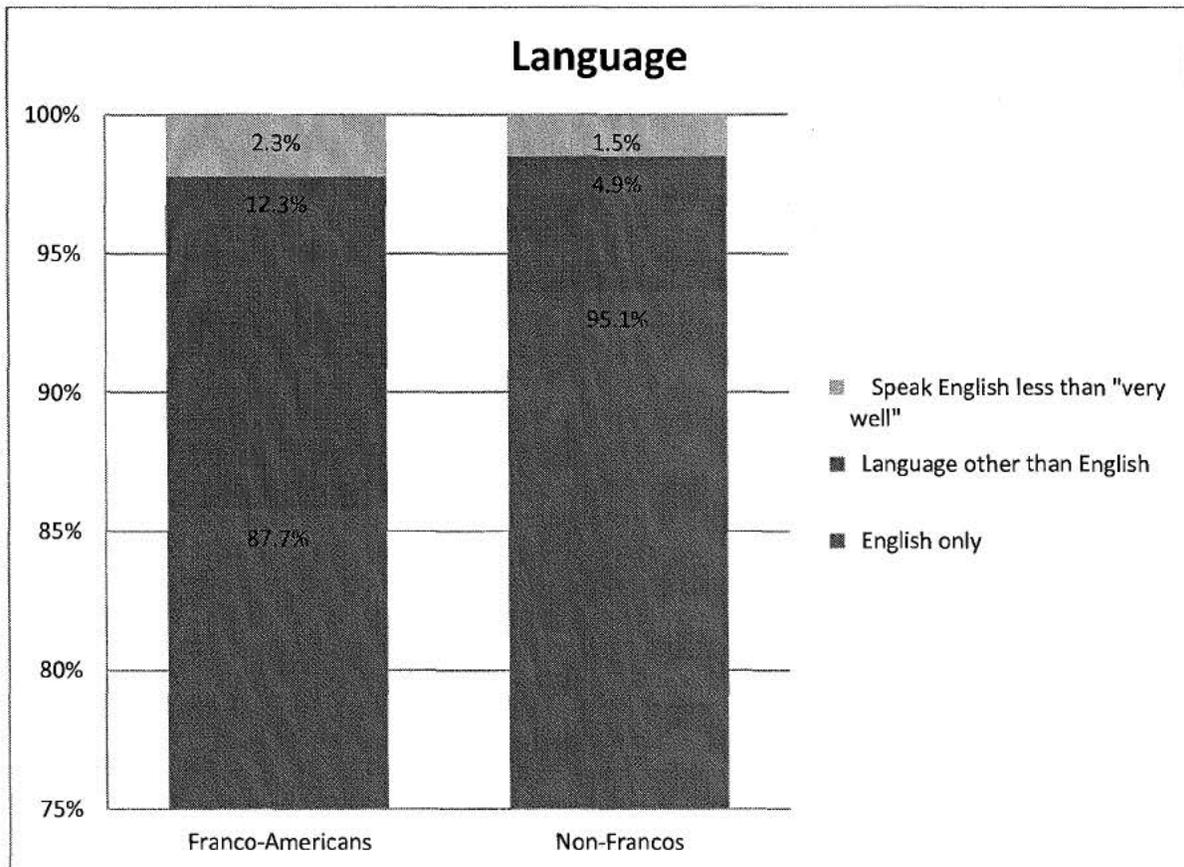
IMMIGRATION STATUS	Franco-Americans		Non-Francos	
	Estimate	MoE	Estimate	MoE
Native	317216	10409	964685	10871
Male	48.0%	2.47	49.4%	2.47
Female	52.0%	2.47	50.6%	2.47
Foreign born	4778	942	40888	3274
As a percentage	1.5%		4.1%	
Male	38.4%	18.03	42.3%	18.25
Female	61.6%	18.03	57.7%	18.25
Foreign born; naturalized U.S. citizen	3155	745	22692	2411
As a percentage	66%		55%	
Male	38.3%	22.13	43.0%	22.42
Female	61.7%	22.13	57.0%	22.42
Foreign born; not a U.S. citizen	1623	579	18196	2384
Male	38.5%	32.74	41.4%	33.21
Female	61.5%	32.74	58.6%	33.21
Population born outside the United States	4778	942	40888	3274
Entered 2000 or later	4.1%	7.14	34.9%	7.99
Entered 1990 to 1999	7.8%	9.71	20.3%	10.46
Entered before 1990	88.0%	11.81	44.8%	12.57



Language

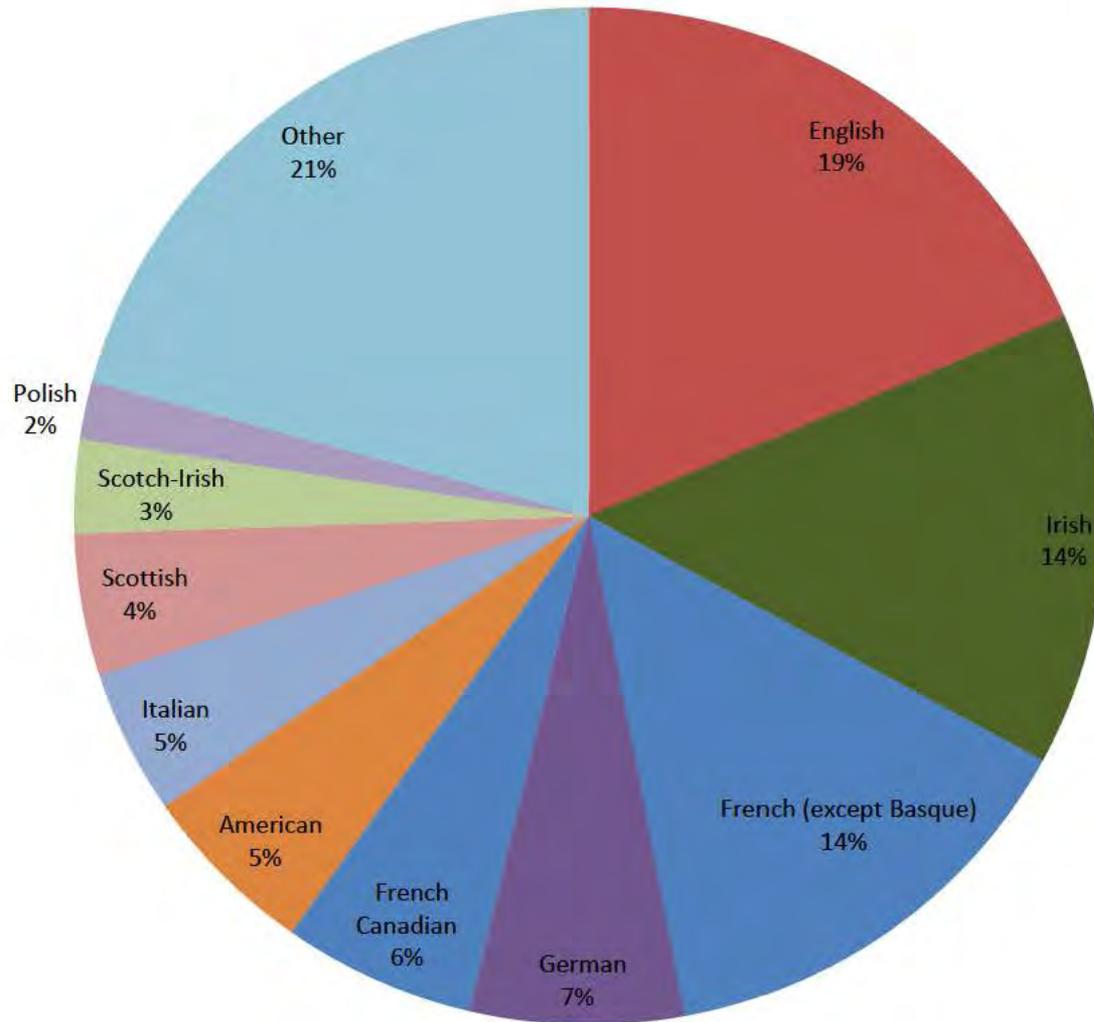
Table 12 - Languages Spoken by Maine's Franco-Americans, 2010

LANGUAGE SPOKEN AT HOME AND ABILITY TO SPEAK ENGLISH	Franco-Americans		Non-Francos	
	Estimate	MoE	Estimate	MoE
Population 5 years and over	301689	9729	957308	9787
English only	87.7%	2.55	95.1%	2.58
Language other than English	12.3%	2.55	4.9%	2.58
Speak English less than "very well"	2.3%	1.26	1.5%	1.28

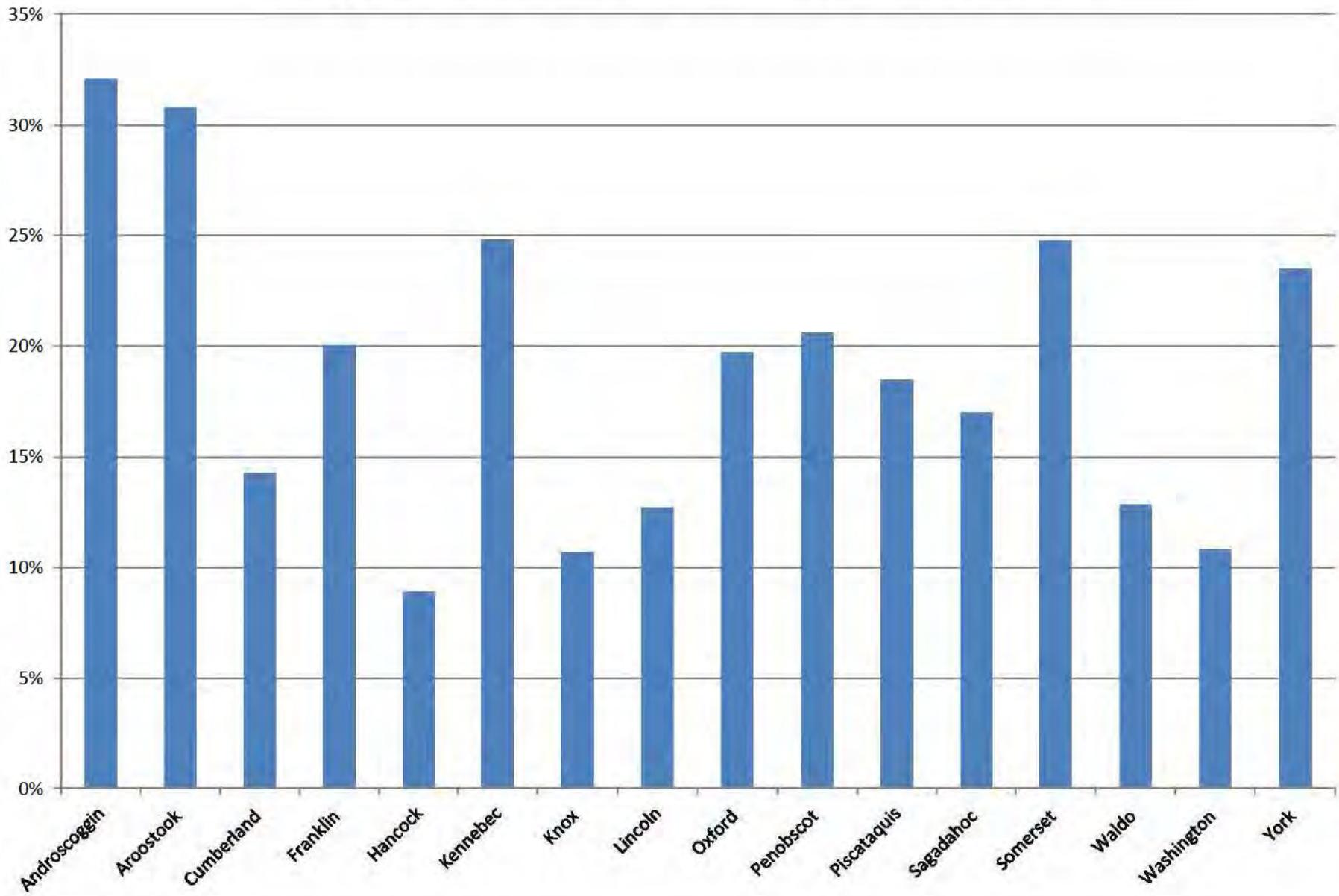




Maine's Ancestry Groups (2010 5-year survey)



Proportion of Franco-Americans in Maine's Counties



APPENDIX F

**Franco-Americans in Maine: A Demographic Study
Preliminary Indications Based on a Public Opinion Survey
Conducted by Command Research for the Franco-American Center,
University of Maine
August 2012**



Franco-Americans in Maine

A Demographic Study

Preliminary Indications

based on

a Public Opinion Survey conducted

by Command Research for the

Franco-American Centre at the University of Maine

August 2012

At the request of the State of Maine Legislative Franco-American Task Force, the Franco-American Centre at the University of Maine has begun an intensive demographic study of Franco-Americans in Maine. That study will be based on a public opinion survey commissioned by the Centre from the Command Research. The survey was conducted in August 2012, with 600 respondents, all self-identified Franco-Americans above the age of 18, and with a margin of error of 3%. The survey yielded 25,000 reference points of data which the Centre with the help of Command Research is only beginning to assess. We are finding much that we now can know that we did not know before. We are also finding much that we now know needs to be a focus for further research. What we can present to the Task Force so far are preliminary indications of what the data shows.

For the most part, where comparisons are applicable, data from the Command Research Survey confirms, details and greatly expands data in the 2010 and 2011 American Community Surveys conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau (the CR survey asks many questions that ACS does not). The 2010 ACS survey, for example, finds that 21.1% of Franco-Americans have college degrees. The CR survey finds that 21% of Franco-Americans have college degrees. In addition the CR survey details that number by age groups and suggests that the number of college graduates between 18-25 is very low whereas the number of college graduates between 26-45 is much higher. Or, to consider another figure, the ACS survey finds that 61% of Franco-Americans in Maine are employed, the CR survey finds that 64% are employed. Among those who are not employed, the ACS survey distinguishes between unemployed Franco-Americans and those outside the workforce. The CR survey does not make this distinction but reports on those Franco-Americans above the age of 18 who consider themselves to be unemployed. Whereas the 2010 ACS survey finds an unemployment rate of 5.6% and an additional 33.2% of Maine's Franco-Americans who are not in the work force, the CR survey finds a 19% unemployment rate and a 15% retirement rate. Here again it details those numbers

by age group. Given that employment and education figures among others in both surveys are equivalent, the CR survey permits us to study the ACS data from a range of nuanced perspectives.

What can we learn from the CR survey? Here are some preliminary indications based on a few of the 25,000 data points (see tables). They should be interpreted as points of departure. They should not be regarded as conclusion.

Employment and Unemployment—Based on those Franco-Americans, 18 and above, who identify themselves as unemployed, the rate of unemployment for Maine Franco-Americans is very high, about 19%. That number is driven for the most part by Franco-Americans between 18-25 who constitute 60% of the unemployed and over 50% of their age group. By comparison, Franco-Americans between 20-45 have an unemployment rate of over 10% and constitute 26% of the unemployed. Franco-Americans between 46-60 have an unemployment rate of less than 4% and constitute only 5% of the unemployed Franco-American population,

Education—The high unemployment figure for Franco-Americans between 18-25 is reflected by levels of attainment in education. While 80% graduate from high school, only around 17% have some college, and only 2% have college degrees. On the other hand, almost 40% of Franco-Americans between 26-45 have college degrees, and 21% of Franco-Americans between 46-60. Among Franco-Americans between 18-25, over 80% are unsure whether a college education is important while less than 15% regard it as important. This contrasts with Franco-Americans over 26, more than 70% of whom think college is important and less than 25% of whom who are unsure.

Two other sets of figures seem particularly telling. 76% of Franco-Americans who have college degrees did not have a parent who had attended college. Of these, 97% believe that college is important for their children. In addition, 52% of all Franco-Americans said that they would be more likely to send children to a community college or public university in Maine if the curriculum did more to highlight Franco-American history, culture, language, and other issues.

Language and Culture—With regard to language, the CR survey data differs significantly from the ACS data. Whereas the ACS finds that 12.3% of Franco-Americans speak another language than English, the CR survey finds that 28% of Franco-Americans regard themselves as fluent in French while another 35% feel they have some French. Few of them are between 18-25, but 17% are between 26-45, 26% are between 46-60, and 75% are over 60. An overwhelming majority of Franco-Americans (96%) believe English is vital for success in school, college, and the workplace, but for a large number of Franco-Americans, French remains *their* language as well.

The CR survey suggests that there is a rough correlation that needs further exploration between pride in culture and economic success. 36% of Franco-Americans feel this pride; it is particularly strong among those 26-45 (over 55%), those between 46-60 (over 74%), and those older than 60 (over 95%). When asked what defines your identity as Franco-American, language was slightly less significant (36%) than last name (38%), but of far greater importance than either were culture and history (46%) and family and traditions

(61%). All of these defining qualities for identity were far less significant for Franco-Americans 18-25 than for those who were older. 54% of self-identified Franco-Americans 18-25 were unsure of what defined them as Franco-Americans; 35% of Franco-Americans 26-45; 9% of Franco-American 46-60; 0% of Franco-Americans older than 60.

Conclusions—In these very preliminary results, the Franco-American Centre has correlated the CR survey data for the most part in terms of age group. The data can—and should—be correlated in many other ways as well, in terms of geography, for example, or gender, religious identity, health care, vision of government, etc. This remains to be done. The CR survey provides a basis for substantial research, and the Franco-American Centre will welcome all those who would like to participate in this research. The data itself does not provide the insights a comprehensive demographic study requires. The data provides a new basis for those insights. As Christian Potholm suggests: “the August, 2012 scientific 600 person representative sample of Franco American adults is the first of its kind in the history of Maine. . . . No other ethnic group has ever been surveyed in this fashion, extent and scope. As a result, there is now an in-depth sample of Franco Americans of all current generations, from all locations and of all historical cohorts. The unity, diversity and the richness of Franco American opinion is captured for the first time.” It is now there to study.

Ages of Survey Participants

18-25	17%
26-45	39%
46-60	23%
Over 60	20%

Employment

Employed		64%
Unemployed		19%
	18-25	Over 50%
	26-46	Over 10%
	46-60	Less than 4%
	Over 60	Over 8%
Retired		15%

Education

Level of Attainment

Grade School		4%
High School		67%
	18-25	80%
	26-54	57%
	46-60	67%
	Over 60	72%
Some College		7%
	18-25	17%
	26-45	4%
	46-60	9%
	Over 60	2%
College Grad		21%
	18-25	2%
	26-45	39%
	46-60	21%
	Over 60	3%

Importance of a College Education

Important		60%
	18-25	13%
	26-35	68%
	46-60	76%
	Over 60	66%
Unimportant		6%
Unsure		33%
	18-25	82%
	26-45	25%
	46-60	15%
	Over 60	27%

Language and Culture

French

Fluent in French		28%
	18-25	2%
	26-45	17%
	46-60	26%
	Over 60	75%
Some French		35%
Little French		28%
No French		24%

	18-25	67%
	25-45	23%
	46-60	13%
	Over 60	2%

Pride in Culture

Proud		36%
	18-25	8%
	26-45	57%
	46-60	74%
	Over 60	96%
Not very proud		24%
Don't know		15%

Franco-American Identity

Last name		38%
	18-25	10%
	26-45	39%
	46-60	25%
	Over 60	24%
Culture and History		46%
	18-25	1%
	26-45	33%
	46-50	29%

	Over 60	36%
Family and Tradition		61%
	18-25	5%
	26-45	39%
	46-60	26%
	Over 60	29%
Language		36%
	18-25	2%
	26-45	30%
	46-60	25%
	Over 60	42%
Don't know		20%
Don't know	18-24	54%
	26-45	35%
	46-50	9%
	Over 60	



APPENDIX G

Suggested legislation



SUGGESTED LEGISLATION

An Act to Implement the Recommendations of the Task Force on Franco-Americans

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:

Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §4706, sub-§1 is amended to read:

1. American history. American history, government and citizenship, including the Constitution of the United States, the Declaration of Independence, the importance of voting and the privileges and responsibilities of citizenship, must be taught in and required for graduation from all elementary and secondary schools, both public and private. Required components of American history include the study of Franco-American history and the study of the influence of French intellectual thought on American history, which must be included in the review of content standards and performance indicators of the system of learning results conducted in accordance with section 6209, subsection 4.

Sec 2. 20-A MRSA §6004, sub-§1 is amended to read:

1. Duty of superintendent. In accordance with time schedules established by the commissioner, the superintendent of each school administrative unit and the administrator of each private school shall inform the commissioner, in the format specified by and with the content required by the commissioner, of the number of students attending their schools and in the case of public schools the number of students residing in their school administrative unit. Beginning with the start of the 2014-2015 school year, this information must include the number of Franco-American students attending each public and private school. The superintendent of each school administrative unit shall also inform the commissioner of the number of Franco-American students residing in their school administrative unit. This information must be supplied on forms provided by the commissioner.

Sec. 3. Working group to increase recruitment of first-generation college students from Maine. Resolved: That the board of trustees of the University of Maine System shall convene a working group including, but not limited to, the Maine Community College System and Maine Maritime Academy to study and develop a long-term strategy to increase enrollment of first-generation college students who are residents of Maine and to increase the graduation rate of first-generation college students at Maine's post-secondary educational institutions. The working group shall invite the participation of private post-secondary colleges and institutions when developing a recruitment strategy. Beginning in 2014, the board of trustees shall prepare an annual report with findings and recommendations to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over education and cultural affairs by February 1st of each year.

