

# Languages Hot Facts

## Languages in Richmond

### Comparing 2011 and 2016 Census Results – Mother Tongue

Mother Tongue	2011 Census	2016 Census	% Change
English	69,460	65,350	-5.9%
Cantonese	30,170	43,295	43.5%
Mandarin	20,680	39,450	90.8%
Tagalog (Pilipino; Filipino)	7,305	7,780	6.5%
Punjabi (Panjabi)	5,795	5,250	-9.4%
Min Nan (Chaochow; Teochow; Fukien; Taiwanese)	1,745	2,505	43.6%
Japanese	2,075	2,155	3.9%
Russian	2,140	2,030	-5.1%
Spanish	1,875	1,805	-3.7%
Chinese languages; n.o.s.	24,670	1,440	-94.2%
German	1,595	1,305	-18.2%
Wu (Shanghainese)	350	1,220	248.6%
Arabic	965	1,205	24.9%
Korean	890	1,115	25.3%
Hindi	1,095	1,100	0.5%
Persian (Farsi)	1,175	1,020	-13.2%
French	1,115	1,015	-9.0%
Urdu	870	850	n/a
Vietnamese	775	795	2.6%
Gujarati	615	560	-8.9%
Portuguese	330	390	18.2%
Other Languages	14,050	15,620	11.2%
<b>Total Population</b>	<b>189,740</b>	<b>197,255</b>	<b>4.0%</b>

Source: Statistics Canada, 2011 and 2016 Census.

Mother tongue is defined as the first language learned at home by the individual and still understood at the time of the Census (if two languages were spoken equally then this figure was captured also).

Ninety-six percent of Richmond residents identified one language as their mother tongue while 4% of the population indicated that they spoke more than one language as their mother tongue.

In Richmond, 44.8% indicated Chinese as their mother tongue, 33.1% indicated English, 3.9% indicated Tagalog (Pilipino) and 2.7% indicated Panjabi (Punjabi).

Note: Chinese languages include Cantonese, Hakka, Mandarin, Min Dong, Min Nan, Wu, Chinese, n.o.s., and Chinese n.i.e.



## Comparing 2011 and 2016 Census Results – Language Spoken Most Often at Home

Language	2011 Census	2016 Census	% Change
English	93,715	90,050	-3.9%
Cantonese	26,550	34,790	31.0%
Mandarin	17,920	32,660	82.3%
Tagalog (Pilipino; Filipino)	3,305	3,665	10.9%
Panjabi (Punjabi)	3,630	2,900	-20.1%
Russian	1,495	1,380	-7.7%
Min Nan (Chaochow; Teochow; Fukien; Taiwanese)	865	1,130	30.6%
Japanese	1,140	1,095	-3.9%
Spanish	970	1,005	3.6%
Chinese languages; n.o.s.	17,685	965	-94.5%
Arabic	640	715	11.7%
Wu (Shanghainese)	140	695	396.4%
Korean	600	660	10.0%
Persian (Farsi)	745	595	-20.1%
Urdu	480	455	-5.2%
Vietnamese	405	400	-1.2%
Hindi	455	385	n/a
French	370	340	-8.1%
Gujarati	295	250	-15.3%
Portuguese	130	175	34.6%
Turkish	245	175	-28.6%
German	185	160	-13.5%
Other Languages	17,775	22,610	27.2%
<b>Total Population</b>	<b>189,740</b>	<b>197,255</b>	<b>4.0%</b>

Source: Statistics Canada, 2011 and 2016 Census.

Home Language represents the language spoken most often or on a regular basis at home.

Ninety percent of residents reported speaking only one language at home and 10% of the population reported speaking more than one language at home.

## Home Language by Planning Area, 2011

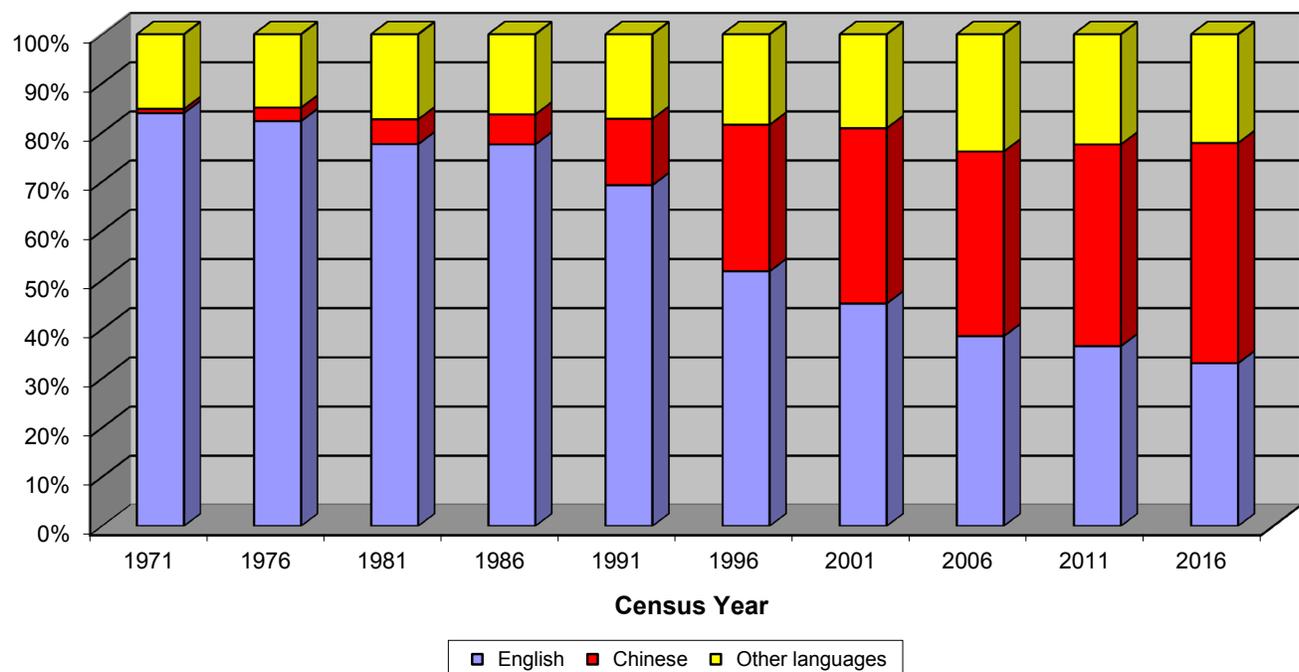
Planning Area	Home Language						
	English	Cantonese	Chinese, n.o.s.	Mandarin	Panjabi (Punjabi)	Tagalog (Pilipino, Filipino)	Other Languages
Blundell	49.1%	17.1%	12.1%	12.9%	1.1%	1.7%	6.1%
Bridgeport	54.3%	15.6%	7.7%	3.0%	6.6%	5.2%	7.5%
Broadmoor	52.7%	13.7%	10.4%	13.3%	1.9%	1.7%	6.3%
City Centre	38.4%	19.8%	15.3%	16.6%	0.3%	2.3%	7.4%
East Cambie	48.3%	15.6%	8.1%	4.1%	11.0%	3.6%	9.3%
East Richmond/Fraser Lands	67.6%	6.2%	3.8%	6.0%	9.7%	0.5%	6.2%
Gilmore	77.2%	3.3%	4.3%	6.5%	3.3%	0.0%	5.4%
Hamilton	66.4%	11.7%	4.7%	3.4%	2.6%	3.1%	8.1%
Sea Island	96.8%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.6%	0.0%	2.5%
Seafair	64.3%	11.7%	8.3%	7.0%	1.0%	1.6%	6.1%
Shellmont	64.2%	9.1%	4.6%	4.4%	7.7%	1.8%	8.1%
Steveston	77.3%	8.0%	3.8%	4.1%	0.2%	0.9%	5.8%
Thompson	49.3%	16.7%	13.1%	11.5%	0.8%	1.5%	7.0%
West Cambie	38.6%	32.2%	11.7%	9.0%	1.6%	1.8%	5.0%
Richmond CY	53.7%	15.2%	10.1%	10.3%	2.1%	1.9%	6.8%

Source: Statistics Canada, 2011 Census.

## How has Richmond changed over time?

The percentage of residents who claimed English only as their mother tongue has declined from 36.6% in 2011 to 33.1% in 2016.

### Percentage of Population by Mother Tongue (2016 Census)



In 2016, the Total Chinese Group (44.8%) is the most common mother tongue followed by English (33.1%) and Tagalog (Pilipino) (3.9%).

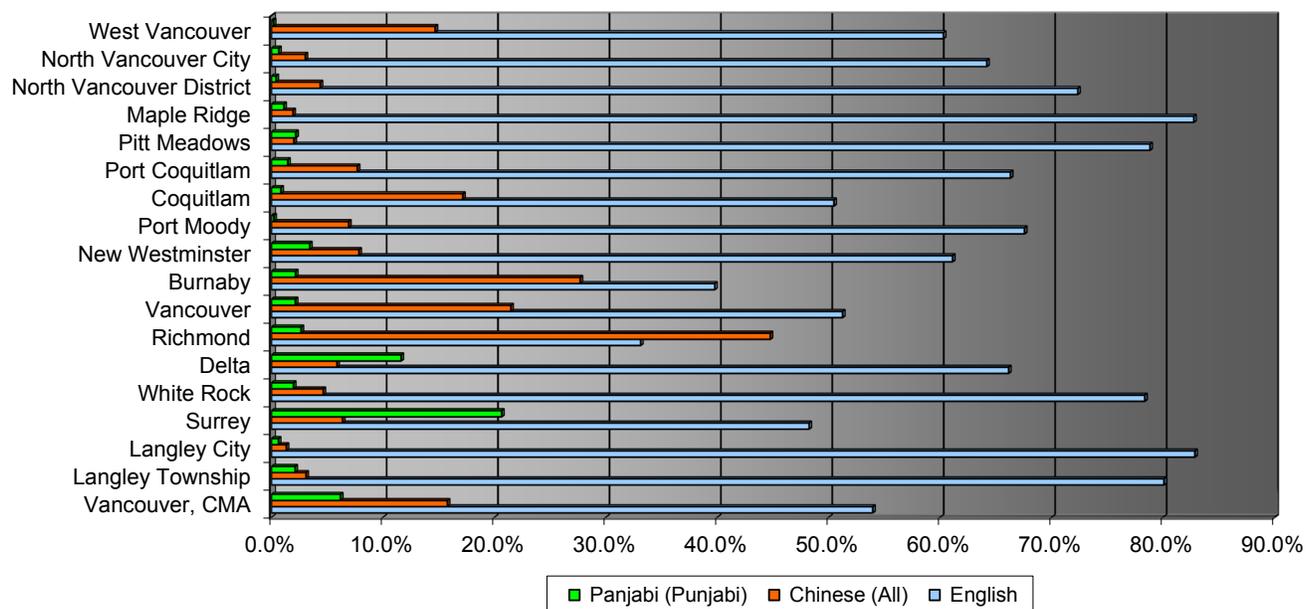
The percentage of Richmond residents who speak English at home has decreased since the 2011 Census. In 2011, 49.3% used English at home, 33.3% used Chinese and 2% used (Panjabi) Punjabi. In 2016, 45.7% used English at home, 35.7% used Chinese and 1.5% used (Panjabi) Punjabi.

*Note: Chinese languages include Cantonese, Hakka, Mandarin, Min Dong, Min Nan, Wu, Chinese, n.o.s., and Chinese n.i.e.*

## How does Richmond Compare?

Richmond has the largest percentage of residents who claim Chinese as their mother tongue and home language and likewise, the smallest percentage of residents who claim English as their mother tongue and home language compared to other municipalities in the Lower Mainland. This is an indication that Richmond residents are the most diverse in their mother tongue and home language in the Lower Mainland.

## Regional Comparison: Mother Tongue – Percentage of Total Population (2016 Census)



## Summary

Almost 45% of Richmond residents indicated Chinese as their mother tongue, 33% indicated English, just under 4% indicated Tagalog (Pilipino) and 3% indicated Panjabi (Punjabi).

In the 2016 Census, 46% of Richmond residents speak English at home, 36% speak Chinese and nearly 2% speak Panjabi (Punjabi).

Richmond has the largest percentage of residents who claim Chinese as their mother tongue (45%) compared to other municipalities in the Lower Mainland. In Greater Vancouver, the percentage of residents who claim Chinese as their mother tongue is 16%. Likewise, Richmond residents have smallest percentage of residents who claim English as their mother tongue (33.1%) compared to other municipalities in the Lower Mainland. In the Greater Vancouver area, the percentage of residents who claim English as their mother tongue is 54.0%.

## For Further Information:

Please contact the Policy Planning Department at 604-276-4116 or [communityplanning@richmond.ca](mailto:communityplanning@richmond.ca).

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