

## Canadian English in a francophone family

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The Peace River region in north west Alberta contains the largest concentration of francophones in a province where a nineteenth century francophone majority has now been reduced to less than 2% of the provincial population. Nonetheless, French remains the “langue du foyer” for many families in this close-knit set of agricultural communities, despite continual assimilatory pressures from English. Fieldwork for a separate phonologically-oriented study of the area has serendipitously resulted in data from three generations of the same family, data that allows us to trace the progressive impact of English through time. In this report, I will illustrate differing degrees of the phonetic adaptation of loan words, of calquing and of code switching as they occur in spontaneous conversations from one generation to the next. To the extent that the preservation of a minority language in this region is seen as desirable, then the impact of Canadian English on the French language in Alberta, while completely typical in its various effects, can be seen as less than beneficial.