

# Button

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This round white diaper pin badge is illustrated with a drawing of four children in blue. Blue lettering appears on the left side.

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Accession Number 2022.12.36

Fabricant / Éditeur Gord Smith Enterprises

Materials metal, paper, plastic

Measurements 7,7 cm

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## Historical context

From its very beginnings in 1896, the macaron has been used for communication and promotional purposes. They're used to publicize political convictions, values and ideas. This button communicates that the holder speaks French.

The 1960s marked a turning point in the history of French in Canada. Quebec entered the Quiet Revolution, and its effects extended beyond the province's borders. At the federal level, the Royal Commission on Bilingualism and Biculturalism was launched. In response to the inquiry's findings, Pierre Elliott Trudeau's government passed the Official Languages Act in 1969, making the Parliament of Canada a bilingual institution.

The impact of these changes was felt in several Canadian provinces, where new laws favoring French were passed. In 1970, Manitoba re-established the right to teach French, which had been outlawed in 1916, while in Ontario, Bill 8, introduced in 1978 but adopted in 1986, enabled Franco-Ontarians to obtain services in their mother tongue. This button illustrates the battles for the French language being waged across the country by displaying the wearer's use of the French language.