

# French Advisory Committee

Enhancing the French Language Program Experience in SD69

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BOARD PRESENTATION

DECEMBER 9, 2014

# Language Foundations in Canada

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The federal government and Ministry of Canadian Heritage recognize our bilingual heritage and fund French in the *Roadmap for Linguistic Duality*; an extension of their consideration that linguistic duality is not only a basis of Canadian identity , but also an essential tool for ensuring Canadians' openness to the world beyond our borders.

# Language Services in Canada

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The bilateral agreement between the provincial and the federal governments identifies the following key focus areas:

- Provision of programs
- Student participation
- Student performance
- Enriched school environment
- Support for educational staff and research
- Access to post-secondary education

# French Second Language Programs

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Some of the most successful FSL programs operate in our province, by virtue of multidimensional program offerings including:

- Early French Immersion
- Late French immersion (Grade 3 or Grade 6 program entry points)
- Core French

# The British Columbia Context

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- Our province boasts among the highest enrolments in French programs nationally
- Enrolment in French Immersion programs has increased by 38.8% since 2004
- During that same period, total student enrolment in British Columbia has declined by 7.8%
- In many districts, the demand for spaces in French Immersion Programs far outstrips the supply

# The SD69 Context

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School	Grades	Enrolment
Oceanside	K-7	254
Ballenas	8-12	118
Total Immersion	K-12	372
Total Students	K-12	3947

# The Role of the Proposed French Advisory Committee (FAC)

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- To promote, support and advocate for French Language programs in SD69 by formalizing a relationship with local parent groups, district trustees, staff and language program leadership
- To provide a mechanism through which FSL program parameters are appropriately integrated within the district framework, as well as a forum for ongoing sharing of perspectives on program directions
- To ensure our district is compliant with conditions for federal funding as well as clarifying our voice at the provincial and national tables as educational advocates
- To help to develop and support relevant, accessible, high quality FSL programs that optimize resources and appropriately complement district programming

# Preparing for the Future by Aligning our Efforts Now...

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As demographics shift and global competitiveness increases, preparing for and navigating change becomes increasingly important

Provincial trends indicate increasing demand for bilingual education choices; formalizing our commitment to proactively addressing the changing needs of our community just makes sense

Trustees, district staff, teachers, students and parent groups will be better equipped to achieve relevant solutions to bilingualism challenges our own district is facing by providing a place for regular and focused collaboration

It is our hope that a French Advisory Committee will help us construct the pathway to our desired future in French Language Programming



# French Advisory Committee Structure

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The French Advisory Committee would meet at least three times each year to discuss strategic priorities as they relate to funding allocation and program development

The committee provides advice and recommendations to senior staff on French Language program matters

The composition of the committee could include representation from:

- District Principal of Language Programs
- District Senior Leadership Team
- Board of Education
- Principals/Vice Principals of French Immersion schools
- Immersion teachers and support staff
- Parents including formal organizations such as DPAC and/or Canadian Parents For French
- Immersion students as appropriate

# Why we do what we do...

Bilingualism has been linked to:

- increased cognitive ability
- Reduced rates of degenerative neurological disorders
- higher personal productivity

