



La Fédération des francophones de la Colombie-Britannique

December 6th, 2010

The Honourable Margaret MacDiarmid
Minister of Education,
Minister of Tourism, Trade and Investment
Minister Responsible for the Intergovernmental Relations Secretariat
PO Box 9045, Stn Prov Govt,
Victoria, BC V8W 9E2

Dear Minister MacDiarmid,

On behalf of British Columbia's French-speaking population, we would like to commend the Draft Additional Languages Curriculum. We are very pleased by the solid anchoring of the new IRP in the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages and its aims to develop plurilingualism among BC's elementary and secondary schools students. In this context we would like to enthusiastically support, in anyway possible, the implementation of a French language curriculum with the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages.

This said we are concerned by the consequences of putting French on equal footing with foreign languages. As an official language in Canada, French should have a predominant place in the Province's curriculum.

Giving the School Districts the power to choose which language they want to offer could significantly diminish the presence of French in BC's educational system.

In today's globalization, giving the option of learning additional languages can only be beneficial to BC's students but French must be protected into separated and different curricula or by an additional support to Core French at all levels.

The popularity of French immersion classes, demonstrating that people in British Columbia have fully grasped the importance and value of French in Canada, should encourage us to strengthen this success at all levels of the educational system.

Respectfully,



Dr. Réal Roy
President

c.c. Pierrette Maranda
Véronique Mercier