

From: [Jason Howe](#)
To: [Board of Education](#)
Subject: Letter from Canadian Parents for French
Date: Tuesday, April 15, 2025 5:38:05 PM
Attachments: [Letter to SD23 April 15, 2025.pdf](#)

You don't often get email from jason.howe@cpf.bc.ca. [Learn why this is important](#)

WARNING: This email originated from outside Central Okanagan Public Schools. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello,

Please accept the attached letter from our board president ahead of your April 16, 2025 Finance and Planning Committee Public Meeting.

Regards,

Jason Howe

Executive Director/Directeur général

778-329-9115 ext 316

[Canadian Parents for French - British Columbia & Yukon Branch](#)

227 – 1555 West 7th Ave. Vancouver, British Columbia V6J 1S1

Please note branch staff occasionally work remotely

Connect With Us Online

[Twitter](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Instagram](#) | [YouTube](#)

April 15, 2025

Dear Board of Education,

On behalf of Canadian Parents for French, BC & Yukon, I am writing to express concerns about how the District's recent budget survey results may be interpreted with respect to French immersion. While we appreciate the valuable feedback the survey provided, we are concerned that some may take the results as a green light to reduce French immersion programming.

Continuing Demand for French Immersion

French immersion remains in high demand throughout British Columbia, with many districts reporting waitlists and ongoing parental interest. We encourage the Board to recognize that this sustained enthusiasm reflects a long-term commitment by parents and students to second-language learning.

Core Priorities Are Also French Immersion Priorities

The survey's identified funding priorities—such as classroom support, high-quality curriculum, and strong core academics—apply as much to French immersion as to any other program. Second-language instruction requires teachers with specialized training, well-resourced classrooms, and robust academic support. Any improvement to these foundational areas directly benefits all students in the district, including those pursuing bilingual education.

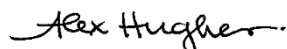
Value for Students and Community

French immersion is a key pathway to bilingual fluency, opening doors for students in higher education, in the workplace, and in their broader communities. It aligns with Canada's bilingual heritage and fosters national pride. Reducing its availability would compromise these benefits for local families.

We respectfully urge the Board to keep these points in mind during any budget discussions. The recent survey should not be taken as evidence of diminished support for French immersion, but rather as an invitation to strengthen all the core supports that make high-quality language education possible.

Thank you for your continued commitment to excellence in education. We look forward to collaborating with you to ensure French immersion remains a robust and thriving option in our community.

Sincerely,



Alex Hughes
President, Canadian Parents for French, BC & Yukon Branch

CANADIAN PARENTS FOR FRENCH – BC & YUKON BRANCH

227c-1555 West 7th Avenue, Vancouver BC, V6J 1S1

Tel: 778.329.9115 Toll Free: 1.800.665.1222 Email: info@cpf.bc.ca Web: cpf.bc.ca