



Introduction

The Conseil scolaire francophone de la Colombie-Britannique is the province's only Francophone school board (*School Act: 166.2, division 2: Establishment and Membership*) and consequently the only one authorized to deliver the Francophone program (*School Act: 166.25, division 4: Francophone educational programs*).

Only children of right holder parents as defined by the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms* (s. 23), the *School Act* of British Columbia (166.24, division 4) and policy P-301, enrolling in the CSF, are eligible to attend CSF schools.

As stated in the policy of the Ministry of Education: "*French immersion and Programme francophone are distinct programs with different purposes.*"

The Conseil scolaire francophone (CSF) was established in 1997 after a long legal battle. Since then it has seen a steady increase in its student population.



This presentation will be divided into three parts:

First of all, we will set out one of the reasons for **the popularity of the Francophone program** in British Columbia. We will then outline **the major challenges** our organization faces in spite of its success. Finally, we will consider **solutions** we would like to adopt, which are only possible with assistance from the provincial and federal governments.

01

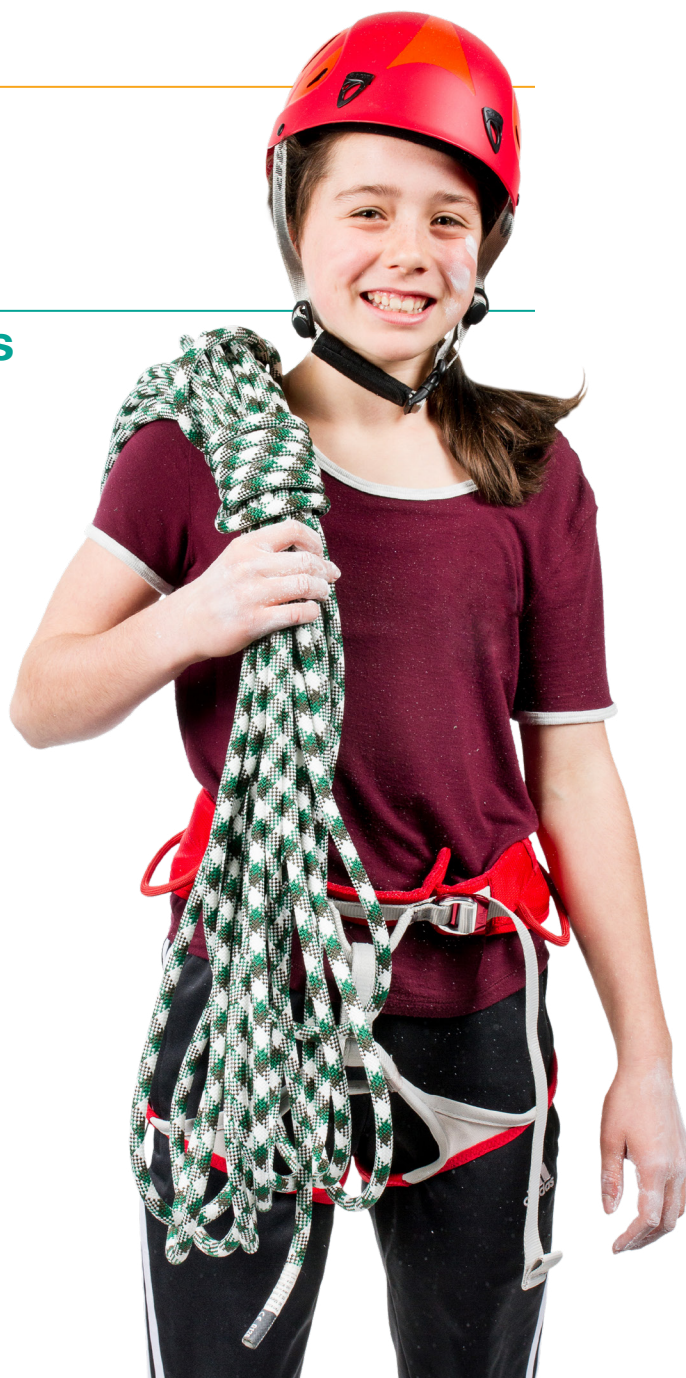
The Popularity of The Francophone Program

02

Major Challenges

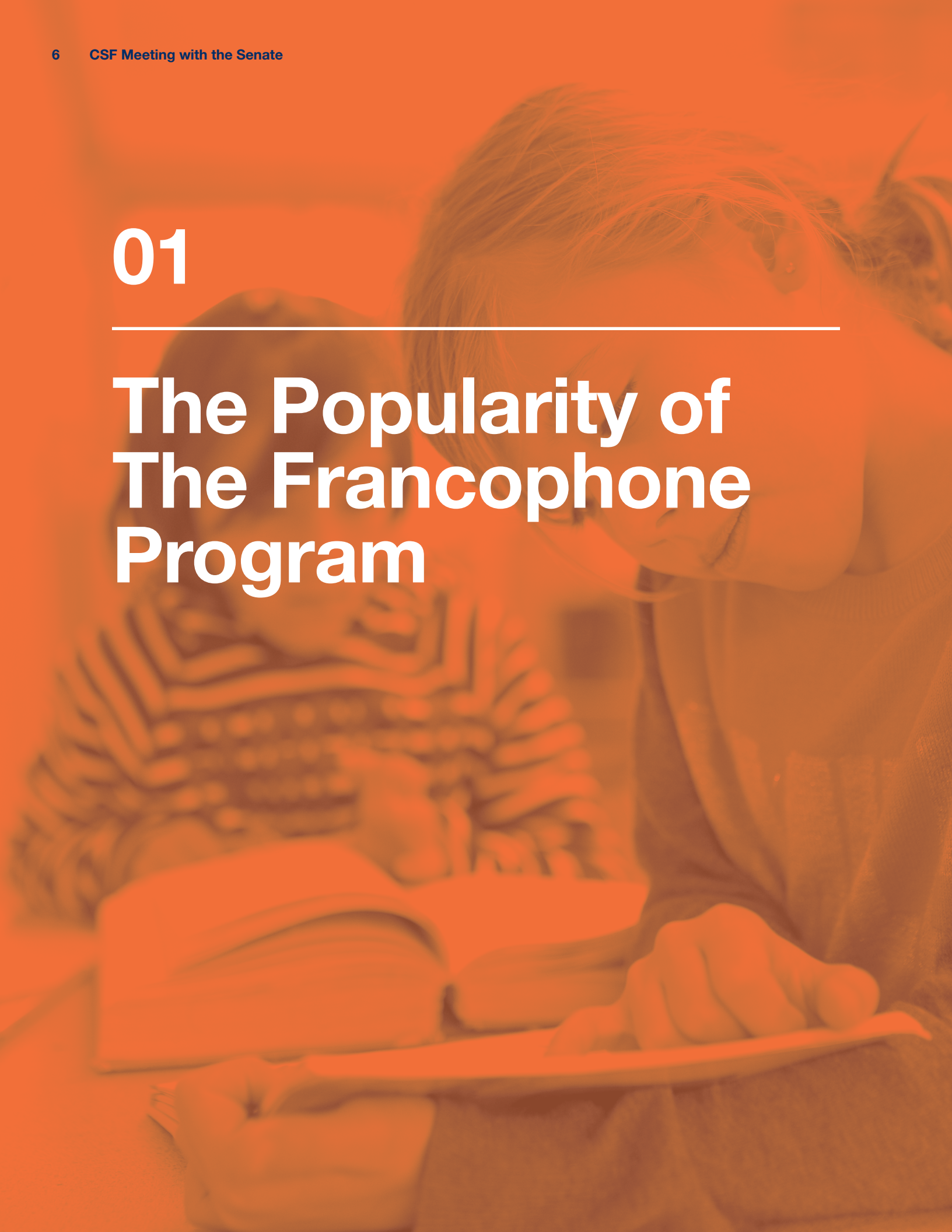
03

Ongoing Initiatives



01

The Popularity of The Francophone Program



There is no reason to doubt that the constant growth in enrolment is due to the quality of the Francophone program. To demonstrate this, we have chosen to compare the science results of students enrolled in the majority Anglophone school system with those of students in the minority Francophone system, under the Pan-Canadian Assessment Program (PCAP 2013).

1. Dedicated, high-quality staff

The Conseil scolaire francophone employs more than 900 staff members: teaching staff of 473 and support staff of 290. Virtually all employees meet the highest selection criteria in the Canadian public education system. They are all committed to the mission and vision of the CSF.

SCIENCE RESULTS OBTAINED BY STUDENTS ENROLLED IN MAJORITY ANGLOPHONE SCHOOL SYSTEMS HIGHER THAN THOSE OF STUDENTS ENROLLED IN MINORITY FRANCOPHONE SCHOOL SYSTEMS.

| Jurisdiction | Francophone school system |
|------------------|---------------------------|
| British Columbia | 495 |
| Alberta | 488 |
| Saskatchewan | 474 |
| Manitoba | 452 |
| Ontario | 464 |
| Quebec | 485 |
| New Brunswick | 475 |
| Nova Scotia | 466 |
| Canada | 483 |

* significant difference | Mminority language

Source: PCAP 2013 Council of Ministers of Education

Francophone students in British Columbia achieve the highest grades of all Francophone students in Canada, even higher than students in Quebec. The gap between their grades and those of Anglophone students, mainly monolingual and belonging to the majority, is the smallest in the country. There are a number of reasons for this success.

Because the world of education is evolving, a consistent professional development program for all employees is at the heart of staff management. Developing a personalized career planning system, holding an annual meeting, establishing learning communities within the schools and the setting up a professional development fund for special education teachers are just a few of the actions that reflect this strategic focus of our organization.

2. A science-based approach to teaching

Because we are convinced that our teaching practices must be based on scientific research, on June 25, 2015, the CSF Board of Trustees signed a two-year partnership with Professor Marie-France Morin of the Faculty of Education at the University of Sherbrooke and Professor Denis Alamargot of the University of Paris Est-Créteil.

Their internationally recognized work demonstrates the importance of the learning of writing and its close connection with the mastery of reading: a key to academic success.

In April-May 2016, a series of tests was conducted with 140 kindergarten children enrolled in three CSF schools.

The results will allow the central office to develop successful teaching methods and more effectively target budgets to meet the needs of schools.

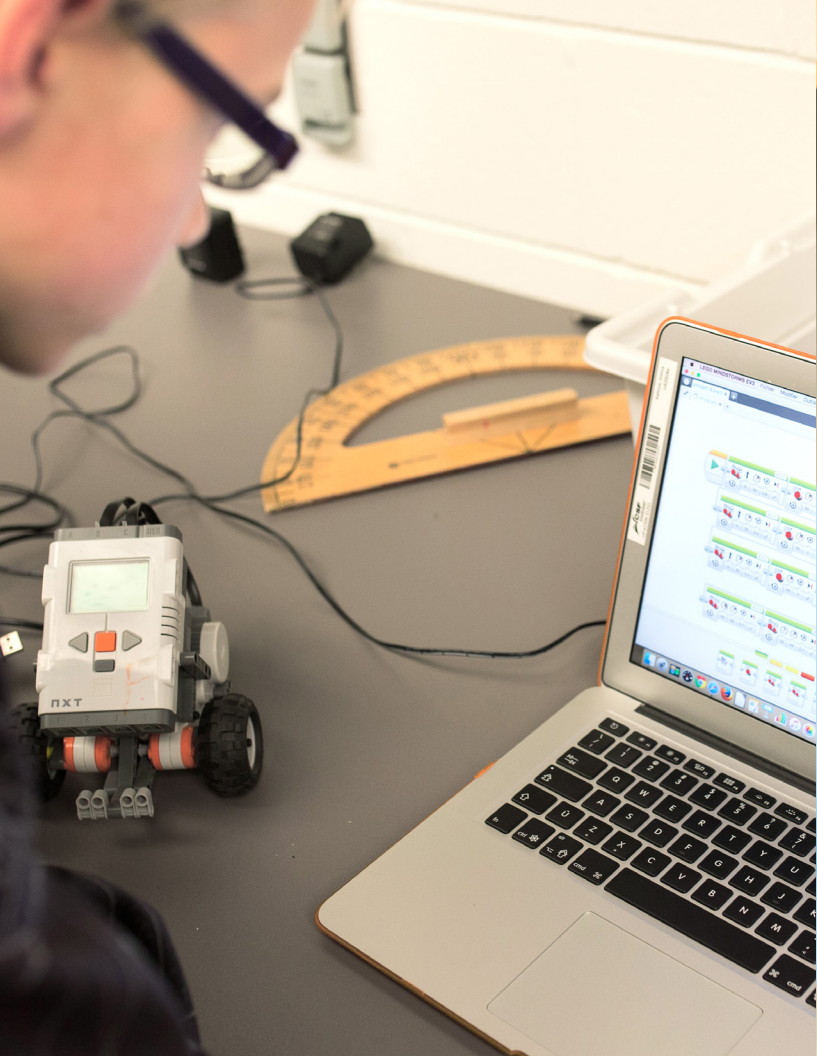
3. A unique technological advance

In order to respond to the diversity and needs of learners and support the schools' efforts (policy D-400-19), in 2008, the Conseil scolaire francophone established a highly effective distance education program.

At the same time, as part of its strategic plan, the CSF provided each of its staff members and every student from grades 4 through 12 with a laptop computer, and provided one digital tablet to every two students from kindergarten through grade 3.

The aim of this decision was to support teaching strategies and the students' academic success. The CSF also wanted to reduce the isolation of the 38 schools spread throughout the province.





02

Major Challenges



Despite the level of success it has achieved, the Conseil scolaire francophone de la Colombie-Britannique faces many educational challenges due to its situation and the complexity of its mission.

This presentation will address only the educational challenges. The speech given by Mr. Allison, Secretary Treasurer of the CSF, will highlight challenges in other areas.

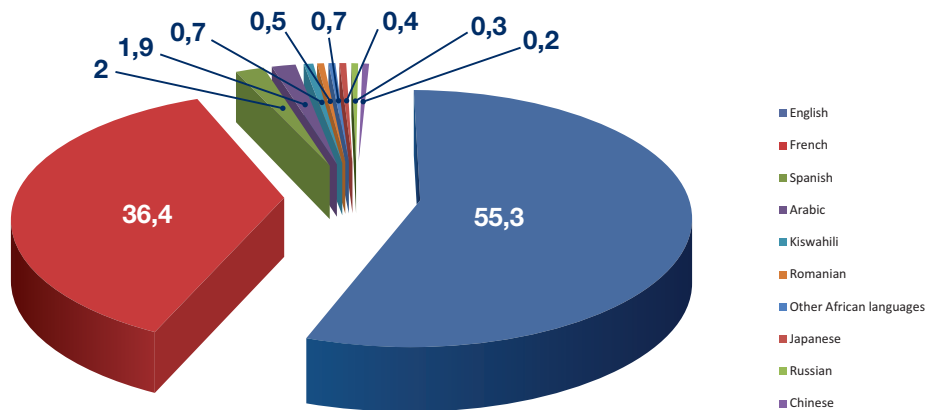
1. Language spoken at home

Because the language spoken at home is a crucially important factor for language learning in a minority setting, the central office regularly conducts a survey on the subject.

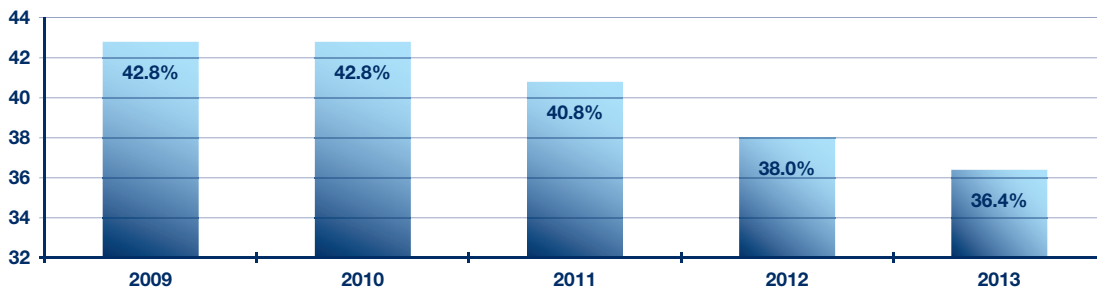
In 2014, the survey indicated the proportion of homes in which French was the language spoken.

It showed a significant erosion in the number of households with French as the home language from 2009 to 2013.

PROPORTION OF HOMES IN WHICH FRENCH IS THE LANGUAGE SPOKEN



CHANGE IN THE PROPORTION OF HOMES IN WHICH FRENCH IS THE LANGUAGE SPOKEN



NB : It is important to note that this survey was conducted with a representative sample of respondents.
 2009 : 1 872 students | 2013-14 : 1 845 students
 This situation is requiring the CSF to respond to a new challenge that is of great concern.

2. Retention at the secondary level

Since it was established, the Conseil scolaire francophone has seen a large number of its students leave its schools at the beginning of high school or grade 10 to attend Anglophone schools that offer a wider range of programs.

In 2013, the Board of Trustees identified the retention of secondary students as one of the priorities of the CSF. Over the last two years, the trend seems to have reversed.

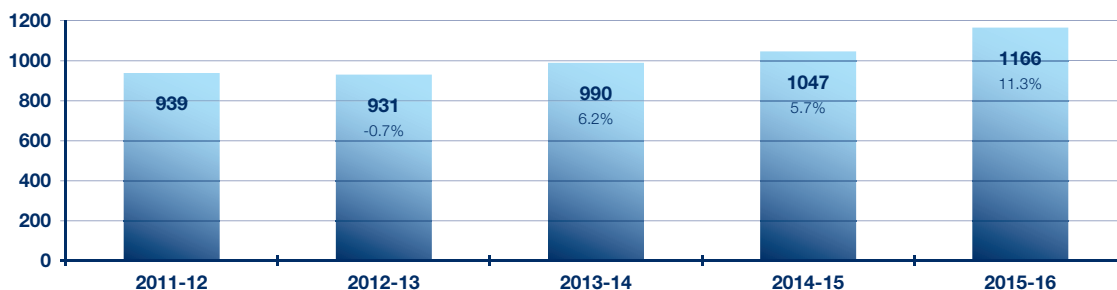
3. Recognition of a different program

Despite the legal recognition of the Francophone program as a distinct one with different objectives, its special nature tends to be largely ignored. Thus, it was only in April 2014, as a result of the efforts of the Board of Trustees and the central office, that the diploma awarded to students in the Francophone program was distinguished from the diploma awarded to French immersion students, clearly indicating the distinct program they had completed.

Today, there is controversy regarding the right of children of right holder parents to enroll in the distance education system (under the Distributed Learning agreement). This misunderstanding illustrates the continued lack of understanding of the mission of the Francophone program.

24% INCREASE AT THE SECONDARY LEVEL

Number of students



NB : It should be noted that because of its structure (limited number of secondary schools, especially outside the urban centres), it is impossible for the CSF to offer the full school curriculum from kindergarten through grade 12 to all students.

4. Isolation and costs

Because the mandate of the CSF is to reach all children of right holder parents, the school board has opened 38 schools throughout the province.

Their dispersion, size and isolation mean the CSF must staff its schools equitably, exceeding grants from the Ministry of Education.

STAFFING COSTS, PER SCHOOL, PER STUDENT

| School | Student Population | Cost per Student |
|--------------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| André-Piolat | 386 | \$ 6 512.02 |
| Anne-Hébert | 415 | \$ 6 948.78 |
| Au-cœur-de-l'île | 253 | \$ 8 260.12 |
| Collines-d'or | 74 | \$ 10 296.12 |
| Côte-du-soleil | 111 | \$ 9 844.35 |
| de l'Anse-au-sable | 206 | \$ 8 340.25 |
| des Deux-rives | 130 | \$ 8 469.40 |
| des Glaciers | 42 | \$ 12 283.16 |
| des Grands-cèdres | 16 | \$ 25 244.63 |
| des Navigateurs | 131 | \$ 8 136.18 |
| des Pionniers | 529 | \$ 7 628.93 |
| des Sentiers-alpins | 89 | \$ 9 816.37 |
| des Sept-sommets | 63 | \$ 10 762.35 |
| des Voyageurs | 102 | \$ 8 456.00 |
| du Bois-joli | 68 | \$ 8 235.81 |
| du Pacifique | 74 | \$ 11 479.22 |
| Entre-lacs | 173 | \$ 7 663.12 |
| Franco-nord | 102 | \$ 8 998.67 |
| Gabrielle-Roy | 587 | \$ 7 623.18 |
| Jack-Cook | 40 | \$ 16 075.09 |
| La Passerelle | 65 | \$ 10 773.68 |
| La Vallée | 55 | \$ 9 840.48 |
| La Vérendrye | 47 | \$ 11 945.80 |
| Les Aiglons | 122 | \$ 7 981.47 |
| Mer-et-montagne | 102 | \$ 9 508.62 |
| Océane | 106 | \$ 9 534.82 |
| Rose-des-vents | 357 | \$ 6 610.08 |
| Secondaire Jules-Verne | 314 | \$ 7 293.93 |
| Sophie-Morigeau | 20 | \$ 17 816.89 |
| Victor-Brodeur | 736 | \$ 7 067.19 |

03

Ongoing Initiatives

To ensure that we continue to improve the service we provide to the Francophone community, meet the challenges it faces and remain at the cutting edge of developments in education, the Conseil scolaire francophone, under the auspices of its Board of Trustees, has launched a number of noteworthy initiatives. These cannot be maintained or developed without additional financial assistance.

1. Classes for 4-year-olds

When the initiatives in the Official Languages in Education Protocol (OLEP 2013-18) were developed, the Conseil scolaire francophone clearly indicated its determination to take 4-year-olds into its jurisdiction and integrate them into its education system in order to better prepare them culturally and linguistically.

| Name of school | Location |
|--------------------------|------------|
| École de l'Anse-au-sable | Kelowna |
| École des Deux-rives | Mission |
| École des Sept-sommets | Rossland |
| École La Vérendrye | Chilliwack |

Two years of research, analysis and contact with provincial, national and international partners have allowed the CSF central office to establish a time line for the implementation of this vital project.

In January 2016, the selection process for schools to host the pilot project began. On September 19, the first CSF school opened its doors to 4-year-olds from its community, followed by the three other schools chosen.



2. The International Baccalaureate and vocational courses

In order to respond to the needs of secondary students – both those interested in going on to university and those planning to enter the job market – the Conseil scolaire francophone became a member of the International Baccalaureate organization and created vocational courses.

a) International Baccalaureate (IB)

Recognized by more than 132 countries throughout the world, the IB program corresponds perfectly to the diversity of CSF students and the broad priorities and directions of the school board's strategic plan.

In 2015-16, around 1/3 of grade 12 students in the CSF were enrolled in the diploma program and another large number in IB program certificates.

| Number of students enrolled | Number of diplomas obtained | Number of certificates obtained | CSF average /7 | World average /7 |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------|------------------|
| 47 | 45 | 117 | 5.3 | 4.5 |

b) Vocational courses

At the same time, to support students who are planning to enter the labour force more quickly, the Conseil scolaire francophone launched programs of this kind in four of its schools. This initiative has been highly successful. Among other things, it allows students to obtain the hours required in order to register in college courses.

However, the CSF is conscious of the need to develop more of this kind of program. It is currently working on partnering with Collège Educacentre in Vancouver as well as schools in Quebec and France.

3. Opportunities to meet other Francophone students

Because the schools in the CSF are widely dispersed throughout the province and British Columbia's Francophone community has no real traditional centre, the CSF, in partnership with the Conseil jeunesse, has developed a program of events providing young Francophones with opportunities to meet and build a network in the community.

With funding from the CSF, the Conseil jeunesse is better able to organize major events such as the Youth Parliament, the Francophone Games, tournaments in schools, the Youth Network, etc. These activities help foster a feeling of belonging and a more sustained sense of identity.

4. Éconova agronomy project

On April 9, the Board of Trustees of the CSF approved four recommendations aimed at setting up an environmentally oriented program in the 38 schools under its jurisdiction.

These recommendations were:

- To establish an urban agriculture program;
- To integrate scientific education and eco-action modules into science and other programs at the secondary level;
- To partner with a Francophone non-profit organization in British Columbia;
- To allocate an annual budget for two years.

In June 2016, a partnership was established with the Société de développement économique de la Colombie-Britannique (SDECB), a call for applications was sent out to CSF secondary schools wishing to set up an environmentally oriented project for students in grades 11 and 12, and the publication of an activity guide was announced to the principals of all 38 CSF schools.



Conclusion

After almost 20 years of existence, the Conseil scolaire francophone has become an organization that is recognized and respected throughout the province of British Columbia.

Its vitality and dynamism are the driving force behind its success in achieving its mission. Its growth is a strong indication of the Francophone community's satisfaction with the CSF. In March-April 2015, the school board launched the development of its new strategic plan with a broad consultation. More than 4,000 people responded and presented their hopes and expectations. This tremendous involvement reflects the level of confidence all Francophones have in the CSF.

Many challenges remain. But there are solutions. Support from all our partners is essential, particularly from the federal government. The Francophones of British Columbia are anxious to move forward and build an education system that meets their needs. The classes for 4-year-olds project are certainly the best example of the CSF's ambition to respond to the needs of the entire community.

Thank you for your attention.

Bertrand Dupain
Superintendent

Mr Bertrand Dupain
Superintendent



Mr Dupain / Biographie

Commencer à écrire ton texte là



**COLLABORER
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