



NEWS RELEASE

Nelson's École des Sentiers-Alpins moves to a new location in September 2008

(Richmond, BC) June 2, 2008. The Conseil scolaire francophone de la Colombie-Britannique (BC's Francophone School District – SD No. 93) (CSF) is pleased to announce that students and staff of École des Sentiers-Alpins in Nelson will start the 2008-2009 school year in the former Gordon Sargent Primary School at 1623 Falls St. in Nelson, one kilometre from the present location. The move is the result of a three-year agreement signed between BC's Francophone School District – SD No. 93 and the Kootenay Lake School District No. 8.

The move to new facilities due to take place during the summer of this year, beginning on August 1st, means École des Sentiers-Alpins will become a homogeneous establishment. Since its creation in September of 2006, the school has rented space from the Kootenay Lake School District No.8 in Central School on Stanley Street. Due to the sustained growth of its student population and projections in numbers, the CSF was looking for new facilities in order to add a division and thus ensure Francophone education in this region of the West Kootenays.

At the start of the 2007-2008 school year, the school had 14 students from kindergarten to grade 3, while in September of 2008, it expects to register 26 students from kindergarten to grade 4. Numbers will continue to grow with the addition of a new grade in each subsequent school year. École des Sentiers-Alpins is part of a network of 39 schools administered in the province by the CSF. The new École des Sentiers-Alpins will feature an open and pleasant space. It will include two classrooms, a library and a multi-purpose room. A community room may be added to support the local Francophone community. The new location near Lion's Park also offers playground space in a magnificent natural setting where children can play and practice a variety of physical activities.

"I am pleased the school has found a homogeneous facility; this will further the growth of the Francophone program as it takes root, as well as promote the development of Francophone community services," declared CSF Chair Ms. Marie Bourgeois. "The success of this school reflects the wish of the Nelson community and parents to be able to offer their children a vital Francophone environment."

"The CSF is proud to offer students a stimulating school environment favouring academic success and a feeling of identity," explains CSF Acting Superintendent Mr. Mario Cyr. "With access to homogeneous facilities adapted to student needs, the staff will be able to take part in community life and be better equipped to offer activities which enhance the development of cultural identity in our students and their feeling of belonging to the Francophone community."

Created in 1995, the Conseil scolaire francophone de la Colombie-Britannique offers educational programs and services aimed at fostering the growth and cultural identity of the province's Francophone learners. An active partner in the development of British Columbia's Francophone community, the Conseil has presently in its system, and distributed across 78 communities in the province, over 4,000 students and 39 schools, of which 21 are homogeneous schools.

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