



NEWS RELEASE

Second provincial graduation ceremony for Francophone School District students

(Richmond, BC) June 11, 2008. On Thursday, June 12, grade 12 students will receive their high school diplomas from the Conseil scolaire francophone de la Colombie-Britannique (CSF) (BC's Francophone School District-SD No. 93). The ceremony, to be held in the Frederic Wood Theatre at the University of British Columbia, is a significant event as it marks the second graduation ceremony where all of the province's Francophone graduates are assembled for the occasion. Furthermore, this year's graduating class of 99 students is among the largest to complete secondary school education in French in British Columbia.

On this occasion, the CSF will also award bursaries and scholarships to the graduates who come from 13 different Francophone secondary schools in British Columbia.

"The steady increase in the number of graduates is symbolic of the growth and vitality of our Francophone community. Our graduates are the citizens of tomorrow; they embody our hopes and our future, and we are proud of their perseverance in pursuing their education in French," explains CSF Chair Marie Bourgeois. "Our parents and our communities should be proud of their accomplishments. It is due to their desire to transmit their Francophone culture and language that the CSF serves a growing number of students every year in its 39 schools located in every corner of the province."

"Although our graduates have been celebrated in their respective secondary schools and communities, we wanted to emphasize their success in a provincial graduation ceremony," states CSF Superintendent Mario Cyr. "The Conseil scolaire has come a long way since its creation in 1995 and our graduates wish to celebrate this rite of passage with their fellow-graduates from other Francophone schools. They have had the good fortune to share special experiences in the Centre de leadership et d'aventure dans la nature (CLAN) as well as during other extracurricular events. To be thus assembled will reinforce their sense of belonging to the Francophone community and will promote the entrenchment of Francophone education in our province."

Since its inception in 1995, the CSF has granted over 1,000 secondary school diplomas. The CSF's 2008 graduates come from the following secondary schools: André-Piolat (North Vancouver), Nanaimo District, Highland (Comox Valley), des Pionniers de Maillardville (Port Coquitlam), Chatelech (Sechelt), Duchess Park (Prince George), Carihi (Campbell River), Gabrielle-Roy (Surrey), l'Anse-au-sable (Kelowna), Victor-Brodeur (Victoria), Summerland, Kitsilano (Vancouver), and Brooks (Powell River).

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.

Source:

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