



NEWS RELEASE

2nd edition – Cycling for the Homeless

Fifteen high school students take up the challenge!

(Richmond, BC) October 20, 2008. From November 3 to 10, 15 grade 10 to 12 students from Conseil scolaire francophone de la C.-B. (BC's Francophone School District – SD No 93) (CSF) will hop on their bikes to participate in the second edition of "*À vélo pour les sans-abri*" (Cycling for the homeless). This initiative, supported by the expertise of both the Cultural and Community Sector of the CSF and the CLAN (Centre for Leadership and Adventure in Nature), is a mutual aid, social conscience, and outdoor activity project for students.

The Cycling for the Homeless project, a 500 km bike ride, will begin and end in Vancouver. During the first portion of the trip, cyclists will tackle the Sunshine Coast and reach Powell River. They will head towards Vancouver Island and cycle through the cities of Comox, Nanaimo and Victoria until they reach *La Boussole* community centre in Vancouver. Participating high school students, who will benefit from the assistance and the guidance of a support group from the CSF, are committed to taking up this physical challenge and to improving the lot of homeless people by collecting funds and donations for *La Boussole* community centre, a centre which helps out needy Francophones from across B.C. Part of the donations raised outside of the Vancouver area will be distributed in the communities to help the homeless living elsewhere in the province.

The first edition of the Cycling for the Homeless expedition, held in February 2008, was very successful. Participating students were honoured for their outstanding contribution to the community by Education Minister Shirley Bond during a provincial ceremony, held in the Victoria Legislature.

Over the course of their journey, the cyclists will visit CSF schools located along their itinerary. During their visits, they will share their research findings on homelessness as well as their cycling experience. Students will also take advantage of their visits in these communities to raise funds for the cause they are supporting.

"The hosting of the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games by British Columbia has drawn attention to the precarious situation of the homeless people in Vancouver and elsewhere in the province," says Mr. Mario Cyr, CSF Superintendent. "The *Conseil scolaire francophone* plays a key role in ensuring that the energy, the involvement, and the determination of its students are channelled to help improve the situation."

"The school's role has changed greatly. Students expect more from their institutions than the learning of essential subjects," explains Ms. Marie Bourgeois, CSF Chair. "The Cycling for the Homeless project aims to increase our students' involvement in the community by fostering a sense of accountability towards both this social reality and their capacity for action. We wish to help them improve their well-being and to provide them with an opportunity to work as a team while learning to exercise their leadership skills. Students must become proactive individuals, accomplished citizens."

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LA FIERTÉ FRANCOPHONE S'APPREND AUSSI À L'ÉCOLE

The students selected for this project come from various programs of the CSF. They are, as follows: Jean-Philippe Bouchard and Youssef Raji, École Victor-Brodeur, **Victoria**; Ariane Claudepierre and Emmanuel Ndaysinga, École secondaire Jules-Verne, **Vancouver**; Maxime Gagnon-Couturier, Guillaume Marois and Simon Searles, École Gabrielle-Roy, **Surrey**; Saul Rouzes, École Highland Secondary, **Comox**; Kasym Dorsel, École de l'Anse-au-sable, **Kelowna**; Joshua Cheng, École Nanaimo District Secondary, **Nanaimo**; Maeve Talbot-Kelly and Cathleen Zimmer, École Chatelech Secondary, **Sechelt**; Timothy Bizzarri, Mickaël Grosmesnil and Emanuel Foucault, École André-Piolat, **North Vancouver**.

For further information on this educational and human adventure, please click on the following link:
<http://cerberus.csf.bc.ca/sansabril/> .

Since its creation in 1995, the Conseil scolaire francophone de la Colombie-Britannique offers educational programs and services geared towards the growth and cultural promotion 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 4,200 students and 40 schools, which includes 23 homogeneous schools.

Source :

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