



## NEWS RELEASE

### The CSF will offer the International Baccalaureate in September 2009

**Richmond, B.C. (April 28, 2009)** Starting in September 2009, the Conseil scolaire francophone de la Colombie-Britannique (BC's Francophone School District – SD No 93) (CSF) will be offering the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme (IBO) in four of its schools. This decision came following the report on visits by a team of auditors from the IBO during which candidate schools received an excellent evaluation. Having completed this step, this international programme will be offered to 16 to 19 year old students attending École Gabrielle-Roy (Surrey), École secondaire Jules-Verne (Vancouver), École des Pionniers de Maillardville (Port Coquitlam) and École Victor-Brodeur (Victoria).

The International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme is a challenging two-year curriculum, primarily aimed at students aged 16 to 19 years of age. It leads to a qualification that is widely recognized by the world's universities. IBO programmes are offered in 134 countries. Only 20 schools offer the diploma programme in British Columbia: the only programmes offered in French are in four CSF schools.

"The International Baccalaureate allows us to offer a new option that is greatly coveted by our students and our parents," explains Mrs. Marie Bourgeois, Chair of the CSF. "Given the continued reinforcement of our secondary programme and the presence of committed quality personnel, we are well positioned to offer the IBO. It is quite relevant for the CSF and provides a good framework for our inclusive, open philosophy since it encourages students to develop an international awareness and a comprehension of their own culture and identity."

"Receiving accreditation is the result of several years of work which has allowed the CSF to have, in its secondary schools, the required expertise for offering this high-calibre programme, recognized for its expertise," states Mr. Mario Cyr, CSF superintendent. "The opportunity to join such a prestigious programme whose values are those adopted and presented by the CSF – openness to the world, precision, leadership and creating a better world – is a unique chance to position ourselves in education in the 21<sup>st</sup> century."

Upon completion of the IBO programme at the CSF, the student obtains three high school diplomas: the IBO diploma, the *diplôme de fin d'études secondaires en Colombie-Britannique (le Cornouiller)*, and the British Columbia Certificate of Graduation (Dogwood Diploma).

CSF students following the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme will acquire much more than extensive knowledge. Through this interdisciplinary programme, they will be prepared for post-secondary studies and will be encouraged to: ask questions judiciously; learn to learn; develop their communication skills with people from other countries, coming from other cultures, and understand them.

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The IBO programme is comprised of three core components: the extended essay, theory of knowledge, and creativity, action and service. With studies spanning a period of two years, it ends with a series of six exams. Created for extremely motivated students, this diploma programme includes the key elements from many national education systems, without being based on a particular national programme. Expanding professional expertise is vital for the teachers and the administrators. The CSF is committed to offering continued training via professional development activities, conferences and discussion forums.

Developing international awareness is one of the benefits available to students registered in the programme. They learn a second language as well as the necessary expertise to live and work with others in an international context. We encourage students to adopt a positive attitude towards their learning, all the while encouraging them to ask pointed questions, use critical thinking and learn to learn. Community involvement is also encouraged since learning is not limited to the classroom.

*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 4,200 students and 40 schools, of which 23 are homogeneous schools .*

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