



## NEWS RELEASE

### Provincial graduation ceremony for Francophone School District students

**Richmond, B.C. (June 10, 2009)** On Saturday, June 13, 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 at École secondaire Jules-Verne (5445 Baillie St.) in Vancouver, is a significant event as it marks the third graduation ceremony where all of the province's Francophone graduates are assembled for the occasion. Furthermore, this year's graduating class of 147 students is the largest ever 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 15 different Francophone secondary schools in British Columbia.

"Seeing a record number of students complete their high school in French in BC is symbolic of the growth and vitality of our Francophone community. It also illustrates the parents' desire to transmit their Francophone culture and language to their children," explains CSF Chair Ms. Marie Bourgeois. "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,"

"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. 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 1,216 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, Penticton, Jules-Verne and Kitsilano (Vancouver), and Brooks (Powell River).

*Created in 1995, the Conseil scolaire francophone de la C.-B. 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.*

**Source:**

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LA FIERTÉ FRANCOPHONE S'APPREND AUSSI À L'ÉCOLE