

Friday, March 6, 2020

Subject: Cancellation of overseas trips

Dear parents, guardians and staff,

All students in the Conseil scolaire francophone look forward to the grade 12 overseas field trips with great anticipation, as an opportunity to have new experiences together, strengthen their Francophone identities and learn about new cultures.

Unfortunately, this year we are facing exceptional circumstances throughout the world with the spread of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19). The international situation is complex and shifting, with new developments occurring daily.

After careful consideration, and in view of the recommendations put forward by public health authorities, it is our responsibility as the **Conseil scolaire francophone to cancel all travel within Canada and overseas until March 31, 2020 for all destinations and all schools**. We are monitoring the situation very closely and will reassess the CSF's position regarding travel for the coming months.

The cancellations are based on a number of factors including Health Canada advisories. We are also taking into account the rapid spread of the virus and the real possibility that students and staff may be quarantined overseas or upon their return to Canada.

We are very aware of how disappointing this news is; however, in making our decisions, the safety of students and staff is our primary concern.

This is a difficult choice, and one that we would have preferred to avoid, but the worldwide epidemic poses risks for our students and staff.

The international field trip coordination team will be contacting you shortly about reimbursement arrangements.

In the meantime, please feel free to contact the CSF international field trip coordination team at relations_publicques@csf.bc.ca



Michel St-Amant
Superintendent

CC Executive Board
Board of Trustees
