

## **The court hearing can finally begin!**

The court hearing on equitable treatment with regard to French language Education in British Columbia, which is considered as one of the most important legal cases in the country on this issue, can finally begin. Madame Justice Loryl Russell of the Supreme Court of British Columbia rejected the provincial government's application to defer once again the hearing of this case until mid-March 2014.

The lawsuit opposing the Conseil scolaire francophone de la C.-B. (CSF), the Fédération des parents francophones and a group of co-plaintiff parents against the government of British Columbia, which was initially scheduled to start last October, was deferred until November 4 and then again until December 2, 2013, to enable the parties to deal with the thousands of documents to be submitted as evidence.

On Monday, the government applied for another deferral of the case until March 2014, on the grounds of the high volume of documents to be examined. The CSF and the Fédération des parents, on the other hand, argued that the case to provide eligible children in this province with schools and educational infrastructures that are truly comparable to those provided by the anglophone school system should begin without delay, to which Madame Justice Russell finally concurred.

The provincial government also asked the Supreme Court of British Columbia to merge the lawsuit brought by the CSF and the Fédération des parents with the application that the APÉ (Parent Teachers Association) of the École Rose des Vents is trying to bring before the Supreme Court of Canada, in particular to obtain new francophone schools in Vancouver, west of Main Street. Madame Justice Russell will hear this application on Friday.

Over the coming months, the CSF and the Fédération des parents will present numerous documents as evidence to substantiate the validity of the claims made in their suit. One hundred days have been set aside in the Supreme Court of British Columbia to hear this case, the outcome of which could lead to major changes in the sphere of French language education in this province.

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Pour plus d'informations,  
merci de communiquer avec :

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