



Fédération des
parents francophones
de Colombie-Britannique

A major victory for Francophone students, parents and the CSF

(Richmond, October 31, 2012) Providing the francophone population of British Columbia with the schools they need for the education of their children is not a question of budget, but one of legal rights!

This is the key point in the judgment handed down today by Justice Willcock of the Supreme Court of British Columbia in the petition that opposed the Parents Association of École Rose-des-vents and the Conseil scolaire francophone on one hand, and the Ministry of Education of the province on the other.

Justice Willcock delivered his decision today on the interpretation of section 23 of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms on the rights of parents of École Rose-des-vents to have their children educated in schools that are comparable to those in the anglophone school system. He ruled that conditions at École Rose-des-vents were considerably inferior to those at the anglophone schools in the west side of Vancouver. In this context, the Court ruled that the francophone population of this province has the constitutional right to decide the size and the number of schools they need to educate their children and that they have the right to manage these schools.

The president of the Conseil scolaire francophone de la C.-B., Ms Alexandra Greenhill, affirms that this judgment is a major victory for all the francophone children of this province. In the short term, Mrs Greenhill says that the CSF will continue to push the provincial government to obtain at least two new schools on the west side of the city. "Today's judgment only strengthens the arguments that we have been putting forward for a number of months to get these schools."

The President of the Fédération des parents francophones de Colombie-Britannique, Ms Pauline Gobeil, is also very pleased with this judgment. "I am extremely satisfied with the work that we have carried out jointly with the CSF on this issue, which is so important for parents in Vancouver," explains Mrs Gobeil. "This decision will help us pursue our efforts on a provincial scale in the legal challenge to obtain schools that are on par with anglophone schools in all parts of the province."

It is important to note that this judgment represents an important step in the case brought by the Conseil scolaire francophone de la C.-B., the Fédération des parents francophones and some thirty parents who are co-plaintiffs against the Ministry of Education to obtain equivalence in the field of francophone education in the province. Approximately fifteen other francophone schools and educational sites are at stake. A number of the findings in the judgment handed down today will serve as legal precedent in the action brought by the CSF, the FPFBCB and parents, which will be heard in 2013.

For more information, please contact Pierre Claveau, Director of Public Relations for the CSF or Marie-Andrée Asselin, Executive Director of the Fédération des parents francophones de Colombie-Britannique, at 604 736-5056.

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