



By email: educ.minister@gov.bc.ca

February 15, 2022

Honourable Jennifer Whiteside
Minister of Education
Parliament Buildings
Victoria, BC V8W 9E2

Dear Minister Whiteside:

Subject: Modest financial incentive for school districts to organize French Advisory Committees from the federal French funding envelope

Thank you for taking the time to meet with Canadian Parents for French BC & YK on October 13, 2021. We appreciate your Ministry's support with French second language programming over the years. It's no small feat that there are 1 in 10 students in French immersion programs and 184,298 students in Core French programs across BC today.

As discussed in the meeting, parents and educators rely on their local French Advisory Committee (FAC) to have a voice at the decision-making table with school district officials. These French Advisory Committees are also an important oversight body for parents and educators to help ensure Federal French Funding is allocated for its intended purposes.

Each year the BC Ministry of Education receives [\\$10million](#) in federal French funding. Of these funds [\\$8.2million](#) are distributed to school districts to support the provision of French second language programming, i.e. French Immersion, Core French and Intensive French.

Accompanying this funding is a [French Funding Guide](#) which outlines funding formulas and reporting requirements for school districts. The current version of the funding guide 'strongly encourages' school districts to have a designated stand-alone French Advisory Committee. Unfortunately, there is no requirement. Some school districts have FACs, some don't. Many districts have closed or amalgamated their FACs over the past five years, i.e., Surrey and Salmon Arm. Parents and educators are rightly upset when this important forum is abandoned or combined into larger "Choice Program Committees."

We call on your Ministry, respectfully, to put aside a modest envelope of funding that school districts can receive if they indicate they have active, independent French Advisory Committees. We suggest a sliding scale based on the size of the school district, starting at \$1,500 from smaller districts and up to \$4,000 for larger districts. These funds would be reallocated from within the Federal French Funding envelope.

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Canadian Parents for French BC & YK has called for FACs to be a requirement for all school districts that receive federal French funding. Your Ministry expressed doubt if it was able to withhold funding for such a requirement. In lieu, we are suggesting a modest incentive rather than a penalty. Even a small financial incentive would help parents and educators advocate for districts to organize FACs. There is a full guide on how to structure a strong FAC on the Canadian Parents for French [website](#).

We thank your Ministry for the consideration and look forward to discussing this further.

Sincerely,



Nancy Taylor
President, Canadian Parents for French BC & YK



Teri Mooring
President, British Columbia Teachers' Federation

pc: Yael La Rose, BC French Programs Department